

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 1st August 2022.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Diane Brown, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

103/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sue Abel, Liz Eden, John Ellis, Paul Pittaway and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman)

104/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9(1).

105/22 Requests for Dispensation

None.

106/22 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

Speeding – A member of the public asked whether it would be possible to introduce speed cameras along Wheatridge Road as this road was becoming increasingly dangerous. It was pointed out that the Police would not use speed cameras on this road as there were no straight sections where such a camera could be positioned. The Chair added that this was an issue which the County Councillor, Kyle Daisley, had been trying to get resolved for over 12 months. He agreed to make Cty/Cllr Daisley aware of the latest concerns.

Planning – Two members of the public asked whether the Parish Council were aware of a planning application in respect of 124 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior as they were aware of significant work being carried out on the property with a view to making it suitable for multiple occupancy. The Clerk replied that the Council had not received any notification of a planning application but he would raise it with the District Council.

Heath Close Play Area, Stoke Heath – Two members of the public expressed their concern about the Parish Council's plans for the play area once they had taken over responsibility for it from the District Council. They pointed out that in the past it had been a meeting place for teenagers causing problems in that area. The Chair assured them that the Council's intention, once the transfer had taken place, was to refurbish the existing equipment, possibly add some new equipment and generally improve the appearance of the site. He added that he was confident that, given the good working relationship with the local police officers, any issues with unruly teenagers could be dealt with swiftly and effectively. There were no plans to give any publicity to the site when the work had been completed.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present.

107/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 July 2022

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

108/22 Planning Applications

1) 1) 22/00881/FUL – Appletrees, Hanbury Road – Proposed single attached garage to plots 1 & 2 and single detached garage to plot 3

The Parish Council supported this application although they did acknowledge that the development continued to exceed the original footprint for the site.

2) 22/00898/FUL – 14 The Paddock, Bromsgrove – Two storey side and rear extension

The Parish Council supported this application although they did have concerns about the impact on the street scene.

3) 22/00833/CUPRIO – The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove – Conversion of a detached concrete framed agricultural barn to a dwelling and associated building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion

The Parish Council considered this application and were of the opinion that the agricultural barn had not been used for agricultural purposes in the past 10 years.

4) 22/00950/ADV – 24 Buntsford Drive, Bromsgrove – Various illuminated and non illuminated signs, including illuminated totem

The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

109/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

110/22 Revised Budget for 2022/23

The Clerk explained that, due to a change in invoicing arrangements by Worcestershire County Council, he had had to build in the cost of the Parish Street Lighting Initiative & Maintenance for 2022/23 in addition to the previous year and had allowed £2,500 for that purpose. He had also taken the opportunity to highlight the cost of the boom for the River Salwarpe at a cost of £900.

The Parish Council accepted the revised budget.

The Chair questioned whether the Parish Council got value for money from its membership of CALC and NALC having noted that £1200 had been allocated in the budget. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should look at this again when they consider the budget for 2023/24 in January 2023.

111/22 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for July 2022

The payments totalling £5,721.19 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		
J. Atkinson	40.00	Cheque No. 1202
P Williams	130.36	Online
HandyPrint	168.00	Online
Seiretto	226.80	Online
Clerk's net salary for July 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for July 2022	XXXX	Online
Sub total	1,960.30	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for July 2022	175.54	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – July 2022	460.07	Cheque No.1203
Darcy Products Ltd	1101.60	Online
Worcestershire County Council	1493.53	Online
P Williams	130.36	Online
IDG Garden Services	376.00	Online
Sub Total	3,737.10	-
Total Value of Payments for July 2022	5,721.19	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for July 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

112/21 Siting of Plaque at the John Corbett House (The Grange) – Bromsgrove School

The Parish Council discussed the response from Bromsgrove School that they were happy for a plaque to acknowledge John Corbett's connection with The Grange but did not want it sited actually on the building as they felt it would attract members of the public.

Councillors felt that the school had got the wrong idea about the type of plaque being proposed and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the school's Bursar to explain the proposal in more detail.

113/22 Film Night – 3 September 2022

The Chair explained that the licence for all James Bond films had been revoked. Unfortunately this had only come to light after the banners and flyers had been produced. After discussions with the film company, it had been decided to now show Elvis on the 3 September. The new banners had already been produced and the new flyers would be

available shortly and he asked for help from all Councillors in distributing them.

The Clerk was asked to arrange the the hiring of first aid cover and portable toilets.

114/22 Purchase of New Laptop for Parish Clerk

The Clerk explained that the existing laptop was now over 6 years old and becoming very slow to work with. He was looking at either purchasing anew laptop which would cost in the region of £500 or replacing the processor on the existing one which would cost in te region of £150. It was agreed that he should pursue the latter option first rather than purchase a new machine.

115/22 Possible Provision of Goalposts at Ryefields Road and Shaw Lane Recreation Areas

The Clerk explained that he had received requests to provide goal posts at Ryefields Road Recreation Area and had suggested that it might be appropriate to install one at Shaw Lane Recreation Area as well. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should look at the price of providing 1 goal post at Ryefields Road Recreation Area but not at the other Recreation Area.

116/22 Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk reported that no request had been received for a bye-election to be held to fill the vacancy. He would now put in motion the necessary work to seek nominations to co-opt a new Councillor to fill the vacancy from the Stoke Heath area.

117/22 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Parish Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting due to other work commitments.

118/22 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had been notified that Avoncroft Arts Society were increasing their room charges from September 2022. The hourly rate for the Forge would be £15 per hour.

119/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jean Jackson stated that she had been informed that giant hogweed was growing along the footpath between Stoke Prior and The Swan. Chris Jewson agreed to have a look at the possible problem.

120/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 September 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman