

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 5th October 2020.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

095/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Sue Abel, Liz Eden, Jill Howe and Rory Shannon and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

096/20 Declarations of Interest

097/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

098/20 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

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

No Councillors in attendance.

099/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 September 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

100/20 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

101/20 Planning Applications

20/01126/FUL – Badgers Farm (Land at Croft Cottage), Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior – Proposed agricultural storage building and access track - Retrospective

After the Chairman had explained the current issues relating to this application, it was agreed that the Clerk should confirm the date by which the Parish Council should submit their comments about this application and then notify Councillors accordingly. The Parish Council did however express their concern about the way that the applicant had totally disregarded the order from the Planning Officers to cease work on the site.

102/20 Finance

(1) Payment made since the Parish Council's 9 September 2020 meeting and Invoices for Payment for September 2020

The new payments totalling £3,692.47 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debit		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payment made during September 2020		
Stoke Prior Village Hall	12.00	Via online banking
Sub Total	12.00	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for September 2020	1281.40	Via online banking
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for September 2020	198.14	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for September 2020	267.70	Via online banking
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for September 2020	664.89	Cheque No.1171
M Baker	80.00	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	696.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	468.55	Via online banking
Sub Total	3656.68	-
Total Value of Payments for September 2020	3692.47	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for September 2020

This was noted.

103/20 Clerk's Report

(1) Outdoor Gym at Stoke Heath Recreation Area

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to approve the full Maintenance Service on the Outdoor Gym at a cost of £690.06 + VAT.

(2) Children's Play Area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to carry out the necessary maintenance/repair works at the Children's Play Area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area at a cost of £727.81 + VAT.

It was noted that there would be additional labour costs plus the cost of the paint for the 2 Rockers.

(3) Stoke Prior First School

This item was noted.

(4) Community Governance Review for Proposed New Parish within the current Stoke Parish area

The Clerk confirmed that he would bring this item back to the Council's November 2020 meeting to agree their response to the Review. He also agreed to ensure that the map referred to in the draft letter was made available to all Councillors.

(5) Boundary Fence at Stoke Heath Recreation Area

This item was noted.

(6) Picnic Site, Stoke Wharf

The Clerk confirmed that the Tree Surgeon would be carrying out the necessary clearance work on the site during October. He confirmed that the cost of this work had been estimated at £750. It was proposed to leave most of the trees which would be taken down to form local habitats for insects and other creatures. Further planting work would also be carried out together with repairs to the footpaths. New picnic benches would be installed in time for Spring 2021.

(7) Enforcement Issues

After initial comments by the Clerk, the Chairman added that this was becoming an area of serious concern and that some action was necessary to ensure that enforcement action was taken where it was required. The Clerk added that he would be writing to the Chief Executive of Bromsgrove District Council to progress this issue.

104/20 Carols in the Park 2020

After comments by the Chairman and in the light of the current Covid-19 restrictions, it was unanimously agreed to cancel the Carols in the Park for 2020.

105/20 Remembrance Sunday – 8 November 2020

It was agreed that the Chairman, John Ellis and Sue Abe would attend on behalf of the Parish Council subject to the service going ahead. The Clerk was asked to confirm with the Church if the service was going ahead and if so where it would be held..

106/20 Bulb Planting 2020

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to purchase 3,000 daffodil bulbs and 1,000 bluebell bulbs at a total cost of £270.00. It was also agreed that 1,000 of the daffodil bulbs would be used around Stoke Heath as well as other sites such as the bank outside the Church and on the front of Henbrook Gardens. The Chairman added help would be required from Councillors to plant the bulbs and he would contact the residents of Henbrook Gardens to help as well.

The Chairman added that he would pay for a further 1,000 crocus bulbs.

107/20 Dates of Meetings November 2020 to May 2023

The programme of meetings was agreed.

108/20 Diary Commitments

109/20 Correspondence

None.

110/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Alyson Jewson referred to the overgrown hedge near Morrisons which required cutting back. Chris Cooke confirmed that he would arrange for that to be dealt with.

John Ellis stated that the pdf for the John Corbett leaflet had now been found but needed considerable updating. He proposed to work with Chris Jewson on the necessary updating and then to arrange for the printing of new leaflets. The Chairman asked to confirm the cost for the final pdf update and the printing and to report back to the Council.

Liz Miller raised the question of providing more play equipment at Ryefields Road Recreation Area. The Chairman confirmed that this was being looked at. It was also pointed out that the backboards to the basketball nets were in need of repair or replacement. Chris Cooke agreed to have a look to see whether they could be repaired or required complete replacement.

The Chairman referred to the email he had circulated to everyone about the spread of Covid-19 infections in the Bromsgrove area and the need for everyone to remain vigilant and abide by the rules.

Date of Next Meeting – In the light of the Covid-19 restrictions, it was agreed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held via Zoom on Monday 2 November 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman