

# Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot Parish Council

Laurence Freeman – Chair	Raymond Williams	Susan Faulkner
Pat Preston	Royston Garrard	Lee Russell
Nicola Sumner	Richard Hill	4 vacancies

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meetings



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## Bund update received from The Environment Agency

“We have two suppliers that we are in final discussions with. The procurement process has taken longer than originally anticipated due to the scope having to change because of all this wet weather – originally, we were hoping to have all material on site by the end of the winter, that is now looking very unlikely due to the wet weather/ground conditions, so the

supplier is going to have to work with material being imported during the construction phase. This doesn't change things too much, but we do need to account for this with the supplier selection.

In the next week or so, or at least when ground conditions are dry enough you will see us in Severn Stoke carrying out a site walk over with the suppliers. We haven't done this yet because of the flooding but this hasn't slowed down the procurement process.

The site clearance and Great Crested Newt trapping is scheduled to recommence in February, when conditions are suitable to get back onto site. At this time, construction is anticipated to start in the spring. I will have a further update for you at the end of the month with final details of who is going to be building the scheme. Thank you for your support with the scheme, I appreciate that yourselves the residents of Severn Stoke and the Rose and Crown have been hit badly by this flood event.”

**Paul Jones, Partnerships and Strategic Overview Advisor** | West Midlands **Environment Agency**, Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB

Continued

Thank you on behalf of the parish council to everyone that helped the parish pull together during recent floods. Thank you also to our lengthsman for clearing some of the resulting debris, particularly around the war memorial and also for helping to organise the road sweeper, in hand with our District Councillors. We will keep our eye out for any grants that become available to help those affected.

The parish council has received a grant towards a new defibrillator for the parish, has received an offer of a venue for hosting and has also received generous offers of contributing donations. Thank you to all involved and watch this space for the final location.

We are also applying for a grant for an additional new 'vehicle activated speed sign' – as the equipment we have already is spread too thinly across the parish. We hope to be successful in our application to the Police and Crime Commissioner. Insurance claims for the damaged litter bin and damaged bus shelter are proceeding.

The parish council has fed into recent consultations from both the Hereford Worcs Fire Service (changes and reductions) and also the County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We have listened to our residents on both occasions and made sure that your comments were passed to the correct people.

The recent Levelling Up Bill now allows money to be spent supporting religious organisations in certain ways, for example maintenance of clocks on public buildings and churchyard maintenance. This change in the law is welcome as something that residents have often asked for. To make this fair for all aspects of society, the parish council is clarifying its grants policy and will make this policy available more publicly to all that may apply, not just to religious organisations. Give us time to sort this work out and ask if you need more information.

*Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.*

**NEXT MEETING:** Wed 20th March 2024, 7.30pm- Annual Parish Meeting of Residents with the usual Parish Council meeting afterwards – Venue aims to be St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke.

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