

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th October 2021.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman). Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services, Bromsgrove District Council attended for Agenda item 4.

130/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from John Ellis, Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson and D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke.

131/21 Declarations of Interest

132/21 Requests for Dispensation

None.

133/21 Planning & Enforcement Issues – Question & Answer Session with Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services, Bromsgrove District Council

Ruth Bamford gave a brief explanation about how the planning enforcement process worked together with the related appeal process. She also explained how the Parish Council could help her and her officers to act quicker by providing photographic evidence about perceived planning breaches etc. She then went on to respond to a range of questions from Councillors about the differing types of planning applications without making any reference to individual cases.

The Chairman then thanked her for coming to the meeting and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to hold such meetings on an annual basis.

134/21 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

Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley reported on the following items:-

Covid Cases – confirmed cases in the county were decreasing with a weekly average of 1,400 cases across the county.

Bus Shelters – He confirmed that he would pay £7,500 from his Divisional Fund towards the cost of the RTI board and solar panel for one of the shelters for the parish with the County paying the balance of £6,500. After discussion, it was agreed that the RTI board and solar panel should be installed in the bus shelter for Ryefields Road. It was also agreed to

request that the position of that shelter should be altered slightly to allow better vehicular access to the shops behind the shelter and that the Parish Council would accept responsibility for the future maintenance of all three new shelters.

Bus Route – Following a question by Alan Bayliss, he confirmed that he had put a request in for the route of the Number 44 bus to be altered to include Austin Road and Wheatridge Road, Stoke Heath. He added that this would be a decision for the operator of that service.

Monthly Surgeries – He stated that he intended to introduce monthly surgeries across his division on the last Sunday of each month. He would be outside the shops in Ryefields Road between 12.30pm and 1.30pm and it was hoped that he would be joined by the local District Councillors and possibly a member of the Parish Council. He also asked for any suggestions for a suitable location in Stoke Heath.

Hanbury Road – He fully supported the local petition about speeding along Hanbury Road and recognised that this issue needed to be resolved together with the confusing speed limits along the length of that road.

Blocked Gullies – He had been assured that all the gullies included in the list provided by Chris Cooke had been dealt with. However he was aware that this was an ongoing problem and if necessary he would arrange for a site visit with the Highways Officer responsible for this area of work.

Hedges in Sugarbrook Lane – This matter was now being dealt with by the County Council's Legal Officers.

HGV Signage – He appreciated that Chris Cooke had done a considerable amount of work on designing signs and identifying the best locations for them. However the County's Highways Officers do not seem to recognise the problems and are very reluctant to move forward. He therefore proposed to set up a meeting between Network Rail, Police and Highways together with a representative of the Parish Council to try and sort this problem out.

Westonhall Road – Drawings were being prepared to extend the double yellow lines along this road and the Parish Council would be consulted in due course.

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no District Councillors present at the meeting.

135/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

136/21 Planning Applications

1) 21/01347/FUL – Moorgate House, Moorgate Road, Stoke Prior – Proposed extensions and alterations to dwellings

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed to fully support this application.

2) 21/01319/FUL – The Priory, Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior – Add a wooden stable block consisting of two stables (pre fabricated type structure measuring 7.2m x 3.6m) onto the existing yard and add a new vehicle access from Brickhouse Lane to the yard.

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed to fully support this application.

3) 21/01349/CPE – Appletrees, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove – Portacabins and container used as offices and warehousing – 1 x portacabin 9’x16’, 1 x portacabin 9’x22’, 1 x yellow vehicle body 7’6”x15’, 3 x containers 8’x20’ and 5 x containers 9’x20’

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council felt unable to comment on this application.

4) 21/01336/FUL – The Barn, Little Brickhouse Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove – Erection of an oak framed garden room.

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed to fully support this application.

5) 21/01163/FUL – 15 Harrow Close, Bromsgrove – Single storey rear extension

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed to fully support this application.

6) 21/01445/HHPRIO – 9 Waggoners Close, Bromsgrove – Enlargement of a dwelling with 1 additional storey to form 1 master bedroom with ensuite & walk in wardrobe & cinema room. Maximum height of dwelling to be 9.1 metres. Brickwork to match existing & roof tiles to match existing.

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds that the extensions were too big for the existing house and also encroached on the neighbouring properties.

137/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council’s last meeting

None.

138/21 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for September 2021

The payments totalling £4,151.24 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		
Jon Miller	70.00	Online
Eventures	442.80	Online
Boston Seeds	94.99	Online
Clerk’s net salary for September 2021	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk’s net salary for September 2021	XXXX	Online
Sub total	2,019.73	-

Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for September 2021	165.73	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks' salary plus NI & Asst Clerk's salary for September 2021	457.45	Cheque No.1186
PKF Littlejohn LLP	360.00	Online
Emergency Response Systems	474.14	Online
Michelle Baker	60.00	Online
IDG Garden Services	240.00	Online
Chris Cooke	350.40	Online
Sub Total	2,107.72	-
Total Value of Payments for September 2021	4,151.24	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for September 2021

This was noted.

139/21 External Auditor's Report

The Parish Council noted the report by the External Auditor.

140/21 Correspondence

The Clerk raised the following items:-

1. Bromsgrove District Council had confirmed the Community Grant of £5,000 towards the cost of replacing the fencing at Stoke Heath. It would now be necessary for the Parish Council to obtain estimates for the cost of the work for submission to the District Council before they would release the funds.

2. Jill Howe had asked the Parish Council to consider planting trees across the parish. Alyson Jewson stated that she understood that it was possible to obtain small trees free of charge from the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that she should follow this up.

141/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Cooke reported the following:-

- The new see-saw at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had now been installed.
- No serious progress had been made with the proposed HGV signs.
- Still need to replace the cargo net on the climbing apparatus at Shaw lane Recreation Area.
- He believed that it was still possible to get grants for new play equipment etc. The Chairman suggested and it was agreed to set up a small Working Party to look into this. Alyson Jewson agreed to be involved and it was hoped that Liz Eden would also do so.
- The last litter pick had produced 1/18 bags of rubbish.

The Chairman reported that the Film Night had been a success with about 300 attendees. It was agreed to hold the event again next year.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to update the regular advertisement in the Community Link magazine.

Chris Jewson pointed out that the list of Councillors on the website was out-of-date. The Clerk was asked to deal with urgently.

Sue Abel asked about the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Liz Miller asked what was happening about providing additional benches at Ryefields Road Recreation Area. Chris Cooke stated that he had obtained a price which he believed was £120 per bench but he would confirm this. The Chairman, seconded by Liz Miller, moved that 2 benches should be purchased at a cost of £120 each.

In response to a question by Paul Pittaway, the Clerk confirmed that the Assets Register would be submitted to the Council in the new year.

Chris Jewson asked what was happening with the vandalised bench at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The Clerk agreed to follow this up. He also asked whether it was till proposed to provide a memorial bench for the late George Verney and Dean Smith. Chris Cooke added that a memorial tree might be a better alternative. It was agreed to out this on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was noted that the Carols in the Park event would be held on Saturday 4 December at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

142/21 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 1 November 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman