

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Watkins (Chair), Cllr Preston (Deputy), Cllrs Faulkner, Freeman, Garrard, Hadley, Halling, Seward, Sturgess and Williams. CCllr Allen. DCllrs Harrison and Michael.  
**In Attendance:** Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO).  
5 members of public (residency confirmed): SC, M&JG, M&JH. PCSO Jonathan Hand.

**Part 1 Resident Question Time –**

**JH** – County Council proposals for double yellow lines do not extend far enough up the road. Concern that these plans deny public access to rights of way that existed before National Trust took over at Croome. Signs are needed that ask visitors to respect the verges. National Trust parking on the corner should be explored.

**SC** – Double yellow lines need to extend past Stone Cottage which would address the issue of inconsiderately parked vehicles blocking visibility when exiting the property.

**MG** – Again raising the issue of blocked gullies and debris in the gutters of Severn Stoke village. SW reminded residents that if they note down the date and time of quarry lorries that shed their load, then Tarmac can trace the driver and arrange for the road to be cleaned. DH has arranged for the road sweeper to attend the village between the 40mph and 30mph markers. The Clerk has re-reported the blocked gullies to Highways who will attend as part of their county rota of gully cleaning.

**Part 2 Agenda Items**

**1 To consider apologies and to approve reasons for absence.**

Cllr Cox. Resident apologies RA, JW & EH.

**2 Declarations of Interest, dispensations and points of order.**

Cllrs noted the one parish cllr vacancy. Position has been advertised, with no interested parties. The Clerk advised SW to update his register of interests in relation to tenanted land in proximity to Kempsey and recent planning applications there.

SW

**3 Minutes of previous meeting - Wed 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Previously distributed and duly **approved**. Prps: SW. Scnd: GS.

*The order of the agenda was rearranged at this point in order to receive the report of the PCSO. Prp: LF, Scnd EH.*

**8h PCSO Jonathan Hand was invited to address the council.**

- **Speeding.** 14 parishes covered by Kempsey and Alfrick PCSOs and all parishes report speeding as a critical issue. 'Operations' (regular police) have conducted two 1 hour radar enforcement sessions in Severn Stoke village. In the 1<sup>st</sup> session 10 people were caught exceeding 40mph in the 30mph zone entering the village from Severn Bank direction. This exercise will be repeated within the next month and hopefully get the word round to the locals. Experience shows that 80% of those caught speeding are local residents. *Post meeting update: Next speed enforcement day potentially 11th October. PCSO Hand has requested to be trained in using the speed gun so as to avoid having to reply on another department.*

PCSO

- **Crime.** Reminder to residents to report any crime, including those where police response is not required, since resources are allocated to help those areas with higher reported incidences. Reminder to residents to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/> - a community messaging service for residents living in the West Mercia Police area. Cllrs noted instances of agricultural theft in Clifton area and commercial van break-ins in Knights Hill.

All

- **Yellow lines at Croome.** These are not enforceable by PCSOs but by the County Council. The police will only issue tickets if a vehicle is obstructing the highway or posing a danger to others. If and when yellow lines are installed, the PCSOs will ensure that local police are aware and conduct the enforcement that they are able.

PCSO

The original order of the agenda resumed at this point.

4 **Councillors' Reports**

4a **County Cllr Allen**

● A reminder that flooding grants are available from the County Council. Parish Cllrs asked why the parish hall had been turned down for the grant. Cllr Allen surmised that it was because the flood bund was not progressed sufficiently and because the hall committee could not commit to rebuilding. Any application in association with the parish hall would likely fail similarly. Examples of successful projects included new picnic benches by Kempsey Parish Council. Parish Cllrs queried why picnic tables would be approved as part of a flood grant and yet a vital community asset such as the parish hall is turned down. Parish Cllrs asked Cllr Allen to clarify the criteria of the grant. Parish Cllrs are to pass their ideas for new applications to the Clerk asap.

● The County Council has voted not to pursue a motion to declare speeding a major problem in Worcestershire. Parish Councillors and Cllr Allen all agreed that this was an opportunity missed, as carrying the point would have placed significant pressure on the Police Crime Commissioners to focus on the issue.

Cllr  
Allen  
  
ALL

4b **DCllrs David Harrison and John Michael**

● SWDPr has been set back in order to give more time for vital technical studies to be completed and an amount of future ley way will also be built in in order to cope with purdah in spring 2022. A new timetable is being drawn up for the publication and submission of the plan. This will be put before Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils for approval in the near future. It is likely that the document will be submitted to inspectors in June 2022. Traveller and Showpeople sites consultation will proceed March 2022. ● Malvern Hills District Council's Planning Department are consulting regarding the **Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Local Listed Buildings** – *which could more usefully be described as a consultation to identify local buildings and assets that should be listed*. The draft document will set out what local listing is, the nomination and adoption processes for the authority. Local listing provides an avenue for communities to formally identify architecture, landmarks and street furniture considered to be significant to that community and why. The nomination process includes age, rarity, aesthetics, group value, archaeological, historic, social and communal, landscape and landmark. These considerations are to be weighed against criteria to confirm suitability prior to formal public consultation and adoption as a local listed asset. As part of a planning application, the inclusion on the list will be a material consideration when determining the application with assessment focusing upon scale of harm or loss and significance of the asset.

- [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/planning/heritage/supplementary-planning-document-local-listed-buildings](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/planning/heritage/supplementary-planning-document-local-listed-buildings)
- [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/about-your-council/public-notice-and-consultations](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/about-your-council/public-notice-and-consultations)

Cllrs considered that it would seem to provide opportunities for extending environmental protections as well as those related to unlisted heritage assets. Cllrs to read and consider suggestions/way forward in the first instance via email. ● **Housing needs survey.** The MHDC housing team are planning some online sessions for district and parish councillors on 12th October 6-7pm via Zoom on the subject of housing needs surveys. The aim of these sessions is to raise awareness of what they are, why MHDC carry them out and how. They are looking to jointly deliver the sessions with planning policy to ensure linkages with neighbourhood plans. Further details to be distributed shortly. DCllr Harrison to keep PCllrs informed of results of Planning Peer Review

Parish  
Cllrs  
  
Parish  
Cllrs to  
check  
diary  
  
DCllr DH

- 5 **Planning**  
- to consider, comment and resolve to respond to applications  
Parish Cllrs asked for investigations by MHDC enforcement with regard to waste handling and bonfires relating to a planning application along the A38 in Severn Stoke. The close proximity to the escarpment leading to the River Severn makes this potential activity highly damaging to the soils and waterways. DClIrs
- 6 **Community speed and traffic concerns.**
- a. **Severn Stoke and Clifton villages VAS.**  
Additional poles allowing VAS to be situated at Severn Stoke village are still to be installed by County Highways and the Clerk is chasing with urgency. CClr Allen is to assist with this and Clerk to email him. VAS at Clifton has a battery change every three weeks by GS and LF. Clerk to re-examine longevity of this equipment. Cllr Allen  
Clerk
- b. **High Green VAS stats.** Maximum speeds of 45mph were recorded on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. PCSO
- c. **Kinnersley community speed watch training.** PCSO Hands agreed to chase.
- 7 **Highways, footpaths & infrastructure**  
– discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice
- a **Corner nr (Croome) London Arch – parking, bollards, speeding, yellow lines drainage issues.**  
Worcestershire County Council Highways are now committed to re-installing the bollards that were removed by visitors in order to protect the bank and prevent parking on the blind bend. Traffic Regulation Office and Highways Safety Officers agree that there is a safety issue with dangerous parking on the corner and so yellow lines are being proposed in order to prevent this. Residents and parish councillors have the opportunity to feedback on these proposals by 21th October 2021. Parish Cllrs **voted unanimously** to support the proposals for yellow lines with the caveat that a request be put in to DJ Traffic Engineer that the lines be extended as far as possible and ideally to the National Trust (NT) car park entrance on the left side heading north. Prps RG Scnd LF. Residents to parish clerk  
Clerk  
Notices asking visitors to respect the parking are not needed since the yellow lines will cover the verges in question. The NT could be approached regarding possibility of a car park behind the gate on the corner in order to alleviate the problem. Dog walkers should note that during carp park open hours there are no restrictions on who parks there. Clerk  
Cllr Watkins reported that he had personally broached the issue of drainage with PW Savills Estate. Further inspections are due by Highways shortly. Residents report that Highways attended on 8<sup>th</sup> sept to jet the drains. Cllrs confirmed that the ditch is privately owned and cared for by a Savills tenant.
- b **Re-discovery of the pavement and kerb along the A38, including**
- **state of pavements in Severn Stoke village,**
  - **overgrown hedges obstructing pavements in Severn Stoke village and along Madge Hill,**
  - **blocked gullies in Severn Stoke village.**
  - **State of rights of way parish wide**
- Previous County Cllr promised siding out and rediscovery of path from Severn Stoke village to Kempsey. CClr Allen has been liaising with HD Highways to confirm plans. There are no records or written instructions to Highways from previous County Cllrs regarding the siding out. Consequently, this must be treated as an entirely new request for maintenance of the paths. Cllrs Cllr Allen

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confirmed that the section to concentrate on is between Severn Stoke village and Clifton.

Residents JW and BH had provided a list of blocked public rights of way across fields and these are to be provide to PW Savills for action.

Clerk

All blocked gullies in Severn Stoke village should be re-reported individually to Highways for action. The response time is generally 12/14 weeks. Cllrs confirmed that they do not consider this a matter for the Lengthsman to take care of.

Clerk

Overgrown hedges should also be reported to Highways with names and addresses. They will enforce after due process. Madge hill hedges should be reported to PW Savills for chasing with the tenant farmer. SW to assist.

Clerk

Cllr

Watkins

**C Blocked ditch at Kerswell Green**

Reported to parish council by DP resident of Kerswell Green. Clerk has liaised with Kempsey PC and PW Savills is also assisting. Tenant is RB. The Lengthsman had reported that this issue was raised five years ago with Kempsey PC.

Clerk

**d Dog fouling Knights Hill and Madge Hill**

The Clerk is to email RRich MHDC to ask for additional signage and copy DH in.

Clerk

**e Flooding in road Birch Lane outside The Haven**

The tenant caring for ditches in the vicinity is RB. Clerk is liaising with Land Drainage Partnership who has scheduled to conduct site assessments and decide on a way forward.

Clerk

**f Overgrown shrub on Stonnall Close Calor Gas land.**

Home owner JA has reported that the shrub is damaging the fence on her property. Clerk has written to Calor Gas and Prysmian to ask that the area is tended to. So far no response has been received from either. DH advised that RRich be copied in on correspondence.

Clerk

**g Knights Hill periodic structural testing of street lighting.**

Three street light poles have been assessed in Stonnall Close and a report on their condition provided. GS to read and assess progress. It was noted that No1 street light on Knights Hill is not working properly and the Clerk is to report.

Clerk

**h Milestone, High Green to Croome road. Maintenance update.**

Clerk had arranged for a metal detectorist to check the site but no metal plate had been found. LF continuing to organise replacement plate.

Clerk

Cllr

**i Kinnersley bollards**

Cllrs were not aware that any outstanding issues remained.

Freeman

8

**Group/Committee updates**

– discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

**a St Denys' churchyard maintenance - debate ref NALC legal topic note L01-18 | Financial assistance to the church. May require motion to amend parish council budget 2021/2022**

A report emailed to the Clerk by DH brought to Cllrs' attention the discussions by a forum organised by the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils. The conclusions of which are that donations to the church for maintenance of private land (ie churchyards and buildings) may be unlawful. The matter is currently under consideration by Kempsey Parish Council who are also seeking clarification of the legal situation. Cllrs had received a Legal Topic Note from the National Association (NALC) which reviews the legal issues. It suggests that there is a clear prohibition on this type of payment in the 1894 Local Government Act and none of the possible overriding exceptions due to the subsequent legislation cited by NALC would seem to be applicable to either Kempsey PC or Severn Stoke PC – neither is a burial authority and neither has a general power of competence at this time. Cllrs agreed that donations should be put on hold for the time being and that the matter

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discussed as part of the budget review to be conducted by the finance committee. The Clerk to continue to seek advice from WCALC. The Clerk later noted that St Denys' has been offered as a parish council meeting venue and that a venue hire would be applicable in these circumstances. Cllrs agreed to explore holding parish council meetings in the church and **instructed** the Clerk to make further enquires. Prps LF. Scnd EH.

Finance  
Comms  
Clerk  
  
Clerk

**B Parish Hall**

A report had been received from RM. "The committee have been doing independent research on options for replacing the hall and finding sources to support this. Due to a combination of factors the committee have had to cancel a number of planned meetings to bring this research together into a plan." Cllr Halling to enquire whether the committee would like an additional rep from the PC as per the constitution. Also to enquire what version of the constitution the committee has. Cllrs agreed that signage is required in the car park to highlight the potholes appearing in the car park surface and instructed the Clerk to action. Prp GS. Scnd RH.

Cllr  
Halling  
x2  
  
Clerk

**c Severn Stoke Flood Action Group** – No update to report. Cllr Watkins noted that Croome Estate and tenants still have not had any contact in relation to land appropriation and compensation.

**d Tarmac Liaison Group**

The Clerk and SW had attended the previous group meeting and Cllrs had received the Clerk's report of the meeting. Exploratory drilling south of Clifton Quarry established the presence of some minerals but not commercially viable to progress. This was the area that reached right up to Severn Stoke village - it is confirmed that Tarmac will not be pursuing this area. In relation to the means by which Tarmac intend to excavate on east side of A38 and how they will get the materials from one side of the road to the other Tarmac confirms that No decisions have been made. Assessing loading capacity and ground strength before progressing idea of bridge/ Bridge structure is the Tarmac preference but would be subject to planning app and justification

**e Croome Liaison Group** – This matter has been referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration.

**f Tree planting for queen's jubilee.**

It was noted that the Clerk has applied to WCC for a grant of £438 towards tree purchase and tree shields. Residents wishing to plant a tree should approach the parish council please. SW also offered to plant any left over trees and suggested that the NT be approached to take part.

Residents  
Clerk  
Cllr  
Watkins

**g Remembrance 2021**

Cllr instructed the Clerk to purchase a wreath. Severn Stoke school memorial is in the hall and residents are concerned that it will be lost if the hall is demolished. RH to raise with the committee and arrange removal to the church once the building is made safe enough to enter.

Clerk  
Cllr  
Halling

**h Police reports** - Previously discussed by PCSO

**i Lengthsman update**

Cllrs **agreed** to consider paying mileage and review wage (so as to bring in line with other parish councils) as part of a finance committee agenda. Recommendations will be brought back to the parish council.

Finance  
Comms

9

**General Finance and Administration**

**a To consider and motion to approve the payment of accounts made in the previous month.** Appendix 1. Duly **approved**. Prps: LF. Scnd: PP.

**b To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts August/Sept 2021.** Appendix 2. Duly **approved**. Prps: GS. Scnd: RG

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- c To receive and motion to accept latest bank reconciliation Duly approved.**

Prps: SW. Scnd: EH

**10 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.**

- a To add to November agenda:**

- Adoption of the red phone box at High Green. Cllrs raised the issue of purpose, maintenance and vandalism.
- Consultation on local buildings for listing

Clerk and All Cllrs to give some thought

- It was noted that the Clerk has responded to the WCALC speed survey, and the Dark Sky and Net Zero Policy questionnaire by WCC street lighting and the Crime Commissioner Safer West Mercia Plan and the MHDC connected communities consultation.
- Finance Committee to meet in October to begin to draft 2022/23 budget. Residents welcome to offer suggestions

Finance Comms Cllrs GS, SW and SF

**Next Parish Council meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.30pm.**

Signed ..... Chairman .....Date

**Appendix 1. Items already paid via online banking late May and June 2021**

*(Approved under previous agenda or required payment under contract monthly):*

Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman July 2021	£208.00
Mr Simon Bott	Mowing Parish Hall and verges July SB0334	£45.00
Mr Simon Bott	Mowing Parish Hall and verges Aug SB0342	£30.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [July]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses Aug 2021	£62.51
Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman Aug 2021	£208.00

**Appendix 2. Item for payment July 2021:**

Savills	Ref parish hall site. Society of Merchant Venturers as Endowment Trustee for St Monica Trust	£453.60
KIWA	Stonnall Close street column inspection	£594.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [Aug]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses Sept 2021.	£18.64

-end-