

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 7th July 2025.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Liz Eden (Vice Chair), Sue Abel, Dan Bright, Paul Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

089/25 Apologies

An apology was received from Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

090/25 Declarations of Interest

091/25 Requests for Dispensation

None.

092/25 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

The members of the public present and D/Cllr Nicholl commented in some detail with regard to the draft District Plan which was now out for consultation. D/Cllr Nicholl referred to the public meeting fixed for the 9 July at which it was hoped that a plan of action against the proposal to build 500 houses on Ryefields Farm would begin to be put in place. He added that he felt it was important to get support from local people with knowledge of planning etc as it was essential that any comments and arguments which are put forward needed to be constructive and based on factual information. Sue Abel added that she had been working on a range of questions which could be used as the basis for future discussions and responses to the consultation process. The Chair added that the main aim of the meeting on the 9 July was to get the local community together.

(2) County Councillor Gaynor Jean-Louis

was absent.

(3) District Councillors David Nicholl and Harrison Rone-Clarke

D/Cllr David Nicholl had nothing further to add to his earlier comments regarding the Draft District Plan.

093/25 Minutes of the Meetings held on the 12 May and the 9 June 2025

The minutes of the meetings held on the 12 May and 9 June 2025 having been approved were signed by the Chair.

094/25 Draft Bromsgrove District Plan

Further to the earlier discussion on the draft Plan, the Chair suggested that the Parish Council should fund the printing of leaflets to support the work opposing the proposed development at Ryefields Farm. The likely cost would be in the region of £200/300. This was unanimously agreed.

095/25 Planning Applications

1) 25/00609/FUL – 3 Canal Cottage, Whitford Bridge Road, Stoke Prior – Replacement

conservatory roof, doors and windows

The Parish Council supported this application.

2) 25/00540/CPE – Caravan, The Laurels, Copyholt Lane, Stoke Pound – Lawful Development Certificate to establish use of land for the siting of residential caravan

The Parish Council felt unable to support this application on the grounds that they were of the view that the caravan in question had not been occupied continuously for 10 years. In addition, historic google map evidence showed that the caravan had been moved around the site over that period and not remained in its current location. The Parish Council were also concerned that the site of the caravan might be used for future development.

096/25 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that as part of the background work relating to the proposed site for housing referred to earlier, he had asked the Clerk to check with Land Registry regarding the ownership of the site.

He then updated the Parish Council on the progress of the redevelopment of the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. He confirmed that Wicksteed would be carrying out the complete project as they were the only company who were able to deliver within the required timescale.

097/25 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for June 2025

The payments totalling £3,162.26 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Post Office	3.60,	Online
Clerk's net salary for June 2025	XXXX	"
Sub total	1398.13	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses – June 2025	90.50,	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerk's salary – June 2025	547.75	"
Worcestershire County Council	457.09	"
IDG Garden Services	645.00,	"
Sub Total	1740.34	-
Total Value of Payments for June 2025	3162.26	

(2) Financial Management Statement for June 2025

was noted.

098/25 Shape Worcestershire: Restructuring the Local Government System

After the Clerk had updated the Parish Council on the current consultation process, it was agreed that he should submit comments to the District Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

099/25 Film Night – 30 August 2025

After discussion, it was agreed that Mufasa would be this year's film. The Clerk was asked to confirm with Eventures and to also contact Bromsgrove School and Avoncroft Arts Society for use of their car parks.

100/25 Parish Council's Representative on CALC Executive Committee

The Chair commented that he was willing to attend the next meeting of the Committee subject to his being available with Liz Eden willing to attend if he was unable to do so. The Clerk agreed to contact CALC for further details on the next meeting.

101/25 Parish Lengthsman's Report

In the absence of Chris Cooke, the Chair reported that the same problems with lack of contact or interest from the County Council's Highways Officers and similarly with officers at Bromsgrove District Council.

102/25 Correspondence

None.

103/25 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Jewson asked whether it was proposed to increase the amount of information available on the Parish Council's website. After discussion, it was suggested that if any Councillor had any articles or information to be included on the website then they should contact Liz Eden. Chris Jewson agreed to look after providing information on the walks around the parish which were on the old website.

104/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 August 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Chairman