

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 1st November 2021.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, John Ellis, Jean Jackson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

143/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

144/21 Declarations of Interest

Sue Abel declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10.

145/21 Requests for Dispensation

None.

146/21 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

There were no County or District Councillors present.

147/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 October 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

136/21 Planning Applications

1) 21/01435/FUL – Diamond Cottage, Buntsford Hill, Bromsgrove – Two storey extension at the rear

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

2) 21/01034/FUL – 1 Foley Gardens, Stoke Prior – Single storey rear extension, first floor build over the existing utility room and the addition of a gateway for vehicular parking

The Parish Council fully supported this application although there did appear to be an issue with the property being a heritage building.

3) 21/01337/FUL – 10 Tythe Barn Close, Bromsgrove – Single storey side extension

The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that the front/side extension encroached within 2.5 feet of the edge of the pavement. No other properties in this road encroached so close to the pavement. The Parish Council felt that the proposed extension would be detrimental to the street scene.

148/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

149/21 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for October 2021

The payments totalling £6,749.87 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Nathan Smith	650.00	Online
Post Office	8.95	Online
Sub total	658.95	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for October 2021	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for October 2021	XXXX	Online
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for October 2021	147.46	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for October 2021	452.82	Cheque No.1187
IDG Garden Services	3070.00	Online
Chris Cooke	984.65	Online
Sub Total	6,067.13	-
Total Value of Payments for October 2021	6,749.87	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2021

This was noted.

150/21 Composition of Stoke Parish Council and Ward Boundaries

Alan Bayliss explained that one of the issues that had come out of the recent Governance Review was that there should be a better balance in the representation on the Parish

Council for Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath. For the District Council to give any consideration to such a proposal the request would need to come from the Parish Council and he asked the Council to support this request. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council were not prepared to request a review and that the current composition of the Council should remain unchanged.

151/21 Heritage Fund – Request for a Grant

Sue Abel gave a brief explanation of the aims of the Heritage Friends Group to interpret and promote the heritage of the whole parish using the wealth of information, artefacts, photographs etc available. The project was aimed at involving and engaging the whole of the community from the young to the old. She added that the Group were looking at a grant of £200 from the Parish Council to help with the project.

Sue Abel, seconded by John Ellis, then moved and it was unanimously agreed to give a grant of £200 to the Heritage Friends Group.

152/21 Carols in the Park – 4 December 2021

The Chairman confirmed that all the necessary equipment would be available for the event on Saturday 4 December commencing at 5.00pm.

John Ellis confirmed that he would be able to organise the refreshments but would need help with serving on the evening.

The Chairman together with Sue Abel would be available to help on the day.

153/21 Remembrance Sunday – 14 November 2021

It was confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 14 November at Upton Warren Church. John Ellis and Sue Abel confirmed that they would be attending.

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

154/21 Christmas Tree Festival 2021

The Clerk reminded the Council that they 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 be asked to help organise this. The Chair agreed to provide the tree and pay the donation of £25.

155/21 Request for a Bench on Hanbury Road

Sue Abel explained that she had received a request from local residents for a bench to be installed on Hanbury Road opposite Stoke Pound Lane. After discussion, it was agreed to support this request.

At this juncture, the Chairman reported the damage which had been done to one of the benches at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. He pointed out that this was the latest in a number of acts of vandalism. He suggested that all three benches on this site should be removed and replaced with new benches constructed of 100% recycled plastic which would be stronger and more robust. The cost of the benches would be £275 each or 4 for £250 each.

After discussion, the Chairman, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was agreed to purchase 4 recycled plastic benches at a total cost of £1,000. Three of the new benches would be installed at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. It was also agreed that one of the existing benches should be relocated to Hanbury Road. The remaining bench would be put in storage over the winter together with the picnic benches from the picnic site.

With regard to future security for Stoke Heath Recreation Area with the use of CCTV, the Clerk reported that he had received a response from Avoncroft Arts Society that they felt the security and legal obligations were too great and that they were not able to agree to the system being installed at their office. During discussion, it was suggested that it might be possible to make use of an electricity supply via the lamps on the drive of Bromsgrove School. It was agreed to approach the school to see if they would be amenable to such a proposal.

156/21 Bench or Tree Memorial for the late George Verney and Dean Smith

It was agreed that one of the recycled benches referred to in the previous item should be installed on the play area off Heath Close, Stoke Heath as a memorial to Dean Smith.

With regard to a memorial to George Verney, it was agreed that a tree should be planted in Stoke Heath with a suitable plaque. The location for the tree to be agreed.

157/21 Film Night 2022 – Proposed Date – 3 September 2022

It was agreed that the Parish Council should hold the Film Night on Saturday 3 September 2022. Details of the proposed film would be agreed at a later date.

158/21 Correspondence

The Chairman explained that, as a result of a request from a local resident, Alyson Jewson had met with him and Cllr Kyle Daisley to discuss the possibility of installing a skate park at Ryefields Road Recreation Area. During a brief discussion, Councillors generally were not in support of such a proposal but it was agreed to consider the matter further at the next Parish Council meeting when Alyson Jewson would be present to explain the outcome of the meeting.

159/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

The Chairman read out a number of items raised by Chris Cooke:-

- It appeared that only one gully had been cleared since the Parish Council's last meeting.
- The gully below the Harris Brush Works lay-by on the B4091 had got water gushing out rather than in.
- He asked for any update on the bridge signs for HGVs and the hedges on Sugarbrook Lane.

It was agreed that the Clerk should raise these issues with Cllr Daisley.

- Need to chase the District Council regarding the replacement of the litter bin in the lay-by above Harris Brush Works.
- He had been given three horse chestnut trees and he had planted two in the above mentioned lay-by and one at the picnic site.
- The rent for the storage container would increase to £30 per month with effect from the 1 April 2022. This was noted.

Sue Abel asked whether it would be possible to consider asking Barratts whether they would be interested in helping fund and provide an Information Board on the Henbrook Gardens

site. It was agreed to include this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Sue Abel also asked whether the Parish Council should be looking at supporting the speeding petition which was currently underway. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

160/21 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Tuesday 7 December 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman