

**ONLINE MEETING**  
**OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF SEVERN STOKE PARISH**

**Present:** Cllr Watkins (Chair), Cllr Preston (Deputy), Cllrs Cox, Halling, Seward, Sturgess and Williams. CCllr Middleborough. DCllrs Harrison and Michael.  
D.Perridge West Mercia Police Road Safety Officer.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO).  
Three members of the public (residency confirmed): RA, LF, JG.

**Part 1** **Resident Question Time** – nil questions.

**Part 2** **Agenda Items**

1a **Co-option - Vacancy for Parish Councillor - Croome Ward**

Mr Laurence Freeman spoke to introduce himself and confirm his wish to contribute to the community. Cllrs voted unanimously and welcomed Larry to the parish council. Prp: GS. Scnd: RH. Candidate verbally accepted position with SS&CDA Parish Council and confirm intention to complete an acceptance of office and a declaration of interests. Paperwork associated with new Parish Cllrs will be forwarded asap for completion due to *COVID19 restrictions*). For the remainder of this meeting the newly Co-opted Councillor took part in debate but, since they have not signed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' did not vote at this March meeting.

Clerk  
Cllr  
Freeman

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

Cllr Eileen Hadley (IT equipment), Cllrs Faulkner & Garrard.  
Clerk noted the resignation of Terry Breslin, due to working and family commitments. MHDC has been informed and the option to fill via election has been advertised. Cllrs joined in wishing Terry well. The notice of vacancy has been displayed on parish noticeboards. Deadline for requests for the vacancy to be filled via election is 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Clerk

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

Ref agenda item 11b. CCllr Middlebrough noted family connections with salmon angling society at Diglis but no personal interest.

3 **Minutes of previous meeting - Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021**

Previously distributed and duly **approved**. Amendments attended to.  
Prps: RH. Scnd: NC.

4 & 5 **Councillors' Reports**

**County Cllr Middlebrough**

- Meeting reports from WCC internal GOLD meeting in respect of COVID 19 continue to be distributed by the Clerk.
- Highways are due to start work at Croome London Arch 19<sup>th</sup> April, with verge to be reinstated and knee rail fencing to be installed to prevent dangerous parking.
- Croome Composting proposed change to business hours, waste wood recycling and expansion of existing composting facility has been approved – concerns remain about the impact of the new operating hours and how this might affect local properties in terms of traffic levels. Upon question by Cllr LF, the Clerk confirmed that site manager contact details had been received by the parish council.
- Donation for Lengthsman equipment has proceeded and this equipment will be shared between Severn Stoke parish and Kempsey parish.
- Cllr PS asked for confirmation of date of rediscovery of A38 pathways – This work will start in next financial year and will cover 2 miles length Severn Stoke to Kempsey.
- Parish Cllrs thanked CCllr Middlebrough for his financial contribution towards Lengthsman equipment and for purchase of the VAS for Severn Stoke and Clifton.

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**DCllrs David Harrison and John Michael**

- DCllr donation for Lengthsman equipment has proceeded direct to the Lengthsman and this equipment will be shared between Severn Stoke parish and Kempsey parish. Parish Cllrs gave thanks for this equipment which has already been used in the parish.
- DCllr Harrison to liaise with Highways HD and Parish Clerk re water in field opp. Madge Hill, Severn Stoke and scoping options for white gates at entrances to Severn Stoke village.
- DCllr Michael reported that Platform Housing Association are exploring options for dealing with excess water in field at Clifton. Cllr Sturgess assisting with this.

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**Community speed and traffic concerns.**

*Standing orders were suspended at this point.*

**a. Speeding general discussion and update. To welcome police/road safety reps.**

D.Perridge West Mercia Police Road Safety Officer was welcomed and addressed the parish council. See appendix 3 for notes.

- From Road Safety Team (RST) perspective, officers confirmed no enforcement has been undertaken in SS for several years and the most recent speed survey (February 2020 in SS) showed that less than 85% of vehicles were travelling below the 35mph cut off and this should trigger enforcement. The only recent enforcement action has been in Clifton. Parish Cllrs reiterated resident concerns that speeding remains an issue. Previous mobile enforcement at the war memorial was met with resident complaints (also in respect of the site near the bus stop) and suspected visibility blocking by local companies with larger vehicles. This, coupled with the lack of recorded collisions and recorded reduction in speeding, meant that enforcement stopped.

- RST are aware of results of recent parish survey, have conducted a site visit within last two weeks and found no alternative sites suitable to place mobile speed van or bike within the village - criteria relates to visibility down the road. There is the option to place the data recorder out again, but if enforceable speeds are noted, the local police would have to be asked to enforce as RST options have been exhausted. DCllrs considered that the war memorial site is still viable, that obstruction by larger vehicles was less likely from 3<sup>rd</sup> March and so requested that the site is reconsidered – **agreed** by DP. Cllr Middlebrough and DCllr Harrison **agreed** to approach local companies to request cooperation.

- Parish Cllrs asked if speed limit at Severn Bank could be reduced to 40mph – Cllr Middlebrough noted that the police are only consulted as to speed limits and it is the County Council that sets road speeds. A review of all speed limits along the A38 is due this year as part of the project to install a new roundabout at the Upton turning.

- RST noted that when the A38 is in flood, speed and traffic concerns should be passed to the police via 101. Cllrs also noted the issue of bike speed and noise concern along the A38. Parish Cllrs felt that much progress had been made by RST attendance at this meeting and thanked DP for taking this time to provide clarity and understanding.

Cllr  
Clerk  
DCllr

*Standing orders were reinstated at this point.*

**b. New VAS for Severn Stoke and Clifton villages. To note receipt of VAS and update on Severn Stoke village speeding measure generally.**

Noted with thanks. VAS has been added to insurance policy.

**c. High Green VAS stats.** Noted.

**d. High Green broken white gates at village entrance** – Repairs complete.

**e. Kinnersley community speed watch training** - On hold. Note new coordinator, name unknown at present.

Clerk

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- f. **Additional item.** Litter and evidence of drug problem (Small plastic packets) at entrances to Croome Estate reported by resident. Clerk to pass information to police and Estate office.

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**Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to applications**

- a. Cllrs had no comments to make. DCllrs drew attention to new application just outside parish boundary - Digaway seeking permission to amend conditions of previous approval along A38 (acoustic fence and roller access doors).

**Update on the following planning applications:**

Application	Property	Detail	Update
20/01992/CU	Kerswell House, Kerswell Green, WR5 3PF	Effectively swap the uses of the previous permissions.	Parish Cllrs had no objections.
21/00013/HP	9 High Green Severn Stoke Worcester, WR8 9JS	Proposed two storey and single storey rear extensions.	Application Approved MHDC. Parish Cllrs had no comments.
20/02055/LB & 20/02054/HP	Bankside Madge Hill Severn Stoke Worcester WR8 9JN	Replacement of 2 conservatories to front of property.	Application Approved MHDC. Parish Cllrs had no comments.
20/01962/LB	Cedar Cottage, Kerswell Green, Worcester, WR5 3PF  Internal alterations to existing outbuilding, to include insulation	Application Approved.  Parish Cllrs were pleased to support care/maintenance of any building to prevent it falling into disrepair. No concerns about plans as specifically detailed in the application. Various matters of concern in relation to the outbuilding being used as a dog grooming room, including water supply, access across a shared drive and third-party land, parking, impact on neighbours. These matters not within confines of a Listed Building Consent application.	
20/01989/CM (MHDC)  20/000038/CM & 20/000037/CM (WCC)	Land At (Os 8958 4461), Defford. Croome Composting Ltd	Proposed change to business hours, waste wood recycling and expansion of existing composting facility.	Determined and approved by WCC. IN order to resolve any future breaches (actual or perceived) a direct contact number for site has been provide to parish clerk. PT.
20/00668/FUL	Land At (Os 8554 4404), Church Lane, Severn Stoke, WR8 9JQ	Construction of permanent flood defence for the village of Severn Stoke with associated earthworks.	MHDC approved planning permission 6th Nov 2020. Next steps and snagging list.
20/01511/FUL	Cedar Lodge, Severn Stoke, Worcester, WR8 9JA	Change of use of Cedar Lodge and Coventry Barn (Part of old School House) to 2 residential dwellings ref: 16/00076/FUL. Variation to condition 2.	Being determined by MHDC.
20/000015/CM and 20/000009/CM	Ryall North Quarry, Land off Ryall's Court Lane, Holly Green, Upton-upon-Severn, WR8 0PF	Extraction (1.4 million ts sand gravel), temporary wharf, progressive lake restoration / Extraction of aggregates, restoration to agric and lake suitable for watersports	Being determined by WCC.
WCC 20/000032/REG3	New roundabout on A38, entrance to Upton.		PC received report regarding archaeological evaluation. Work due to start May 2021. Delays due to iron age farmstead discovery.

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**Highways, footpaths & infrastructure – discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice**

- a **Broadband speeds parish wide.**  
Cllr Sturgess gave a report on neighbouring broadband projects, which are experiencing mixed progress/results. DCllr Michael had made enquiries and noted that Airband is not intending to extend its projects into Severn Stoke

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parish at this time. CClr Middlebrough noted that Worcestershire is in the likely second tranche of gov broadband projects and Cllr agreed to wait for this before asking County Hall to facilitate entry into gov schemes.

- b Corner nr Croome Arch – dangerous parking, damaged road surface and bin.**  
Update already provided. Parish Cllrs expressed concern that vehicles will simply park further down Rebecca Road. Highways ready to review progress and results once knee rail is installed. CClr
- c Milestone, High Green to Croome road. Mile plate missing. Stone requires maintenance.**  
Resident MW thanked for interest and asked to seek quotes with help of Milestone Society. DCllr DH also offered assistance. Clerk  
DCllr
- d Steep verge opp. Stoke Gardens, A38 – overgrown and untidy. Noted not responsibility of Highways. Options if desired.**  
No action. Request through PW to tidy after 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Clerk
- e Poorly draining water opp. Madge Hill – reported to WCC, requested site visit.**  
Highways have suggested 21<sup>st</sup> April. DH invited to attend to assist. Combined with VAS siting and white gate options. Clerk  
DCllr
- f Missing Ham Lane and Church Lane signs – reported and awaiting replacement.**
- g Additional items.** Kissing gate Ham Lane – resolved. Damage white fence by war memorial – reports to Highways. Wooden knee rail fencing Stonnall Close – reported to Persimmon. Resident reports of Highways pothole repairs and annual inspection on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan – Cllrs instructed Clerk to re-report as repairs have not lasted. Sand bags flytipped by war memorial have been removed by MHDC. Clerk

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**Group/Committee updates**

- a Parish Hall committee** - Limited insurance cover arranged.
- b Severn Stoke Flood Action Group** - Nothing major to report.
- c Tarmac Liaison Group**  
CCllr Middlebrough and DCllr Harrison attended meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Parish Council rep was unavailable. Clerk to be invited to future meetings. Report of likely prospecting at south side of site. (Parish Cllrs followed this up after meeting – See Appendix 4). Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Clerk
- d Croome Liaison Group** - General manager replacement due May 2021.
- e Police reports** - Clerk to include DCllrs in distribution. Clerk
- f Lengthsman update**  
Lengthsman continues to submit invoices in a timely fashion. WCC Lengthsman contract for 2021/2022 has been chased. Clerk to draft an annual work schedule/list of priority jobs for Cllr and Lengthsman consultation. Clerk  
Lengthsman
- g KLINKS** - Option for general Q&A article later in year to raise awareness of what a parish council does.

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**General Finance and Administration**

- a To consider and motion to approve the payment of accounts made in the previous month** (February 2021. NB Parish Council meets every other month). Appendix 1. Duly **approved**. Prps: NC. Scnd: GS.
- b To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts March 2021.** Appendix 2. Duly **approved**. Prps: SW. Scnd: NC
- c To receive and motion to accept latest bank reconciliation and Q4 report.**  
Duly **approved**. Prps: GS. Scnd: RH
- d To consider project for church clock and consider annual donation to both PCC and Friends of St Denys’.**  
CCllr advised Cllrs wait until later in year for item in relation to clock (£259.20). Parish Cllrs accepted this with thanks. Cllrs accepted the appropriateness of separate annual donations to the parochial church council (care of church building) and Friends of St Denys’ (care of grounds, utilities and mowing). Clerk

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- e Mowing of the grounds costs the PCC anything above £1k pa. Clerk advised £125.00 and £500 respectively. **Approved unanimously.** Prp: GS. Scn: NC.  
**To accept quotation for mowing contract Parish Hall from Mr S.B. £30 per cut.**
- f Accepted and **approved.** Prps: SW. Scn: RH.  
**To note opportunity for direct debit to MHDC ref Garden Waste Collection Service Renewal 2021/2022. Bill would reduce by £5 to £72.50 pa per bin.** Clerk
- g **Approved.** Prps: GS. Scn: PP. Forward to GS and PP.  
**To consider quotation from Scribe for online accountancy tool.** Clerk
- h £15 per month. Set-up fee £47. Cllrs asked for comparison quotations before debating.  
**To note Clerk annual appraisal and items/objectives resulting from that.** Clerk  
Duly noted. Cllrs thanked the Clerk for one year work. Emails to have headings giving indication of level of priority. Parish Council to have official Facebook profile.

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

- a South Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation. Clerk responded and used opp. to raise issue of abandoned cricket pitch at Severn Stoke village.
- b Severn Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws 2021. Clerk responded and noted that byelaws must be enforceable and therefore accompanied with appropriate budget.

**Next Parish Council meeting** – date to be reassessed in light of gov requirement that meetings held after 7th May 2021 occur in person and not online.

**(Previously advertised as:** Wednesday 19th May 2021. Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm start. Thereafter, approx. 7.45pm, Annual Meeting of SS&CDA Parish Council. Thereafter, approx. 8.15pm, normal bimonthly meet of SS&CDA Parish Council. Please check before attending.)

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

**Appendix 1. Items already paid via online banking late Jan 2021 and Feb 2021**

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

Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman February 2021. Cllrs approved via email. Paid 24/02/21	£ 286.00	VAT nil.
Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman Jan 2021. Cllrs approved via email. Paid 15/02/21.	£ 208.00	VAT nil.
Mr Simon Bott	Parish Hall straw removal after floods	£ 110.00	VAT nil.
Clerk expenses	Expenses Feb 2021. Paid 17/03/21	£ 27.39	VAT under calculation
Clerk Wages	Standing Order – Wages. Paid 01/03/21	£294.16	VAT nil.

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

Kempsey PCC	KLINKS annual subscription. Invoice 2009	£ 150.00	VAT nil.
Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman March 2021. Invoice due for receipt 22/03/2021. Invoice limited by threshold of WCC grant remaining.	Nil in time.	VAT nil.
Clerk Wages	Standing Order - Wages February 2021.	£ 294.16	VAT nil.
Clerk expenses	Zoom membership £14.39 per month. £3.40 postage.	£ 17.79	VAT £2.40

### Appendix 3 – D.Perridge - West Mercia Police Road Safety Officer.

- **Road Safety Team (RST)** – deals with speed complaints. If local police receive speed complaints these are passed to the RST in the first instance. RST then monitor speeds and may install data recorders. When analysing the data RST look at the 85% percentile. ie the speed that 85% of drivers will drive at or below (free-flowing conditions).
- If this is above the enforceable limit (eg 35mph in a 30mph) then further action will be taken to enforcement that speed limit, either via van or motorbike.
- If the 85percentile is below the enforceable limit, then community speed watch is offered as an alternative to enforcement, with the RST picking up the costs for this.
- If injury collisions occur, the RST will look at this differently since speed may not be the cause. If speed is found to be the cause of an injury collision then a fixed camera option is explored.
- If the RST cannot safely place a bike or van for speed enforcement purposes, then the local police are asked to do their own enforcement.
- RST also enforce motorway speeds.
- Cost of a GATSO speed camera is upwards of £55,000. (Explanation of GATSO camera below).
- Parish Council contact with RST used to be A. Ali – he has now moved post and a new rep will be in place shortly.
- Speed enforcement does not bring a profit and placement of cameras is not influenced by profit factors.
- **County Council** – do have some speed data recording equipment but do not use this on an adhoc basis.
- **Local police** – only tend to get involved in speed enforcement if all options by RST have been exhausted.

#### **How do Gatso speed cameras work? (Source <https://www.speedcamerasuk.com/>)**

- Gatso speed cameras use radar technology to measure how fast a vehicle is travelling and to trigger the camera into action. If a motorist is driving above the road speed limit then two photos are then taken in quick succession. The Gatso uses a powerful flash to show the rear of the vehicle, its registration plate, and white painted calibration lines on the roads surface.
- Gatso speed cameras are always rear facing. The reason for this is that the speed cameras 'flash' will not blind oncoming motorists. However, this also means that the speed camera may not be visible until the last second (as pictured right - Gatso sited behind road traffic sign).
- It is a legal requirement to have a secondary measurement for speed. This is why at every Gatso speed camera location there are white lines painted on the road. The distance between each line represents between 5mph so there can be no dispute over how fast you were driving.

### Appendix 4 - Report received from NA Tarmac Strategic Planning Manager - Central

Some trial pitting of the land south of the existing site (the prospecting area) was undertaken before Christmas which identified the presence of mineral. The borehole investigations that we are currently undertaking will provide clarity on whether there is sufficient aggregate to justify pursuing a planning application, both in terms of mineral quantity and quality. If the data does identify a sufficient resource for Tarmac to pursue, we would need to prepare and pursue a detailed planning and environmental impact assessment. This assessment would fully consider the impact of the proposed development on Severn Stoke village. Any such assessment will cover all aspects of the development including noise, dust, flood risk, visual impact etc etc. Any extension to the existing site must be justified through the planning and environmental impact assessment process. Throughout that process, the liaison group would be seeking to engage with representatives of the village to ensure that people were fully informed of our proposals and the outcomes of the various impact assessments. An ecologist has been instructed to commence ecological investigations alongside the above. Final receipt of drill data from the labs is expected in May 2021.

For the avoidance of confusion, Tarmac drilled the fields to the west (not east) of the existing plant site and concluded that there was insufficient mineral to justify the application process. Immediately east of the existing quarry (up to the A38) has already been worked and restored and you will be aware that we do have an existing permission covering the land between the A38 and the SSSI. Further east of that, towards Kerswell Green, some trial pitting was undertaken back in the 1990's which did identify the presence of mineral deposits, but as with the current southern area, we would need to undertake borehole drilling to provide a more detailed geological review, nothing of which is planned at this time. Very happy to attend future Parish Council meeting and this response to be shared with residents. NA.