

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 1st September 2025.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Sue Abel, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

121/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Dan Bright, Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Jill Howe, Paul Pittaway, D/Cllr David Nicholl and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

122/25 Declarations of Interest

123/25 Requests for Dispensation

None.

124/25 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

The member of the public present had no issues to raise.

(2) County Councillor Gaynor Jean-Louis

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

There were no County or District Councillors present at the meeting.

125/25 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 August 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 August 2025 having been approved were signed by the Chair.

126/25 Draft Bromsgrove District Plan

The Chair briefly reported on the work that had been ongoing to challenge the planned 500 houses in the parish. A meeting was currently being held to help local residents draft a letter of objection to be sent to the District Council. Huge efforts had been made to ensure that all local residents were aware of the work being undertaken to support the objections.

127/25 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

Although there were no urgent items to be reported, the Chair made the following comments:-

- The Film Night on the 30 August had not been a total success due to the weather and possibly the choice of film.
- He had also attended the Film Event organised by Dodderhill Parish Council using a large LED screen which enabled them to show 2 films – 1 in the afternoon for children and 1 for adults in the early evening. He understood that the cost was in the region of £2,000 and that it was probably time to have a rethink on how to run the Film Night next year. It was agreed to include an item on the agenda for the December 2025 meeting.
- Work on the redevelopment of the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area was going well and should be completed ahead of time.
- Chris Cooke had been asked to carry out some repair work to the play equipment at Ryefields Road Recreation Area but as a longer term plan, the Parish Council needed to

look at grant options to refurbish the site. He added that Ian Gerard had been asked to carry out works to the perimeter hedging and the pathway.

128/25 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for August 2025

The payments totalling £4,105.59 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Sasha Perry T/A PerryDrewDigital	132.00,	Online
Bromsgrove Printing Ltd	134.00,	"
Stoke Works & Hanbury Local Welfare Fund	50.00,	"
Microsoft	8.49	"
Seiretto	39.00,	"
Clerk's net salary for August 2025	XXXX	"
Sub total	1950.37	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses – August 2025	54.99,	"
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – August 2025	648.69	"
M. Baker	150.00,	"
Avoncroft Arts Society	222.75	
DM Payroll Services Ltd	81.00,	
Eventures	500.00,	
IDG Garden Services	474.00,	"
Sub Total	2131.43	-
Total Value of Payments for August 2025	4105.59	

(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2025

was noted.

129/25 Purchase of Christmas Trees 2025

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase 4 trees for 2025 but the Chairman and the Clerk would look at potential suppliers to get the best price.

130/25 Carol Service – 13 December 2025

In the absence of Dan Bright, this item was deferred to the Council's next meeting.

131/25 Purchase of Bulbs Trees 2025

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase 4 bags of bulbs from Boston Seeds. The Clerk to arrange.

132/25 Parish Lengthsman's Report

In the absence of Chris Cooke, this item was deferred to the Council's next meeting.

133/25 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items:-

1. A formal complaint had been received from a local resident about his wife being approached by the Parish Councillor and telling quite firmly that dogs were not allowed on the Shaw Lane Recreation Area and he unhappy with the manner of the Councillor. The Clerk spoke to the person concerned and explained that there was clear signage banning dogs from the recreation areas primarily for the safety of the children and that the person's wife should have realised that. The complainant accepted that his wife had acted incorrectly and it was agreed to close the matter.
2. Dodderhill Parish Council had approached the Clerk to write an article for inclusion in their Community Newsletter about what was going on in our Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a brief article.
3. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to arrange a meeting between himself, the Chairman and the local County Councillor to discuss the issue of HGVs. The Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable date.
4. David Nicholl had notified the Parish Council that Severn Trent had arranged a drop-in session at the Queens Head on the 8th September between 4.30pm and 7.00pm to inform customers about the proposed replacement of the new mains pipe.
2. The Clerk had received a letter from an insurance company looking to establish responsibility for vegetation which was causing damage to a property in Avoncroft Road. He pointed out that the land on which the vegetation was situated did not belong to the Parish Council and he did not propose to take any further action.

134/25 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel mentioned the forthcoming Heritage event and requested the use of the Parish Council display boards and artefacts which was agreed.

Sue Abel asked whether the Parish Council knew who owned the lay-by near the entrance to Foley Gardens as local residents had an issue regarding its use. The Chair confirmed it belonged to the County Council and any concerns would need to be raised with them.

135/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 October 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The public meeting closed at 8.15pm at which time the Parish Council continued with a confidential meeting on personnel issues.

Chairman