

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 1st June 2020.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Rory Shannon.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

051/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jill Howe and Jean Jackson.

052/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in Agenda items 5 and 6(1).

053/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

054/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 May 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 May 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

055/20 Chairman's Allowance 2020/21

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

It was suggested that the allowance should remain as the same as the three previous years, namely £600.

John Ellis, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2020/21 should remain at £600.

056/20 Finance

(1) Payment made since the Parish Council's May 2020 Meeting and Invoices for Payment for May 2020

The following payments totalling £5,167.52 were agreed unanimously:-

	Cost £	Cheque No.
Direct Debits		
<i>Cartridge World – Office Printer</i>	23.79	-
<i>TalkTalk – Telephone/Broadband</i>	32.34	-
Sub total	56.13	-
Cheques signed and issued since the last Parish Council meeting		
Zurich Insurance – Annual Premium	1245.47	1143
Sub Total	1245.47	-

Cheques approved at June 2020 Parish Council meeting		
Clerk's net salary for May 2020	XXXX	1144
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for May 2020	300.42	"
Assistant Clerk's net salary for May 2020	XXXX	1145
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for May 2020	499.43	1146
Peter Williams – Chairman's Allowance	600.00	1147
Capelli Hair Salon – Electricity costs for Parish Office – January 2018 to May 2020	525.00	1148
Chris Cooke – Lengthsman duties for May 2020	255.42	1149
IDG Garden Services – Emptying of dog/waste bins and maintenance of play areas – May 2020	438.00	1150
Sub Total	3,865.92	-
Total Value of Payments	5,167.52	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for May 2020

This was noted.

057/20 Financial Support to St Michael's Church, Stoke Prior

(1) Churchyard Maintenance/John Corbett Trail

After opening comments by the Chairman, the Council discussed the options available for the maintenance of the John Corbett Trail and it was unanimously agreed that they should enter into an agreement with IDG Garden Services to maintain the area immediately around the John Corbett Trail. The agreement should not exceed the sum of £1250 included in the Council's budget. The Clerk was asked to discuss this proposal with IDG Garden Services.

(2) Conservation Board

After the Chairman had reminded Councillors of the background to this project, it was unanimously agreed that the Council would pay 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £800 subject to them being able to sign off the final artwork.

058/20 Siting of Bus Shelter, Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior

The Chairman explained that the proposal to move the bus shelter and install double yellow lines in Ryefields Road had been put forward by Cty Cllr Kyle Daisley. The Parish Council discussed this proposal in detail and concern was expressed about the proposed relocation of the bus shelter, the views of local residents and also safety issues.

It was agreed to defer any further consideration of this item until the Council's next meeting and to ask Cty Cllr Daisley to attend so that the proposal could be discussed in detail with him. It was also agreed to have a short site meeting immediately before the July meeting.

The Council noted the proposal to install double yellow lines in Shaw Lane outside the Corbett Industrial Estate.

059/20 Clerk's Report

(1) Tai Chi in the Park

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Tai Chi classes should start again as soon as it was feasible to do so safely.

(2) Planning Issues

After the Chairman and the Clerk had explained the problems being faced by the Parish Council with the total lack of communication from the District Council's Planning Officers in relation to three sites in the parish which were of concern. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would attempt to contact the Head of Planning and Regeneration to try and resolve the impasse. If he was unsuccessful, it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should submit a formal complaint to the District Council's Chief Executive.

(3) Picnic Site, Stoke Wharf

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the owners of the land to see whether they would be willing to sell the site to the Parish Council. Alternatively if they were not prepared to sell, consideration could be given to leasing the land at an affordable price.

(4) Smartwater Update

The Chairman reported that it had been established that some properties in Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior had not received Smartwater kits as West Mercia Police, who were distributing the kits during lockdown, had run out of kits. The Clerk was now double checking which properties had been missed and arranging for more kits to be ordered.

(5) Metal & Ores Site

The Clerk reported that no further action had been taken on the planning application which was being dealt with by the County Council. He added that he would keep in touch with the County Officers to ensure that the Parish Council was kept up-to-date with developments. In the meantime if any Councillors became aware of any activity on the site they should inform the Clerk immediately.

060/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Cooke raised the following points:-

1. Wild Meadow, Moorgate Road – The owner had placed boulders on the grass verge outside this property which were a dangerous obstacle. He would contact the County Council to get guidance on what action could be taken.
2. He was now spraying around the bollards across the parish which meant that mowing teams were not causing as much damage to them requiring them to be replaced.
3. He had started litter picking again this week.
4. An issue had arisen with overgrown stinging nettles along the footpath between Foley Gardens and Shaw Lane. Chris Jewson explained that, as Footpaths Warden, he would normally clear these with a strimmer but had been unable to do any work due to the lockdown. He added that the rules had been slightly relaxed and he would confirm with the County Council whether he would be able to do this work.
5. A tree was dangerously close to falling down on the Hanbury Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the landowner asking him to remove it.

Rory Shannon expressed his concern that TMF in Brickhouse Lane was expanding to such an extent that serious safety issues were arising. It was agreed that this issue should be drawn to the attention of the District Council's Planning Officers. The Chairman also suggested that he and Rory Shannon should visit the site.

Sue Abel suggested that the Council should look at holding future meetings at the Parish Hall rather than Avoncroft. The Chairman replied that he was keen to continue to use Avoncroft as it was closer to both Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior. He did accept that the size of the room at Avoncroft could be an issue in the future.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 6 July 2020 commencing at 7.30pm. The Clerk was asked to look at the possibility of holding the meeting at Stoke Prior Village Hall. This would be subject to amendment depending upon the Government's restrictions at that time. Alternatively the meeting would be held via Zoom.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.15pm