

Please join us at our Annual Meeting of Residents of Severn Stoke and of Croome d'Abitot

hosted by Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council

Join us for Platinum Anniversary tea, coffee and cake,
celebrating 70 years since the merging of both parish councils

Wed **26th March 2025** 7.30pm
in St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke



Celebrating 70 years serving our community

70 years ago in May, the two parishes of Croome d'Abitot and Severn Stoke voted for their parish councils to merge and act for the betterment of one whole community. Join us as we celebrate.

*Join in on a briefing and debate of the County and District plans for **Devolution** and the opportunities that this might hold for our parish.*

Hear reports from the parish council, parish hall committee, the church committee, district and county councillors, local community groups, our PCSOs and receive any updates that we might have on the flood bund. Residents have also requested an update on the latest planning applications at Croome.

A normal parish council meeting will occur at St Denys' straight after this community meeting.
All are welcome to stay for that as well.

Annual Meeting of Residents Severn Stoke and of Croome d'Abitot 26/03/25

- a. **7.30pm start** with free tea and cake in hand.

i. Option for vote for a Chair.

If residents do not nominate a Chair, then the parish council will Chair as a courtesy.

ii. Introductions, points of order, apologies & declarations of interests.

Apologies have been received from 1st Severn Stoke Brownies, who are having their 'Invite your Grandparents' evening at the same time as this meeting. Apologies: Parish Cllr Larry Freeman. Cllr Pat Preston. Simon Bott (lengthsman). I. Daly.

- b. **Open Forum.** Residents may raise any matter without notice.

- i. Bin layby A38 - size and capacity. Ask district council to empty more regularly. Bigger bins just get filled by fly tippers.
- ii. M5 diversions along the M5. *Previous agreement for limiting the 'number of consecutive days of a diversion' was an informal one arranged by a specific National Highways employee as a good will gesture only. That employee is no longer in post.*
- iii. Speeding in Severn Stoke feels like it has increased and given the narrowed pavements there are increased dangers to pedestrians (acutely so when the motorway closed). What could be done? camera? road markings? signs? patrols? In particular on the southern side of the village between the pumping station/pub past Stoke Gardens.
- iv. Hard surface car park at Corner Cottage field, NT Croome. Concern that with increasing visitor numbers, the plans will not provide the required parking capacity.

On Sunday 2nd March Croome's car park provision was swamped, there were queues on the roads, and aggression shown by disgruntled visitors to staff and volunteers led to the police being called.

On Sunday 9th March visitor numbers exceeded 2400 and Croome's car parking provision was again overwhelmed (i.e. 1000 cars @ 2.4 per car). In this case the Corner Cottage field had dried sufficiently to allow its full use as a parking area, in addition both the Orchard and Ice House field were used as overflow parking and yet visitors still had to be turned away.

- c. **Flood bund.** Any news that has reached the parish council.

In summary: The Environment Agency's main contractor withdrew from the project in 2024. Worcestershire County Council agreed to take on the construction of the whole scheme including a bund and road raising work, but in March 225 Griffiths which was lined up to carry out the work also pulled out.

Matt Maginnis, Worcestershire County Council said:

"Unfortunately, we've been informed that Tarmac has withdrawn its subsidiary company, Alun Griffiths Contractors, from being available to construct the Environment Agency's Severn Stoke flood risk management scheme as part of wider restructuring. This is particularly disappointing for Worcestershire County Council having been given explicit assurances late last year that the contractor would be able to take on the construction work, should the scheme be assessed by the Environment Agency as being affordable. We're urgently trying to secure an alternative construction contractor for Severn Stoke and, in the meantime, we continue to work with the EA to continue completion of the scheme design, assessment of the material on site, materials planning, discharging planning conditions and making preparations for a seamless handover to any new contractor (subject to the affordability)."

d. **Devolution.**

Update on the forthcoming mandatory merger of district and county councils and implications for parish councils. Parish councils will come under pressure to take on more services – and yet we also see this as an unique opportunity. New service provision by the parish council will require funding via council tax. What do residents think about this? Come and have your say and ask questions.



County Council's January response to Devolution



Government Website Devolution announcement

What could a parish council take on if residents request it?

Bigger parish councils will be given the option to take over all libraries, public gardens, public toilets etc. Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot is on a much smaller scale. Nonetheless, this can be an opportunity if residents desire it. We could explore deeper parish council involvement in.....

- Mowing/maintenance of all verges.
- Extensions to the lengthsman scheme (which cares for drains, gullies and roadside paths on minor roads). This might include extension training to operate heavy machinery (diggers) in order to care out verge maintenance for example and, permits for roadside weed control.
- Maintenance on bridleways and public rights of way/sign posting and more controls over liaisons with landowners regarding legal care of styles/gates.

At this time, the parish council is not proposing to take over control of any flood bund features – if built – simply because so much remains to be made clear. At this time, the parish council has no jurisdiction over private land or church land and it is not envisaged that this would change.

e. **Reports from County and District Councillors.**

Please note that the County Cllr may be in the pre-election period of sensitivity and required to exercise caution in making announcements or decisions.

- i. Residents have requested clarification from the District Cllrs as to why **Planning Application M/24/00913/FUL - Croome Court** variation of conditions and opening hours was not taken to planning committee.
- ii. Residents have requested clarification from the County Cllr as to why the County Council did not respond to resident and parish council requests for an updated traffic and travel management plan ref **Planning Application M/24/00913/FUL - Croome Court** variation of conditions and opening hours.

Reports have also been invited from (in no particular order).....

f. **St Denys'**

The Friends of St Denys Church held their AGM on Tues 25th March 2025.

g. **The Parish Hall Committee.**

The Committee held their AGM on Thurs 30th January 2025

h.	Volunteer Footpaths Officer and Lengthsman.
	<p>Including a reminder of the District Council litter picking scheme 'Adopt A Street' https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/join-the-adopt-a-street-scheme</p> <p>i. Note: Overgrown footpath and blocked right of way at Clifton has been reported.</p> <p>ii. Request to assist VFO by obtaining some footpath waymarkers and nails.</p> <p>iii. To note that the starting budget for 2024/25 Lengthsman Scheme was £3,100.69. The 2025-26 Budget has been agreed at an uplift of 3.95%. Clerk will sign the new WCC Annual Agreement when it is made available on the lengthsman app in April.</p>
i.	PCSOs.
	<p>Police station open day free event for all ages. Sunday 13th April 10am – 3pm, at Worcester Police Station, WR1 3QX</p>
j.	National Trust.
	<p>South Worcestershire Newsletter March 2025 has been distributed to Cllrs for info.</p> <p>k. Tarmac.</p> <p>Next liaison meeting 04.09.2025. 4pm.</p> <p>Report from Colin Stratford Operations: Currently extracting the last of the mineral in Phase B of the Southern planning permission. Should be extracted by the end of April, once extracted then the as dug material on top of ground will be processed. Restoration of Phase B is ongoing as we extract the mineral, the interburden is used to create the batter slopes for the final restoration ground profile. Vegetation has been from the soil storage bunds in Phase 4 to allow the relocation of the badgers and the closing down of the badger sets. This will allow the restoration of the silt beds. Tree/hedgerow planting scheduled for this month in Phases B & 9.</p> <p>Report from Andy Cadell (estates and planning): focus is now the progression with the Eastern extension planning application, he also said that the CAPEX had been submitted for approval, there are works required in relation to phasing plan etc before the planning variation can be submitted. Variations to be submitted include: extending to the planning permission to 2030, crossing point of feasibility study of the A38, initial highway communication is positive, time planning, EA permits to transfer ground water, Mining Waste permit (silt lagoons) required, also footpath diversions. Cllr Martin Allen asked the question whether traffic lights will be required, Andy Cadell commented that once the budget had been secured there will be a stage 1 audit undertaken and this will form part of the next phase of works.</p>
l.	Results of parish council survey on future of parish hall site and whether the parish council should continue with the lease of the land.
	<p>78 responses were received in total, with a 50/50 split in opinion as to the way forward. Many suggestions have already been rejected by the land-owners. Residents cautioned against ending the lease too soon, as they consider this the last remaining asset of the parish in many respects. Options for moveable temporary structures (portacabin style) will be passed onto the hall committee, but Cllrs queried whether the precept could be sig. raised for a temporary building and the matter of the 25 year lease restriction remains. Cllrs agreed to defer any decision until after the outcome of proposals for the flood bund project is known</p> <p>m. AOB and closing questions. 8.30pm approx.</p> <p>Exit drain Croome Corner half way down the hill is half filled with water, as is the section of ditch that was cleaned out in the autumn. Can Cllr Allen assist with getting this section cleared out again please? Stone Cottage</p>

Close of resident's annual meeting and opening of Parish Council meeting.

1. Cllr's declarations of interest. Points of order. Apologies.

Cllr Pat Preston & Larry Freeman: apols

2. Co-options of new cllrs as required, as per the co-option policy.

I.Daly apologies.

Currently there are 6 vacancies on the parish council. At the time of printing there had been 1 expression of interest and 1 deferred expression from eligible residents of the parish. If less candidates apply than the number of the seats, then matters progress with a brief welcome/introduction and a vote by a simple show of hands. New Cllrs sign the acceptance of office, receive a welcome pack and join the table as full voting members, noting that they may make declarations of interest for each and any relevant agenda item.

3. Planning matters

a. to receive and consider a response to any planning matters that have an expiry date before the next scheduled parish council meeting.

M/25/00443/CU Kookins Field Farm, Madge Hill, Severn Stoke, WR8 9JN

M/24/01677/HP Willow Barn, 2 Lower Farm Court, Kinnersley, WR8 9JR

Proposed conversion of garaging to ancillary living accommodation for dependent relative

M/24/01651/OUT Old Boars Head Car Park - Land At (Os 8580 4430), Severn Stoke

Details of access.

b. Consultation on Extension of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for Dog Control.
Motion to approve a parish council response.

4. Finance and admin

a. To consider/motion to approve **payment of accounts** made in the previous month.

b. To consider/ to approve payment of **outstanding accounts** this month. Including standard months accounts and invoices for Clerk wages/expenses, monthly lengthsman.

c. Review of the parish emergency flood plan to include updated parish council details.

5. AOB and closing questions. 9.00pm approx.

6. Date of next parish council meeting.

Wed 21st May 2025, 7.30pm - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

14/02/2025	Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman invoice Feb 2025	£342.00
06/03/2025	Brownies at Earls Croome	Chairman Expenses Dec 2024 to Brownies Now an annual donation	£50.00
14/02/2025	Scouts Kempsey 6th Worcester	Annual donation to entire scouting group	£50.00
14/02/2025	SARA - Severn Area Rescue	Annual donation to flood search and rescue	£50.00
20/02/2025	Upton Library	Annual donation	£200.00
18/03/2025	Mrs Lisa Stevens	HWA & Expenses Feb 2025	£38.80
18/03/2025	Mrs Lisa Stevens	HWA & Expenses March 2025	£56.40
18/03/2025	HMRC Shipley	Monthly income tax payment	£11.20
	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Clerk wage February (paid one month in arrears).	£308.16
20/03/2025	Mr Dan Amphlett	Bench repairs Severn Stoke village. Work conducted 17/03/2025	£173.97
20/03/2025	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Reimbursement for Knights Hill Signs	£121.04