

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 11th May 2022.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley, D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke, Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 2 members of the public.

059/18 Election of Chairman

John Ellis, seconded by Diane Brown, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Peter Williams be elected as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

060/18 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that John Ellis be elected as Vice Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

061/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Bayliss and Jill Howe.

062/22 Declarations of Interest

Sue Abel declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9.

063/22 Requests for Dispensation

None.

064/22 Adjournment of Meeting to hear from Members of the Public

No issues raised by members of the public.

Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley gave a brief update on progress on a number of items which had been raised with him including the hedge down Buntsford Hill, the clearing of the footpath on the B4091 between the Ewe and Lamb and Shaw Lane and the need to improve the bus services through the parish.

065/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 April 2022

Chris Jewson pointed out that under Minute 057/22, the reference to Shaw Lane in the sixth bullet point should read Fish House Lane.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 April 2022 as amended were approved and signed by the Chairman.

066/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chairman reported that 3 new trees had been purchased to raise those which had either died or been damaged along Shaw Lane.

067/22 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for April 2022

The payments totalling £6,393.84 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Webbs	381.78	Online
Bromsgrove District Council	959.92	Online
Clerk's net salary for April 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for April 2022	XXXX	Online
Sub total	2733.38	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for April 2022	155.79	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – April 2022	458.63	Cheque No.1195
FC Payroll Solutions	66.60	Online
Playsafety Ltd	399.00	Online
Worcestershire CALC/NALC	1274.55	Online
IDG Garden Services	1046.00	Online
Chris Cooke	236.10	Online
Sub Total	3636.67	-
Total Value of Payments for April 2022	6393.84	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for April 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

(3) Chairman's Allowance for 2022/23

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

John Ellis, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2021/22 should remain at £700.

It was also agreed that, in future years, the allowance should be reviewed in line with inflation.

(4) To reaffirm the Parish Council's budget for 2022/23

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the revised budget for 2022/23.

(5) Financial Report on the Year ending 31 March 2022

Chris Jewson pointed out that the variance figure against 'Rent for Stoke Heath Recreation Area' should read zero.

The Parish Council then noted the end of year report for 2021/22.

(6) Parish Lengthsman's Hourly Rate

The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council had only claimed £2046 from the County Council for the Parish Lengthsman scheme in 2021/22 against a total allowance of £2649. In addition, the allowance for 2022/23 had been increased to £3045 and he felt that this was an opportune time to look at increasing the hourly rate. He added that the allowance had not been increased for 4 years.

The Chairman, seconded by Chris Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed to increase the Parish Lengthsman's hourly rate to £15 with effect from the 1st May 2022.

The Chairman then thanked Chris Cooke on behalf of the Parish Council for all the hard work he does on their behalf across the parish.

068/22 Queens Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council considered 5 applications from various organisations for £50 vouchers to help towards the cost of their Jubilee celebrations. It was unanimously agreed to support all 5 applications.

It was noted that a sixth application may be forthcoming and if so then that should also receive a £50 voucher.

[Clerk's note: a further application was received from the Stoke Works Allotment Association and a voucher for £50 was issued.]

069/22 Renewal of the Parish Council's Insurance Arrangements

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance cover was due for renewal on the 1st June 2022 and he had received the following options from their insurers as follows:-

- A 5 year long term agreement with a premium of £1251.86
- A 3 year long term agreement with a premium of £1311.41
- A 1 year standard premium of £1370.96

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the 5 year agreement with a premium of £1251.86.

070/22 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:-

- A letter from Bromsgrove District Council inviting the Parish Council to the Planning

Committee meeting on the 16 May 2022 when the application relating to the proposed 90 static homes on Corbett Business Park would be discussed. The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending and intended to speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

- He had been having initial discussions with officers at Bromsgrove District Council regarding the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the play area in Heath Close, Stoke Heath. The District Council is willing to hand over the play area and have asked that a meeting be held to agree the next stage. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend this meeting and report back to the Parish Council.

071/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel referred to an incident earlier that day when an articulated lorry tried to reverse into Foley Gardens demolishing a garden wall and then drove off. The incident had been reported to the police but was just another example of the problems caused by these lorries trying to drive down the B4091 passed the Navigation Inn. Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley replied that he would be meeting with the new Highways Liaison Officer in the parish the following week and would make her aware of the problems being caused in this area.

Following a question by Alyson Jewson, it was agreed to hold the Best Gardens competition again this year. Alyson Jewson and Jean Jackson would judge Stoke Heath and Liz Miller and Jill Howe would judge Stoke Prior.

Concerns were again expressed about the state of the wall at Corbett Business Park which was continuing to lean precariously into Shaw Lane. The Clerk agreed to raise this matter again with the owners and Cty/Cllr Daisley agreed include it as part of the visit with the Highways Liaison Officer.

Cty/Cllr Daisley also confirmed that he would include pedestrian access along Buntsford Hill as part of the forthcoming site meeting.

Chris Cooke raised the following items:-

- The issues affecting Needlemill Lane had been raised officers at the County Council but he had not heard anything further.
- The benches had been installed again at the picnic site.
- The residents of Sharpway Gate were pleased that the new flower box had been installed but had asked whether the Parish Council would pay for the plants as well. It was agreed to make a donation of £50 subject to receiving a copy of the receipts for the purchase of the plants.

072/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 June 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairman