

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th September 2022.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Paul Pittaway.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 23 members of the public.

### **121/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, John Ellis, Jill Howe and Liz Miller.

### **122/22 Declarations of Interest**

### **123/22 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **124/22 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

#### **1) Members of the Public**

**Planning** – The Parish Council heard from a number of members of the public expressing their objections to 2 planning applications referred to under Minute 125/22 below. In both cases the objections related to the impact that the proposed developments would have on the local community. The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council were only being consulted on the applications by the District Council and did not have any authority to approve or dismiss the applications. He urged all the members of the public who were opposed to the planning applications to register their objections on the District Council's website, by writing to the District Council or contacting their local District Councillor, Malcolm Glass. He stressed that the volume of objections could have a significant impact on the outcome of the applications.

#### **2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley**

#### **3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke**

There were no County or District Councillors present.

### **124/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 August 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 August 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **125/22 Planning Applications**

**1) 22/01066/OUT – Land at Little Intall Fields Farm, Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior – Outline Planning Application (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of up to 78 dwellings and a flexible commercial/community use building with associated access, infrastructure, landscaping, and open space provision. Two storey side and rear extension**

The Parish Council agreed to vehemently oppose the application and fully support all of the objections raised by the local community. They fully supported the view that the site was in the Green Belt and not a brown field site as claimed by the applicants. They supported the views of the local community which are briefly summarised as follows:-

1) The development would create unwanted additional traffic along Stoke Pound Lane and Hanbury Road. That part of Hanbury Road was particularly dangerous given the blind bends and the new entrance to the proposed development would exacerbate that problem. The road is also

heavily used by HGVs which create their own safety problems for road users and local residents. Speeding is an additional hazard as was the likely increase of 150 cars resulting from the proposed new development.

2) The importance of the area for its biodiversity was also stressed as it provided a number of important habitats for birds, mammals and insects which needed protection.

3) The lack of sufficient footpaths and street lighting in the whole area created another safety issue for pedestrians including young children.

4) The local infrastructure of shops, school and doctors surgery were already overstretched and could cope with another development of this size.

5) Total lack of public transport.

6) Hanbury Road already had some flooding issues and the development was likely to enhance that problem.

## **2) 22/01023/FUL – 6 Foley Gardens, Stoke Prior – Demolition of existing house and outbuildings. Construction of 4no. houses and 1no. bungalow**

The Parish Council strongly objected to this application on the grounds that firstly it would entail demolishing a property of historic interest and value and the building of 5 new properties would be totally out of character with the existing properties in the area. The Parish Council felt that the existing property at 6 Foley Gardens was or should be designated as being of heritage status given that it was built in the early 19th century. In addition, under powers granted to local authorities regarding garden grabbing, the District Council had the power to refuse planning permission for projects such as this.

The Parish Council also agreed that issues such as the loss of existing views for neighbouring properties, the loss of historic orchard land and the valuable habitat for wildlife should be taken into consideration as well as the impact on the local community on site traffic along a very narrow road, the pollution created by such vehicles and the creation of a serious safety hazard for existing residents.

## **3) 22/00912/FUL – Fir View, Moorgate Road, Harbours Hill, Bromsgrove – Proposed single storey extension**

The Parish Council were concerned that the frontage to the proposed extension would not be in keeping with the locality given the number of period cottages in the area.

### **126/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting**

None.

### **127/22 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment for August 2022**

The payments totalling £7,303.11 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Method</b>
<b>Direct Debits Payment</b>		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>		
M. Baker	100	Online
C Cooke	945.86	Online
B&W Hire Ltd	276	Online
Bromsgrove Computer Centre	154.99	Online
Argos	44.99	Online

Webbs	60	Online
Clerk's net salary for August 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for August 2022	XXXX	Online
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3011.39</b>	-
<b>Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for August 2022	136.19	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – August 2022	471	Cheque No.1204
Heron Press	545	Online
Eventures	983.6	Online
ERCO Systems	474.14	Online
Community Heartbeat	162	Online
M. Baker	80	Online
IDG Garden Services	800	Online
C Cooke	516	Online
J. Miller	100	Online
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4267.93</b>	-
<b>Total Value of Payments for August 2022</b>	<b>7303.11</b>	-

## (2) Financial Management Statement for August 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

### 128/22 Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk reported that to date he had received one application for co-option. He reminded the meeting that the deadline for applications was the 16 September 2022.

### 129/22 Dates of Meetings - October 2022 to May 2024

were approved.

### 130/22 Parish Lengthsman's Report

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

### 131/22 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:-

The District Council had delayed the publication of the Preferred Options stage of the Local Plan review as further work was required.

A local resident had asked whether the Parish Council would consider installing hedgehog warning signs in Stoke Prior. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate this idea further and report back to the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that he had written again to the Bursar at Bromsgrove School regarding the idea of a 'blue plaque' but had not received a reply as yet.

The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Bursar in October to discuss this idea further and possibly pursue the idea of the CCTV proposal for the Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

### **132/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Sue Abel suggested that the Parish Council should arrange to plant new bulbs this year. The Clerk was asked to check on prices of daffodill bulbs etc.

Paul Pittaway asked whether there had been any response from Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley regarding anti-speeding measures along Wheatridge Road. The Clerk replied that he had not received any feedback but would pursue the matter.

### **133/22 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3 October 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.