

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Stoke Prior on the 7th June 2021.

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

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

080/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Bayliss and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

081/21 Declarations of Interest

082/21 Requests for Dispensation

None.

083/21 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no members of the public or Councillors present at the meeting.

084/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 May 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

085/21 Planning Applications

1) 21/00350/FUL – Springfield Cottage, Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior – Front porch, two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, part two storey, part first floor side extension

The Parish Council felt unable to comment on this application given that there appeared to be a dispute between the applicants and the Planning Officer and it would be more appropriate to await the final plans before submitting any comments on them. However they were extremely concerned with the aggressive approach being taken by the Planning Officer towards the applicants.

2) 20/00643/FUL – Corbett Business Park, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior – Full planning permission for the use of land for the stationing of 90 static residential park homes for the over 55s with associated parking, internal service roads and landscaping & acoustic fence to the north, east & west boundaries (AMENDED DESCRIPTION)(Copy of previous Parish Council response attached for information)

The Parish Council position remained unchanged on this application and re-inforced their strong objections as previously stated.

3) 21/00435/FUL – 30 Walls Road, Stoke Prior – Single storey rear/side extension

The Parish Council supported this application as a good extension to a family home.

4) 21/00623/FUL – Fir View, Moorgate Road, Stoke Prior – Proposed single storey extension

The Parish Council supported this application.

5) 21/00768/TDC – 67 Redditch Road, Bromsgrove – Application for technical details consent for the erection of a 5-bed dwelling pursuant to Permission in Principle (PIP) 20/00517/PIP approved on 2 June 2020.

The Parish Council supported this application in principle provided that the proposal was compliant with the report by the Arboriculturist.

086/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council’s last meeting

The Clerk reported that the swing seats at Shaw Lane Recreation Area were in urgent need of replacement and he had gone ahead and ordered replacements at a cost of approximately £320 plus VAT. The Parish Council supported the Clerk’s action.

The Chairman reported that together with Chris Cooke, he had been looking at the options for repairing the grass area around the tunnel and the slide at Stoke Heath Recreation Area although he was aware that the cost might be as much as £10,000. During the ongoing discussion it was made clear that the Parish Council needed to look at all opportunities for grants to help with projects such as this. The Chairman asked the Clerk and all Councillors to look at any potential opportunities they were aware of as soon as possible.

087/21 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for May 2021

The payments totalling £3,683.90 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk’s net salary for May 2021	XXXX	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk’s net salary for May 2021	XXXX	Via online banking
Sub total	1354.34	
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks’ salary plus NI & Asst Clerk’s salary for May 2021	437.27	Cheque No.1182
Clerk’s Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for May 2021	241.49	Via online banking
Playsafety Ltd	391.80	Via online banking
DM Payroll Services Ltd	100.00	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	865.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	271.20	Via online banking
Sub Total	2305.77	-
Total Value of Payments for May 2021	3,683.90	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for May 2021

This was noted.

088/21 Audit 2020/21

(1) Internal Auditor's Report

After the Clerk had confirmed that he had actioned the points raised by the Internal Auditor, it was agreed to note the report.

(2) Summary of Receipts and Payments as at 31 March 2021

The Parish Council approved the summary of receipts and payments for 2020/21 and agreed that they could be signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

(3) Annual Return and Governance Statement

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the Annual Governance Statement contained therein.

089/21 Chairman's Allowance 2021/22

[The Vice Chair took the chair for this item.]

After discussion during which it was noted that the current allowance of £600 had been in place for several years, it was suggested that the allowance should be increased.

John Ellis, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2021/22 should be increased to £700.

090/21 Film Night 4 September 2021/Salt Fest 3-5 September 2021

With regard to the Film Night, the Chairman stated that he had received 2 options for a film and had opted for the original version of Top Gun. He would also look at availability of an ice cream van and a fish and chip van to be on site.

With regard to Salt Fest, the Clerk was asked to confirm whether the event would be held over 2 or 3 days. Sue Abel, John Ellis and Liz Eden all made themselves available to man the stand.

091/21 Waste/Dog Bins

The Clerk reported the following:-

1) Replacement of waste bin at Hanbury Road lay-by – The District Council had agreed to replace this with a more suitable receptacle.

2) Stoke Turn Bus Shelters – It was understood that both shelters were the responsibility of the District Council and they would arrange cleaning etc. It was also understood that the waste bin sited adjacent to the one bus stop had been done at the request of a District Councillor.

3) Brickhouse Lane – The District Council had turned down the request for 2 waste bins. It was suggested that the Clerk should try to acquire a bin from the District Council and arrange for it to be installed at a suitable point in the lane.

4) Queens Head – The waste/dog bin on the canal towpath near the Queens Head had disintegrated and urgently needed replacing. It was the responsibility of the Canals and Rivers Trust but it unlikely to be dealt with quickly. The Clerk was asked to arrange a replacement bin either via the District Council or purchasing one direct from a supplier.

092/21 Correspondence

None.

093/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Cooke reported the following:-

- The line marking on the basketball court at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been completed. It was agreed that he would mark out the half court at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.
- The wooden play equipment at Stoke Heath Recreation Area required oiling each year and it had been suggested that the work be carried out one evening to allow a drying time of 5 hours. The Chairman, Alyson and Chris Jewson all agreed to help with the work. Any other Councillors available to help would be welcome.
- The wild flowers growing on the grass banks at the lay-by on Hanbury Road were currently stunning.
- He had done a lot of work on the location of new HGV signs across the parish and he proposed to talk the proposals through with Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley and Richard Clewer from County Highways.
- There was still a lot of frustration with the total lack of litter enforcement by the District Council. The Parish Council felt that it was now appropriate to raise the issue with a senior officer at the District Council and the Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

The Chairman commented that he felt it was now time to look again at the possibility of introducing CCTV at the play areas.

Alyson Jewson commented that the District Council was cutting the grass verges too early resulting in the bulbs being cut down before they had finished flowering.

Jill Howe reported that the Tai Chi classes had started again and were being well attended.

Sue Abel stated that a local Heritage Group had been set up involving herself, John Ellis and Jill Howe to develop a local project and they were now looking for funding. She asked if an item could be put on the agenda for the next meeting and this was agreed.

Liz Miller thanked Chris Cooke for the work he had done to the basketball court at Ryefields Road Recreation Area which had enabled a walking basketball club to be set up.

094/21 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it contained potentially exempt information.

095/21 Update on Planning Issues Referred to Bromsgrove District Council

In noting the Clerk's report, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Assistant Chief Executive at the District Council expressing concern about the delay in dealing with the planning issues which had been raised.

096/21 Dates of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 July 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman