

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held on the 4th May 2020.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

042/20 Apologies

043/20 Declarations of Interest

044/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

045/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2 March 2020

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

046/20 Parish Council Office

The report by the Clerk was considered in detail. In general, Parish Councillors were saddened that it had been proposed to close the office but recognised that it had not been utilised in the way it had been intended when it opened at the end of 2014. On being put to a vote 9 Councillors voted in favour of closing the Parish Office with effect from the 31 May 2020 while 2 Councillors voted against.

It was noted that by closing the office with effect from the 31 May 2020, the Parish Council would only be liable for one month's rental of £250.

During the discussion on the closure of the office, several Councillors expressed concern regarding the future of the John Corbett collection currently kept there. The collection would initially go into storage but the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would need to give serious consideration to how the collection might be displayed in the parish.

The Parish Council also considered the Addendum to the Clerk's report and agreed by 8 votes to 0 to pay the Clerk a monthly allowance of £23 for office accommodation and broadband with effect from the 1 June 2020 and to purchase a filing cabinet for his use.

047/20 Finance

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

The following payments totalling £13,237.61 were agreed unanimously:-

	Cost £	Cheque No.
Direct Debits		
<i>Cartridge World – Office Printer</i>	23.79	-
<i>TalkTalk – Telephone/Broadband</i>	32.34	-

<i>Cartridge World – Office Printer</i>	23.79	-
<i>TalkTalk – Telephone Broadband</i>	32.34	-
Sub total	112.26	-
Cheques signed and issued since the last Parish Council meeting		
Clerk's net salary for March 2020	XXXX	1119
Assistant Clerk's net salary for March 2020	XXXX	1120
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for March 2020	515.38	1121
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for March 2020	155.55	1122
Bromsgrove District Council - Annual rent for Eurobin. Two thirds of cost to be reclaimed from Alvechurch & Belbroughton Parish Councils	906.88	1123
Worcestershire County Council - Street Lighting Initiative for 2017/18 & 2018/19	4257.11	1124
Seiretto UK Ltd - Renewal of premier hosting for stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk	178.80	1125
IDG Garden Services – Emptying of dog/waste bins, installation of memorial bench plus 2 flower boxes & planting, extending base around Prior Avenue memorial bench, grass cutting (1 session) & hedge work at recreation areas & disposal – March 2020	1097.50	1127
Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA) - Inspection of recreation area & outdoor gym	391.80	1128
Avoncroft Arts Society – Meeting Room Hire	20.00	1129
Heron Press – Printing of Parish Magazine	410.00	1130
BDHT - Licence for Pedestrian Access	10.00	1131
Glasdon UK Ltd - Balance of Invoice	33.37	1132
Stoke Prior Village Hall – Hosting PCC Rural Crime Event	12.00	1133
Chris Cooke – Lengthsman duties and Litter Picking for March 2020	315.54	1134
Sub Total	9566.16	-
Cheques approved at May 2020 Parish Council meeting		
Clerk's net salary for April 2020	XXXX	1135
Assistant Clerk's net salary for April 2020	XXXX	1136
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for April 2020	183.81	1137
Worcestershire CALC – Annual CALC & NALC Membership Fees	1245.58	1138
Chris Cooke – Lengthsman duties and Litter Picking for April 2020 plus Maintenance of Jon Corbett Grave	357.24	1139
IDG Garden Services – Emptying of dog/waste bins, installation of memorial bench plus 2 flower boxes & planting, extending base around Prior Avenue memorial bench, grass cutting (1 session) & hedge work at recreation areas & disposal – April 2020	498.00	1140
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for April 2020	510.24	1141
Sub Total	3,559.19	-
Total Value of Payments	13,237.61	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for April 2020

This was noted.

(3) Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2020

This was noted.

(4) Revised Budget for 2020/21

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the revised budget for 2020/21.

048/20 Parish Events 2020/21

The Clerk's report was noted.

049/20 Action Summary

The Action Summary was noted.

050/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel requested that consideration should be given to resuming bulb planting this year.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 1 June 2020 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath. This would be subject to amendment depending upon the Government's restrictions at that time.

Chairman