

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council



We at Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council will be celebrating our Platinum Jubilee in May 2025. The resident petition was made for a merger of Severn Stoke Council and Croome d'Abitot Council in 1953 and this was ratified by the county council in May 1955. Thank you to all residents, councillors (past and present), clerks, lengthsman and volunteers for a wonderful 70 years serving our joint communities!

The new parish council website is up and running



**View our new parish council website via the Q R Code above
or at**

<https://severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk/>

The old website will continue to function for now as well, at no extra cost. Local community groups are welcome to ask us to place adverts or their details on our new website. Our **new parish council logo** has been finalised as is shown above, incorporating the Panorama Tower, with the kind permission of The National Trust.

NEXT MEETING: Wed 21st May 2025, 7.30pm - Annual Meeting of Parish Council

Lisa Stevens, Parish Council Clerk, T: 07950256363,

E: parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

Your councillors are Susan Faulkner (Chair), Laurence Freeman (Deputy), Ian Daly, Royston Garrard, Richard Hill, Pat Preston & Raymond Williams.

Report of the annual meeting of Severn Stoke parish residents and of Croome d'Abitot parish residents on Wednesday 26th March 2025, 7.30pm, at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

Residents asked for...

- an additional bin at the A38 layby (adjacent sewage works), to be paid for by the parish council. The Clerk has begun seeking quotes and an agreement from the district council that an additional bin will be regularly emptied.
- existing bins to be emptied more often and a request has been made to the district council.
- that the parish council pay for additional 30mph signs and 30mph roundels, to be painted on the roads at Severn Stoke and Kinnersley villages. The parish council has begun investigating the rules about additional signage/road markings and seek quotes.
- that the police conduct more speed checks - a request has been made and agreed to by our local policing team.
- replacement zebra bollards on Severn Bank - a request has been submitted via the Worcestershire County Council report an issue website. Residents can use this website to report defective/broken street furniture.
<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways>
- for the 30mph Severn Stoke village speed limit to be moved from adjacent (roughly) to Stoke Gardens to further up the hill at Severn Bank. This matter will be referred to the County Council for them to consider and consult with the police. Residents need to support these efforts by reporting any accidents at this location to the police non-emergency services, either via 101 or
<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/>
It is unlikely that speed limits will be 'changed/moved' without supporting statistics demonstrating that this corner is dangerous or has a higher number of accidents.

Also discussed at the meeting.....

- Co-option and warm welcome to Ian Daly who joined the parish council.
- Blocked public rights of way at Clifton – residents and tenants are reminded to keep vegetation cut back please.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the footpaths in the parish have been visited by our parish volunteer footpath warden. 19 issues have been reported in Severn Stoke and 3 in Croome. Assurance has been received from the county council that broken finger posts and signs will be replaced next winter. Request for residents to please look after the rights of way near your homes. Please also be courteous to land owners who have expensive requirements to look after the land and the public routes through. Councillors asked residents to be responsible when walking dogs through crop fields and private land. Dogs should not be off the lead through crop fields or fields used for livestock.
- Residents asked that all dog waste be immediately cleared up when out and about and also not left in verges and hedges in little bags – as inevitably it gets forgotten about. Additional signs warning of the fines for dog fouling were requested for Severn Stoke and High Green villages from the district council.
- Residents raised concerns that with increasing visitor numbers, the plans for a new car park at Croome National Trust will still not provide the required parking capacity. National Trust reps noted that the planned new car park will allow delineation of spaces and efficient use of all available space. Matting in the

Orchard will allow more use of that space also. Visitors are being encouraged to attend during the week to try to avoid peak weekend parking issues. Many visitors are using the dial a bus service.

- Residents raised concerns that whilst new Croome National Trust opening hours having been approved, with an anticipated ¼ million visitors per year, all traffic plans are out of date with no commitment to renew them. Double yellow lines outside the entrance to the visitor centre have not been sufficiently enforced.
- **Update on the Severn Stoke flood bund from Worcestershire County Council:** “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 (EA) 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).” **Additional comment from the Environment Agency:** “All parties are working hard to identify other options to construct the flood scheme, but it is unlikely in any scenario that we will be in the situation to start construction this summer as had been the intent”.
- **Results of parish council survey on the future of parish hall site in Severn Stoke village and whether the parish council should continue with the lease of the land.** 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 private landowners, managed by Savills. 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 it could be permitted that the precept be significantly 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 fully known. Since this meeting, residents have written to the National Trust to request that they provide land for a new parish hall.
- Residents have asked that at future meetings at St Denys’ Church if visitors could please park sensibly and thoughtfully. At the meeting on 26th March, it would not have been possible for a fire engine to make its way down Church Lane and many residential drives were blocked by parked vehicles.



Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot
Parish Council

Celebrating 70 years serving our community

Congratulations

Cllr Ian Daly

on your new appointment to

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

as a rep for Severn Stoke parish area

**We warmly welcome you and look forward to
representing local interests as a fantastic team.**

We still have vacancies on the parish council.
Contact the parish clerk for more information: Lisa Stevens 07950256363