

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held via Zoom on the 2nd November 2020.

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

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

111/20 Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Liz Eden and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

112/20 Declarations of Interest

113/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

114/20 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

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present.

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

D/Cllr Rone-Clarke gave a brief update on issues in the area.

115/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 October 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

116/20 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the tree works had been completed at the picnic site but the gate and fence off the Hanbury Road was in need of urgent repair. In addition 2 new waste bins had been installed at the Meadow View Football Ground and on the edge of the picnic site.

Chris Jewson reported that the barrier had been put up again blocking the permissive path although he had now removed it. The Chair stated that he would talk to the person responsible about this.

Sue Abel pointed out that the old information board at the Picnic Site needed replacing. The Clerk agreed to raise this with the owners of Harris Brush Works.

117/20 Planning Applications

1) 20/01270/CUPRIO – Land at the Junction of Woodgate Road and Moorgate Road, Stoke Prior – Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds that it was an inappropriate development of an existing agricultural building in this rural area.

2) 20/01240/FUL – Land at Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior – Application for forest track accessing wooded area from Hanbury Road

The Parish Council discussed this application in detail and Councillors were unanimous in agreeing not to support it. Councillors were unable to identify the reasoning for the track which would only give access to a small part of the woodland. They were also concerned about the potential loss of trees or vegetation despite the applicant's statement that this would not happen. There did not appear to have been any prior consultation with the District Council's Tree Officer. It was also noted that the well established permissive path around the woodland either ran on or was parallel to the proposed track and the Councillors felt that at the very least the track should have followed the line of the permissive path. Concern was also expressed about the safety of an access off the B4095 Hanbury Road.

3) 20/01230/FUL – 10 Foley Gardens, Stoke Prior – Proposed new dwelling and associated works

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.

118/20 Finance

(1) Payment made since the Parish Council's 5 October 2020 meeting and Invoices for Payment for October 2020

The new payments totalling £9,070.89 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debit		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	Standing Order
Sub total	23.79	-
Payment made during October 2020		
Eibe Play Ltd	960.71	Via online banking
Stoke Prior Parochial Church Council	800.00	Via online banking
Sub Total	1760.71	-
Cheques/Payments authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for October 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for October 2020	238.85	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for October 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for October 2020	542.28	Cheque No.1172

The Boston Bulb Company	339.00	Cheque No. 1173
Glasdon UK Ltd	608.71	Via online banking
Archer Tree & Garden	800.00	Via online banking
IDG Garden Services	2926.00	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	498.48	Via online banking
Sub Total	7286.39	-
Total Value of Payments for October 2020	9070.89	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2020

This was noted.

119/20 Community Governance Review for Proposed New Parish within the current Stoke Parish Area – Parish Council’s Response

The Chair reminded Councillors to let the Clerk have any comments they wished to have included in the Parish Council’s response to the Review as soon as possible. He added that this did not preclude them from submitting their views direct to the District Council.

120/20 Parish Street Lighting Initiative

After the Clerk had explained that the Parish Council had a legal responsibility for the maintenance of the 29 lighting columns in Stoke Prior, it was unanimously agreed:-

1) To replace the lighting column in Shaw Lane (Pt 5 outside the old school) and convert the 7 lamps identified following the County Council’s maintenance inspection at a total cost of approximately £2,790 in the current financial year.

2) To replace the 2 lighting columns in Shaw Lane (Pt 6 at the junction of Shaw Lane and Weston Hall Road and Pt 8 near Greenside), the lighting column in Rosemary Drive (Pt 18) and the lighting column in Walls Road (PT 11) at a cost of approximately £3,123 in 2021/22.

The Parish Council were reminded that they had already agreed to replace the lighting column in Shaw Lane (Pt 2 outside Astwood Close at a cost of £1,041.

121/20 Donation to British Legion re Remembrance Sunday

It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £75 to the British Legion in recognition of Remembrance Day.

122/20 Christmas 2020

1) St Michael’s Church – Christmas Tree Festival 2020

Jill Howe reminded the Council that took part in last year’s Christmas Tree Festival and had been invited to do so again this year. It was agreed that the Parish Council should take part again this year and Jill Howe agreed to help organise this. The Parish Council was reminded that under the current rules, they would be unable to make the necessary donation. The Chair agreed to provide the tree and pay the donation of £25.

2) Possible Location of Christmas Tree adjacent to the Keith Shakespeare Memorial Bench – Ryefields Road

The Chair confirmed that there would be a Christmas Tree at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The discussion then centred on whether to place an additional tree adjacent to the Keith Shakespeare Memorial Bench and the Chair agreed to look into this being done.

123/20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Bromsgrove Walking Sports Centre to use the basketball court at Ryefields Road Recreation Area to host their Walking Netball programme. The Parish Council agreed to support this request.

124/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

The Chair reported that the Chateau Impney were selling off garden benches at £150 eac. It was agreed that the Parish Council should look to purchase 2 benches for the Picnic Site.

At the Chair's suggestion, it was agreed to purchase a subscription to Zoom which allow meetings to run their full course rather than being time restricted. The Chair agreed to arrange this.

Liz Miller reported that a former Chair of the Parish Council, Eileen Sturrock had died on the 31 October. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a sympathy card to the family.

The Chair suggested and it was agreed that a new Parish Magazine should be produced ready for mid-December. The Clerk was asked to arrange in conjunction with the Assistant Clerk and to also ascertain what the delivery arrangements might be. It was agreed that the magazine should include information about such issues as how the public could access planning applications etc.

Chris Cooke gave the following update:-

1. He would be carrying out hedge cutting work over the coming weekend including the site near to Morrisons.
2. He asked that Councillors let the Clerk know of any areas of the parish which might require gritting during the coming winter.
3. A request had been to the District Council for the pathways to be swept in particular the area between Shaw Lane and Foley Gardens.
4. The County Council had been very active in clearing the gullies across the parish.
5. The nets on the basketball hoops at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been replaced. However both the backboards together with the one at Stoke Heath Recreation Area needed replacement. It was agreed that new Perspex sheets should be purchased and fitted as soon as possible. This would be in line with the recommendations following the RoSpa report earlier this year.

At Sue Abel's suggestion, it was unanimously agreed to put on record their thanks to Jill Howe for her work on the new conservation board at the Church.

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 7 December 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman