

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 7th December 2020.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

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

125/20 Apologies

126/20 Declarations of Interest

127/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

128/20 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no Councillors present.

129/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2 November 2020

It was noted that Alan Bayliss had been omitted from the attendance list.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 November 2020 as amended were approved and signed by the Chairman.

130/20 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the only urgent decision had been the purchase of a Zoom account to allow meetings to run normally.

131/20 Planning Applications

20/01414/FUL – Redhouse Farm Barn, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior – Proposed change of use as a wedding venue and, for a period of eighteen months from the date of this approval for use as a restaurant and for the sale of hot and cold food for takeaway.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

132/20 Finance

(1) Payment made since the Parish Council's 2 November 2020 meeting and Invoices for Payment for November 2020

The payments totalling £4,077.86 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		

<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payment made during November 2020		
Greyfort (Impney Estate) Ltd	270.00	Cheque No. 1174
Sub Total	270.00	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for November 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for November 2020	379.81	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for November 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for November 2020	517.16	Cheque No.1175
PKF Littlejohn LLP	360.00	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	684.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	567.96	Via online banking
Sub Total	3784.07	-
Total Value of Payments for November 2020	4,077.86	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for November 2020

This was noted.

133/20 External Auditor Report

The Parish Council noted the report by the External Auditor.

134/20 Community Governance Review for Proposed New Parish within the current Stoke Parish Area – Parish Council's Response

After opening remarks by the Chair, a detailed and lengthy debate ensued on the points highlighted in the draft response prepared by the Clerk. Alan Bayliss in particular challenged the accuracy and relevancy of many of the points therein.

At the conclusion of the debate, Alyson Jewson, seconded by Jean Jackson, moved that Stoke Heath Parish Ward should remain part of Stoke Parish Council. On being put to a vote, the motion was carried by 9 votes to 1.

Alyson Jewson, seconded by Jean Jackson, then moved that the draft letter be approved as written for submission to Bromsgrove District Council. On being put to a vote, the motion was carried by 9 votes to 1.

Alan Bayliss confirmed that he would be submitting a letter to the District Council challenging

the points raised in the Parish Council's letter.

The Chair and the Clerk pointed out to Alan Bayliss that any correspondence which included reference to his role as a Parish Councillor would need to be submitted to the Parish Council before it was published in any form.

135/20 Christmas Lights Competition 2020

It was agreed that Alyson Jewson and Jean Jackson would judge the Christmas lights in the Stoke Heath area and Jill Howe and Liz Miller would do the Stoke Prior area.

136/20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the logs at the side of the tunnel in the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area were rotting and needed replacing. Ian Gerard had come up with a suggestion that all the logs be removed with picket fencing to match the outer fencing at a cost of £350. It was not clear whether the suggested fencing would last any longer than replacement logs. It was agreed that the Clerk should see quotes for the replacement of the logs as per the existing ones and a second quote for the suggested picket fencing. This matter would then be reconsidered at the Parish Council's next meeting.

The Clerk then informed the Council that the County Council had now issued the Worcestershire County Council (C2045 Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior)(30 mph Speed Limit) Order 2020 which had come into effect from the 26 November 2020. The Order related to the first 160 metres of Stoke Pound Lane from its junction with the B4091 Hanbury Road.

137/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe raised the following points:-

- The Community Link magazine had now ceased as the Church had been unable to find a new Editor. This would impact on the distribution of the Parish Council's newsletter. The Chair and the Clerk agreed to look into this.
- The tree stump on the corner of Orchard Crescent needs removing as it was dangerous. The Chair agreed to ask the Parish Lengthsman to remove the stump. The Clerk was asked to look at the possibility of planting a new tree in its place.
- The new Conservation Board was now in place at the Church and the Council had been asked if they wanted to be included in the photographs to publicise the Board. It was agreed that John Ellis, Jill Howe and Sue Abel to represent the Council.
- The Parish Council's Christmas tree was now on display in the Church and she urged Councillors to go and vote for it.

Chris Jewson commented that the hedge outside 22 Redditch Road was badly overgrown and blocking the pavement. The Clerk confirmed that he had requested the County Council to deal with it. The Chair asked the Clerk to also send a letter to the owner on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chair raised the following points:-

- The basketball nets had now been replaced on all 3 sites.
- The toddler swing seats in the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had now been replaced but he was unsure what to do with the old ones. It was agreed that they should be disposed of.
- The Parish Council had been able to purchase 2 Christmas trees for the price of 1 which had enabled the second tree to be placed on the corner of Ryefields Road and Shaw Lane.

John Ellis asked whether it was intended to put up the Christmas greetings banners up this year. The Chair replied that the existing banners may be faded but he would check to see what was needed.

138/20 Exclusion of Press and Public

Members of the press and public were excluded from the meeting to allow confidential discussions to take place under Agenda item 17.

139/20 Stoke Heath Recreation Area – Approval of Tender for the Repair Work to Fence alongside School Drive

After introductory comments by the Chair, a general discussion ensued on the tenders that had been put forward for this work. It was agreed that the Clerk should be asked to seek a further quote for the work. The issue would be further considered at the Parish Council's next meeting.

It was noted that the two quotes submitted appeared to propose slightly different ways of carrying out the work. It was agreed that this needed to be clarified before the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – In the light of the Covid-19 restrictions, it was agreed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held via Zoom on Monday 11 January 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman