

## STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

**A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

### **043/21 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley, D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **044/21 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **045/21 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **046/21 Update on Co-Option of a New Parish Councillor**

The Chairman welcomed Paul Pittaway as the newly co-opted member of the Parish Council.

### **047/21 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

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

Two members of the public were present to speak about one of the planning applications.

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

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present at the meeting but did circulate a short report which was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

The key points in the report were as follows:-

#### Highways

The original proposals for removing the bus shelter in Ryefields Road and introducing a one way system to help improve the parking problems had been withdrawn and work was ongoing to find alternative an alternative solution. With regard to speeding, the local police had been out on Shaw Lane over the previous weekend. A meeting would be taking place later in the week with John Campion, the Police & Crime Commissioner during which it was proposed to visit Shaw Lane to discuss the speeding issues and how these can be dealt with. The Clerk added that he had asked Kyle Daisley to include Hanbury Road as part of that visit.

#### Covid-19

The confirmed cases in Worcestershire had reduced by 31% within the last 7 days. He added that he was very pleased to see the vaccination programme being rolled out so

successfully and encouraged all residents to have the vaccine when called.

This would be his final meeting before the County Council elections in May and thanked the Council for all the support over the past 18 months.

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

D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke reported on the progress of the proposed housing development on land off Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove and the Covid-19 Testing Centre in the town.

#### **048/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 March 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 March 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **049/21 Planning Applications**

##### **1) 21/00350/FUL – Springfield Cottage, Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior – Front porch, two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, part two storey, part first floor side extension**

Before considering this application, the Parish Council heard from the applicants who set out their proposals for the cottage, the fact that it had now been deemed as a non listed heritage property and the unhelpful responses they were receiving from the Planning Officers.

The Councillors then discussed the application in detail and were minded to give their full support. They were concerned about the advice being given to the applicants and the need for them to keep putting new plans in place until such time as they became acceptable to the Planning Officer. It was noted that further plans would be submitted through the planning process and the Council would await the opportunity to comment on them.

##### **2) 2100383/FUL – 20 Avoncroft Road, Bromsgrove – Single storey rear extension**

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

##### **3) 21/00371/FUL – 1 Oasthouse Close, Bromsgrove – Single storey side extension & demolition of the existing boundary wall to reposition a new wall attached to the proposed side extension**

The Parish Council were very concerned that the new extension would be very close to the public footpath. The moving of the boundary wall would almost encroach onto the footpath. The proposed planting of shrubs between the new wall and the footpath would mean that they would definitely encroach onto the footpath blocking pedestrian access particularly if they were not properly maintained. If planting was required it should only be wall hugging shrubs correctly maintained.

##### **4) 21/00400/FUL – Pipers Hill Farm, Moorgate Road, Harbours Hill – Installation of Manege**

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

##### **5) 21/00425/CPE – Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound - Use of Land as a Dwelling comprising Caravan and Associated Buildings, Garden & Parking Purposes**

The Parish Council had serious reservations and concerns about this application. These concerns included such issues as why did the site require security and what was the site

being used for. It was unanimously agreed that further detailed information was required and the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer to express the Council's concerns and to request a meeting with Ruth Bamford to discuss the application.

### **050/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting**

The Chairman referred to the proposal to carry out artwork on 2 bus shelters in the parish and stated that he had contacted a local graffiti artist who was interested in doing the work. He stressed that any artwork would be in keeping with and relevant to the parish. The work would cost £650.00. After discussion, it was agreed to employ the local artist to carry out the work.

Alan Bayliss raised the issue of the bus shelter at Stoke Turn which he understood was owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk was unsure whether they did in fact belong to the Council but would look into the matter and report back.

The Chairman then added the following points:-

- 1) With regard to the 2 new bus shelters in Stoke Prior, he was waiting to see what style we would be offered by the County Council.
- 2) The new information board was now ready to be installed at the picnic site and we were just waiting for the artwork to be completed.
- 3) The wire fence on the edge of the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had been inspected and there were at least 18 posts which needed replacing. Prices were being sought.
- 4) There had been problems with broken glass being found at Stoke Heath Recreation Area on a number of occasions and the Police had been asked to keep an eye on the site.

### **051/21 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment for March 2021**

The payments totalling £10,977.56 were then unanimously agreed as follows:-

	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
<b>Direct Debits</b>		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council meeting</b>		
Chris Cooke	2400.00	Via online banking
Wood & Stairs	900.00	Via online banking
Bournville Village Trust	1346.00	Direct Debit
Clerk's net salary for March 2021	XXXX	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for March 2021	XXXX	Via online banking
Seiretto Ltd	178.80	Via online banking

<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6224.26</b>	-
<b>Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks’ salary plus NI & Asst Clerk’s salary for March 2021	437.96	Cheque No.1177
Clerk’s Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for March 2021	239.22	Via online banking
Peter Williams	28.78	Via online banking
Worcestershire County Council	1692.55	Via online banking
Community Heartbeat Trust	162.00	Via online banking
Bromsgrove District Council	906.88	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	965.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	297.12	Via online banking
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4729.51</b>	-
<b>Total Value of Payments for March 2021</b>	<b>10,977.56</b>	-

## **(2) Financial Management Statement for March 2021**

This was noted.

## **(3) Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2021**

This was noted.

## **(4) Revised Budget for 2021/22**

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the revised budget for 2021/22.

### **052/21 Renewal of Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk reported that although there had been some interest in tendering for the contract, the only tender which had been received had come from IDG Garden Services and had submitted the following prices:-

Mowing of the 3 recreation areas to include strimming and the maintenance of the picnic site - £240.00 per cut. Normally this is for 13 cuts in a calendar year.

Additional grass cutting - £240.00 per cut

Litter picking – no charge

The Parish Council acknowledged that IDG had performed well over the years and maintained the recreation areas to a high standard and it was unanimously resolved:-

That IDG Garden Services be granted a two year contract as specified above from the 1 April 2021 to the 31 March 2023.

### **053/21 Stoke Heath Community Governance Review**

The letter from Bromsgrove District Council was noted as the Parish Council had no further comments to make on the Review.

### **054/21 Salt Fest 2021**

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would have a stand at Salt Fest 2021. John Ellis, Liz Eden and Sue Abel agreed to help man the stand.

### **055/21 Memorial Garden to Commemorate Covid-19 Victims**

The Parish Council discussed the suitability of establishing a memorial garden to commemorate those parishioners who had lost their lives as a result of Covid-19. The general view of the Councillors was that it was too early to be thinking about this idea and to wait to see what was to be done at national level.

### **056/21 New Flower Box at Junction of Woodgate Road and Moorgate Road**

After discussion, it was agreed to install a new flower box at the junction of Woodgate Road and Moorgate Road. It was also agreed to install a new flower box in Stoke Heath at a site to be agreed. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

### **057/21 Purchase of New Laptop for the Assistant Clerk**

After the Clerk had explained that the laptop used by the Assistant Clerk was unrepairable, it was agreed that a new laptop should be purchased as soon as possible at a reasonable cost.

### **058/21 Purchase of New See-Saw for Ryefields Road Recreation Area**

The Chairman explained that the original see-saw at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been removed some time ago as it was unsafe. The cost of replacing like for like was in the region of £5,000 but he had been made aware that a refurbished one might be available for £850 plus VAT. This did not include any installation costs. It was unanimously agreed to purchase a new see-saw for the site and the Clerk was asked to see if the see-saw referred to was still available.

### **059/21 Purchase of a New VAS**

The Chairman reminded the Council that they had been given a grant by Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley of £903 to be used towards the cost of traffic calming measures in Stoke Prior. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the cost of a new VAS would be £2,625.00 plus VAT which would mean that the Council would have to meet the balance of £1,722.00.

The Chairman suggested that an alternative use of the grant would be to purchase signage to try and help HGV drivers to access the business parks in the parish using the correct routes. The Parish Council agreed with this approach and that Chris Cooke should be asked to identify suitable sites for the signage.

### **060/21 Correspondence**

The Chairman and the Clerk referred to an email received from Meadow Park Football Club whose playing facilities are sited next Harris Brush Works. The Club were requesting help

with the cost of creating a locked enclosure to store goal posts etc. The cost of the work would be £375.00 plus VAT and the Club were requesting a grant from the Parish Council to meet that cost.

In return, the Club had offered the use of the ground to the Parish Council for their Film Night later in the year.

The Parish Council were in favour of helping a local organisation and agreed to meet the cost of the work referred to above.

#### **061/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

In response to a question from John Ellis, the Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the police regarding the issues with TFM in Brickhouse Lane. They in turn had talked to the company and although everything they were doing was legal they did agree to ensure that the minimum amount of inconvenience to local residents.

Chris Jewson referred back to the Community Governance Review and suggested that it would be helpful to the Parish Council to read the comments from local residents. Whilst there were a lot of positive comments, there were issue which the Parish Council needed to address. It was agreed that the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk would review the comments.

Jill Howe and Chris Jewson suggested that 2 new dog bins were needed along Brickhouse Lane. The Clerk was asked submit a request to the District Council.

Alan Bayliss asked whether it would be possible to have the route of the No.44 bus altered so that it included Austin Road and Wheatridge Road. It was agreed that this suggestion should be passed to Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

#### **062/21 Dates of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held via Zoom on Monday Wednesday 5 May 2021 commencing at 7.30pm. This would be the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman