

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting  
held at Severn Stoke Parish Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8pm**

**Present:** Cllr Watkins (Chair) Cllrs Garrard, Hodson, Sturgess, Hanmer, Preston, Hadley, Keating-Nash, Williams, Halling and Talbot. Dist Cllrs Harrison and Michael. County Cllr Paul Middlebrough.

**In attendance:** Clerk Mrs L Gower and 5 members of the public.

1 **To consider apologies and to approve reasons for absence.** None.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

- a. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
b. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Dispensations granted for Cllrs Preston, Watkins, Hadley, Hanmer and Keating-Nash regarding item 12.

3 **Minutes-** To consider the approval of the minutes of meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Clerk read over actions from last meeting, most of which are covered on this agenda. Cllr Keating Nash proposed approval of these minutes, seconded by Cllr Hadley, unanimously agreed.

4 **Chairman's and Councillors' Reports**

**County Cllr Middlebrough** – Nothing to report.

**Cllr Harrison** – Road sweeping has taken place throughout Severn Stoke and Kempsey twice but brick kerbs are an issue between this area. Cllr Watkins added that the lorry also removes soil from the edge but deposits it on the road preventing flood water from accessing the drains.

Cllr Harrison had reported spilt stone in Severn Stoke which was cleared by MHDC very quickly.

Much work is going on around the Ketch and Powick roadabout, discussion took place regarding the traffic.

Upton A4104 flood alleviation works are nearing completion and night closures are planned for 18<sup>th</sup> March for 3 to 4 nights. The Upton Bridge will also be cleaned during this closure.

**Cllr Michael** – nothing to add.

5 **Clerk's Report** General Admin of correspondence emails etc. Minutes of last meeting and actions arising. Emails to WCC chasing results of their meeting on 28.01.19 re bins and speed sign. Bin order confirmed and proforma invoice received, paid. Email from FLAG re date of presentation event sent to Cllr Middlebrough and Harrison, circulated and advertised. Instructed EON to commence taking over street lighting accounts from NPower for Stonnall Close and Knights Hill, forms completed, all transferred. Email to SWARCO to order brackets for VAS. Email to parish hall committee regarding parish hall condition, PAT testing etc. Attended Environment Agency Flood Event at Parish Hall 15.2.19. Various emails with CALC, FLAG and MHDC Cllrs regarding Severn Stoke Flood Bund. Enquires to Welland PC regarding their VAS. Attended MHDC Training Clerk Briefing for Elections and collection of nomination papers.

**Lengthsman** Timesheet available from Clerk. Concentrating on siding out of pavement at Severn Stoke Bank. Will cut grass at village hall when dry enough. Lengthsman contact renewed with County Council for 2019/20. Clerk will renew Lengthsman agreement with current lengthsman.

**Finance** Cheques sent off following last meeting. Ledger updated in preparation for financial year end 31 March 2019. Precept for 2019/20 financial year advised to MHDC, acknowledged receipt of request.

**Urgent decision** £50.00 donation cheque written for funeral of Cllr Pam Addis to St Richards Hospice.

6 **Finance update** Current account balance £12594.15 as of 28 February 2019. Deposit account balance £1676.71 as of 28 February 2019. **Approval of cheques and invoices** Swarco £92.64, Mrs L Gower expenses £43.81. Bins cheque already sent to Glasdons for £993.82 (approved spend Nov mtg) Approval of invoices proposed by Cllr Hadley, seconded by Cllr Williams, unanimously agreed.

7 **Planning report**

Application	Property concerned	Detail	Action
17/01979/FUL	Cedar Lodge	Alteration and extension of existing building to create a single dwelling	Responded approval. Pending decision by MHDC
17/01729/LB	School House, Severn Stoke	Repair and replacement of materials to fire damaged east elevation and gable.	Responded approval. Pending decision by MHDC
18/01253/FUL	Orchard House, Kinnersley	Erection of 7 houses, retrospect for convert of two, associated car parking, infrastructure etc	Recommended approval Pending decision
19/00153/ful	Croome Park	Construction of a small external e	<b>On circulation, PC will recommend approval.</b>

**7 Update on street lighting in Stonnall Close and Knights Hill.**

Clerk contacted Eon and discussed them taking over the unmetered supply for Stonnall Close and Knights Hill. Rates and paperwork all received and confirmation of switch form returned to Eon. First invoice will be due in April, this should give a better picture of the billing. Clerk confirmed cancellation of contracts with NPower.

**9 Update on High Green Vehicle Activated Sign**

Readings from 16/01/19 to 18/2/19 were 25,353 vehicles, average speed 55 mph. Reading in the opposite direction until 12/3/19 were 10533 averaging 45 mph.

**10 Purchase of solar powered Vehicle Activated Sign for Clifton and Severn Stoke**

WCC have confirmed location and will install the required post free of charge as a one off gesture. Clerk is currently waiting for a reply from Welland PC regarding their make of solar powered sign near Castlemorton Common. This item will be left until the May meeting when more information has been gained regarding types of signs and also depending on the continuation of the current ongoing speed enforcement.

Clerk

**12 Severn Stoke Flood Alleviation Scheme progress including****a. To consider a donation to the Severn Stoke Flood Defence Scheme**

Cllr Watkins proposed a donation of £1,000 towards the scheme as PC has funds at present. Cllr Hadley seconded this proposal, unanimously agreed, Clerk prepared the cheque for signing.

**b. To consider the submission of the planning application for the Severn Stoke Flood Defences by Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council**

Cllr Watkins clarified his position for the benefit of all attendees. He stated that he does not disagree with the flood defence scheme. However, he does have serious concerns regarding some of the details of the scheme. He stated that he had voiced these concerns at the recent consultation event which he had attended as a member of the public. So as not to influence any discussions and despite his dispensation, Cllr Watkins left the room for this item (8.30pm)

Cllr Preston, Vice Chairman, took the position of Chair. A document from FLAG had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting hence these two items had been added to the agenda (attached). The FLAG representative gave an update on the scheme and explained the benefits which accrued if the Parish Council agreed to submit the planning application for the flood defence scheme. Discussions took place. Cllr Williams asked questions regarding what assessments had been carried out so far and by whom to accompany the application. In the opinion and experience of Cllr Williams, it would be the responsibility of the applicant to answer any questions and queries arising from the submission of the application. Cllr Preston supports the scheme. However, Cllr Preston sought clarification on any liability which may result if the Parish Council was the applicant. She asked questions regarding the community interest company which has been set up and what happened if that company was dissolved. Questions were also asked in relation to a scenario where new flood defence failed and properties that had not flooded before, flooded when the defences were in place. In that scenario who would be responsible? Cllr Harrison said he believed there was no guarantee with any flood defence scheme that properties will not flood. He stated the benefits of the Parish Council submitting the scheme, including reduced application fees and the ability to secure grant funding which would not be available to the Community Interest Company. The ownership of the land and maintenance of the defences once in situ was also discussed. It was stated by the FLAG representative that either the land owner would be responsible for maintenance, or the EA may compulsorily purchase some of the land. In the latter case either the EA or the Community Interest Company as owners would be responsible. It was also stated by Cllr Harrison that the Parish Council would be able to comment on its own application in the same way that it can comment on any other planning application.

Cllr Preston expressed her view that, given the lack of full understanding of the consequences of the decision the Parish Council was being asked to make, a due diligence exercise was required

After further discussions Cllr Preston proposed that the PC form a working group to investigate all of the concerns regarding any liability the Parish Council might have and also to understand the process and application fully. Cllr Preston said that if it was decided that the Parish Council would submit the application they would need to do so in full knowledge of the application. Therefore, the working group will do background research and have discussions/meetings if necessary with the EA and FLAG. After the due diligence exercise was complete, the working group would present its findings to the full council meeting in May to discuss this item further. Cllrs Williams, Garrard and Preston agreed to be on this group who will liaise with the Clerk and FLAG. Seconded by Cllr Keating Nash, unanimously agreed. Cllr Watkins returned to the room and position of Chairman at 9.02pm.

Clerk

**13 Procedure for Elections of Parish Councillors May 2019**

Clerk explained the process and showed the meeting the nomination packs and explained the date of 3 April 2019 4pm when these must be returned to MHDC. Clerk will be available to assist anyone with

nomination papers and has arranged an appointment on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March to take forms to MHDC. Cllrs to contact Clerk once their forms are complete. Clerk will take all forms to MHDC.

**14 Tarmac/Croome Liaison group meeting updates**

A meeting took place with Tarmac on 6 Feb 2019, Tarmac have been making management changes. The current Plant Manager now has more responsibility. There are two Restoration Mangers for the whole of the UK at present. Cllr Middlebrough was unable to attend last meeting. Cllr Harrison confirmed Phase B currently in operation will take approximately 1 year. Phase c will be approximately 3 years. Tarmac have no firm plans yet how to get the materials from the East side over to the plant but this will be some years off anyway.

**15 Report from the Parish Hall Committee representative**

A new representative will be appointed from the Parish Council in May once we have a new Parish Council.

**Cllrs**

**16 Staffing – Review of Clerks salary hourly rate as per revised salary scales**

Following Cllr Addis passing away the staffing committee no longer has a Chairperson. Clerk asked CALC if this item could be dealt with on the agenda of a full meeting. The answer was yes, Clerk had provided the hourly rate figures and figures for the salary per year etc. Cllrs agreed the figures. Cllr Preston proposed a letter be sent to Lloyds Bank adjusting the Clerk's monthly standing order, seconded by Cllr Hadley, unanimously agreed. Letter signed. Figures available from the Clerk if required.

**17 Councillors' comments and items for future agendas**

Cllr Hanmer asked if Lengthsman could cut grips in Kerwell Green road to Kinnersley as water hanging in places after the recent rain.

Cllr Hadley mentioned the verge in Knights Hill which is being damaged by the refuse lorry, Clerk will photograph and contact MHDC.

**Clerk**

**18 Date of next Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council meeting** TBA as Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting, awaiting confirmation of hall availability.

**Public Question Time**

Five members of the public present. Some where members of FLAG, who participated in discussion regarding flood defences

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