

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 11th January 2021.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

001/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from D/Cllrs Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke.

002/21 Declarations of Interest

003/21 Requests for Dispensation

None.

004/21 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley gave a brief update on the current Covid-19 situation in Worcestershire and the in particular the Bromsgrove area, his progress in dealing with parking issues in Stoke Prior and his objection to the planning application for A to Z Skips.

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no District Councillors present.

005/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 December 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 December 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

006/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair stated that there were no urgent decisions to report.

He did inform the Council that the 2 benches purchased for the picnic site were now in storage and would be treated before they were put on site in the spring. Chris Cooke added that the benches would be secured to the ground whilst on site.

Sue Abel asked if there had been any progress with replacing the information board at the picnic site and added that she understood that Andrew Harris had access to a small fund which he might be willing to put towards the cost of a new board. The Clerk confirmed that he would follow this up.

007/21 Planning Applications

1) 20/01497/FUL – Sugarbrook House, Fish House Lane, Stoke Prior – Replace existing garage with new garage with room over.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

2) 20/01591/FUL – 32 Greenside, Stoke Prior – Proposed erection of One Residential Dwelling to Vacant Land Adjacent to 32 Greenside.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds that the land was prone to flooding and the site would be congested.

008/21 Finance

(1) Payments made since the Parish Council's 7 December 2020 meeting and Invoices for Payment for December 2020

The payments totalling £6,253.65 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payment made during December 2020		
Heron Press	420.00	Via online banking
Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council	118.56	Via online banking
J. Miller	70.00	Via online banking
Clerk's net salary for December 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for December 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for December 2020	554.20	Cheque No.1176
Sub Total	2,544.05	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for December 2020	119.48	Via online banking
SMIS Ltd	60.00	Via online banking
Worcestershire County Council	2442.73	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	310.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	753.60	Via online banking

Sub Total	3,685.81	-
Total Value of Payments for December 2020	6,253.65	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for December 2020

This was noted.

009/21 Correspondence

None.

010/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Jewson commented on the water flowing down Harbours Hill which was freezing in the cold weather and becoming dangerous. Chris Cooke confirmed that this had been reported but no action had been taken to date.

John Ellis reported that he had received a quote of £900 to reprint 3,000 copies of the John Corbett leaflet which he felt was excessive. The Clerk was asked to check on the cost of the previous reprint and to also look at alternative printers. John Ellis added that he would talk to Bromsgrove Printers.

John Ellis informed the Council that he had taken over as Editor of the Community Link magazine.

Diane Brown asked how the Parish Council was able to keep up-to-date with planning decisions etc. The Clerk replied that a register was kept of all planning applications and he would ensure the latest version was distributed to all Councillors.

Sue Abel commented that local residents needed to know how to contact the Parish Council now that the office had closed and suggested that a regular notice could be included in the Community Link magazine. John Ellis agreed to arrange this.

Alan Bayliss commented that he was unhappy that he had been specifically referred to in the minutes of the last meeting as being required to submit any correspondence which included reference to his position as a Parish Councillor to the Parish Council before publication. He felt that that statement should have included all Councillors.

Jill Howe commented on the state of the footpath along Shaw Lane near the Blue House which had become eroded over time and also the footpath in the church which formed part of the John Corbett Trail. Chris Cooke agreed to have a look at both issues.

Chris Cooke raised the following points:-

- What was the position with the planning application to turn the agricultural building at the junction of Moorgate & Woodgate Road. The Clerk agreed to check on this. **Clerk's note** – Prior Approval had been granted.
- The shed on the land at Badgers Farm had now been completed and questioned why no action had been taken by the Planning Officers. The Clerk and the Chairman agreed to pursue this with the Planning Officers
- The post box at the top of Westonhall Road had been removed some time ago and he suggested that it should be repositioned close to the Henbrook Gardens development. Equally the post box at Avoncroft Museum was inaccessible due to the Museum being closed and should be relocated. The Clerk confirmed that he had already raised this with Royal Mail but had not received any response. He would continue to pursue this.

- He had spoken to Dan Wagstaff at the District Council regarding the clearing of the footpaths and the roads. Getting this work completed was difficult due to staffing levels being affected by Covid-19. However he suggested that the Parish Council needed to work with both the District and County Councils to put a plan in place for future years to deal with is problem. If the leaves etc were not cleared it could lead to the gullies becoming blocked and that would only escalate the problems. Cty/Cllr Daisley agreed to see if there was any way that the County Council could help with this problem.
- He pointed out that the cost of road salt to grit 1 kilometre of road was £400. This did not include the cost of his time to do this.
- The hedge down Buntsford Hill had only been trimmed half way down the road and asked that the County Council be urged to get the rest of the job done. Cty/Cllr Daisley agreed to follow this up.

011/21 Exclusion of Press and Public

012/21 Stoke Heath Recreation Area – Approval of Tender for the Repair Work to Fence alongside School Drive

These items were deferred until the Parish Council's next meeting on the 1st February 2021.

Date of Next Meeting – In the light of the Covid-19 restrictions, the Parish Council's next meeting would be held via Zoom on Monday 1 February 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman