

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 9th September 2020.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Jill Howe and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke and 2 members of the public.

078/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Alan Bayliss, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Rory Shannon, Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley and D/Cllr Malcolm Glass.

079/20 Declarations of Interest

080/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

081/20 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by the members of the public.

The Chairman did comment that the 2 members of the public present had sold their property and would sadly be leaving the parish. He thanked them both for their support over the past months.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was unable to attend the meeting.

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

D/Cllr Rone-Clarke gave a brief update on what was going on at District level with particular reference to the economic issues facing Bromsgrove and the future of the Artrix.

082/20 Minutes of the Meetings held on the 6 and 15 July 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on the 6 and 15 July 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

083/20 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chairman commented on a personal issue in respect of Rory Shannon which was now being dealt with by the Monitoring Officer at Bromsgrove District Council and on the meeting with the District Council Planning Officers which it was hoped would lead to improved working relationships between the 2 Councils.

084/20 Planning Applications

1) WCC 20/000031/CM – Metal and Ores Industrial Estate, 138 Hanbury Road, Stoke

Prior – Demolition of part of existing industrial building; erection of extension to retained building and connection to adjacent waste transfer station to provide additional storage space for waste materials, office and staff facilities and a new weighbridge (part retrospective)

After opening comments by the Chairman, the Parish Council discussed the planning application in detail and a range of issues and objections were put forward. At the conclusion of the debate, the Clerk agreed to draft a response to Worcestershire County Council based on the outcome of the discussions and to circulate it to all Councillors for comment.

2) 20/00916/FUL – Juraise (Springs) Ltd, Buntsford Hill, Bromsgrove – Proposed demolition and replacement of existing poor condition industrial building.

The Parish Council had no issues with this application although they did have some concerns about any increased noise affecting the private homes nearby.

3) 20/00884/FUL – 1 Fair oak Drive, Bromsgrove – First floor side extension and ground floor extension to rear.

The Parish Council supported this application as a good extension to a family home.

085/20 Finance

(1) Payments made since the Parish Council's 6 July 2020 meeting and Invoices for Payment for August 2020

The new payments totalling £5,779.59 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
<i>TalkTalk – Telephone/Broadband for Parish Office</i>	103.74	-
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	151.32	-
Cheques issued on the 31 July 2020		
Clerk's net salary for July 2020	XXXX	Cheque No.1158
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for July 2020	180.01	"
Assistant Clerk's net salary for July 2020	XXXX	Cheque No.1159
D.J. Gartland Timber	60.00	Cheque No.1160
JB Building & Joinery Ltd	768.00	Cheque No.1161
Smartwater Technology	2563.20	Cheque No.1162
IDG Garden Services	1013.00	Cheque No.1163

Sub total	5936.04	-
Cheques issued/Payments made during August 2020		
Chris Cooke	690.60	Cheque No.1164
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for July 2020	562.90	Cheque No.1165
Earth Anchors Ltd	445.20	Cheque No.1166
M. Baker	40.00	Cheque No.1167
Bournville Village Trust	286.00	Cheque No.1168
Community Heartbeat Trust (Solutions) Ltd	162.00	Via online banking
Sub Total	2186.70	-
Cheques/Payments authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for August 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for August 2020	154.97	Via online banking
Assistant Clerk's net salary for August 2020	XXXX	Via online banking
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for August 2020	508.83	Cheque No.1169
Bromsgrove District Council	489.06	Cheque No.1170
IDG Garden Services	613.50	Via online banking
Chris Cooke	364.80	Via online banking
M Baker Tai Chi	100.00	Via online banking
Sub Total	3517.31	-
Total Value of Payments for July & August 2020	11,791.37	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2020

This was noted.

086/20 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

087/20 Community Governance Review for Proposed New Parish within the current Stoke Parish Area

The Clerk presented his report and explained the process required for the review and the reasons why residents in Stoke Heath had submitted the petition to the District Council. He

added that he would report further as the review progressed over the next twelve months.

088/20 Speeding in Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior

The Clerk reported that Jill Howe had raised serious concerns about the problems of speeding traffic along Shaw Lane. The Clerk pointed out that this had been raised as an issue at previous meetings and suggested that the idea of traffic calming measures should be pursued with Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley and the County Council's Highways Officers. It was agreed that the Clerk should progress this matter and report back to the Parish Council.

089/20 Action Summary

The Action Summary was noted.

090/20 Diary Commitments

John Ellis referred to this year's Carols in the Park event and questioned whether it would be possible to hold the event. It was agreed that any decision should be deferred to the Council's next meeting given the current rules on groups meeting in public.

091/20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice requesting a grant from the Parish Council. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to make a grant in 2020/21.

092/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel raised the question of bulb planting this year as it had not been done for 2 years and there were some areas in the parish which needed attention. It was agreed to explore the options of purchasing either bulbs or plugs of native wild flowers and to make a decision at the next Council meeting.

John Ellis referred to the growing number of advertising signs on the fence adjacent to the church. The Chair confirmed that he had asked the Clerk to contact the owner of the field to find out whether permission had been obtained for the signs and if not did they want them removed.

Liz Miller raised the question of extending the double yellow lines along Weston Hall Road from the junction with Shaw Lane. The Clerk confirmed that this matter was already being pursued by Cty/Cllr Daisley but he would follow it up.

John Ellis informed the Council that the Tai Chi classes had been very successful this year.

John Ellis stated that he was getting complaints relating to parking around the Hanbury Turn PH. The problem being that the new Landlord had set up picnic benches in the car park restricting the available parking spaces and therefore people were parking elsewhere and blocking local residents' parking. The Clerk was asked to send a polite letter to the Landlord.

093/19 Exclusion of the 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.

094/19 Clerk's and Assistant Clerk's National Pay Increase

The Clerk reported that the hourly rates of pay for himself and the Assistant Clerk had been increased under a National Salary Award with effect from the 1 April 2020. The Parish Council noted that they were committed to these increases under the staff contracts.

Date of Next Meeting – In the light of the Government's recent announcement regarding meetings, it was agreed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held via Zoom on Monday 5 October 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman