



**Minutes of the Annual and Monthly
Meeting of
Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot
Parish Council**

**Wednesday 20th May 2026,
At Croome National Trust SOQ meeting room**
The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Parish Councillors: (# absent with apologies, ## absent without apologies)

Cllr Richard Hill (Chair) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Cllr Ian Daly # (apologies post meeting accepted) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Cllr Laura McEwan-Hill (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Cllr Pat Preston (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Cllr Ray Williams # (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Cllr Simon Bott (rep for Croome parish ward)

6 Vacancies for immediate co-option. The quorum is 4 parish cllrs.

Responsible Financial Officer, Proper Officer and Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens

Other community representatives:

National Trust Michelle Fullard, General Manager South Worcs

National Trust Katherine Alker, Grounds Manager Croome #

National Trust October Bishop, Senior Volunteering and Community Officer #

Worcestershire County Councillor Martin Allen

Malvern Hills District Councillor John Michael

Malvern Hills District Councillor David Harrison

Volunteer Footpath Officer Richard Humphries #

Parish Lengthsman Tim Hughes #

PC Jon Hand/Safer Neighbourhood Off. Dee Stanley/Police Comm. Support Officer Ashley Smith #

Friends of St. Denys' Committee John Henderson #

Parish Hall Committee Rep Roger Morrows #

Tarmac Colin Stratford (Clifton Liaison Committee Chair Martin Allen) #

Peter Meredith, Rural and Business Officer for West Mercian Police Rural Crime Team #

Residents in attendance: 0

24/26 Election of Chair, welcome, introductions and points of order

- i. **Resolved. Motion** for Election of Chair 2026/27. Cllr Richard Hill prps by SB and scnd by PP.
Duly **approved**. There was no Motion for the position of Deputy Chair. Thanks given by Cllr Hill.
Signature on Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Role of a Parish Council Chair: • Holds a statutory post defined in law • Is a member of the Council and is elected annually • Must be obeyed when issuing lawful direction or direction in line with Standing Orders. • Is the interface between the public and Council • Welcomes speakers and make them 'feel at home' • Create an atmosphere which encourages participation and ensures fair accessibility and equality. • Makes sure decisions are clear for the clerk to act upon. • Ensure the meeting is quorate, as guided by the Clerk. • Ensure the Council acts only within terms of reference and/or legal powers as guided by the Clerk. • Remain impartial. • Not allow the meeting to continue for more than 2 hours. • Has no power to make decisions without the Resolution of the Council.

- ii. Declarations of interest. Nil.
iii. Points of order. Nil.
iv. Apologies from JH and RA residents. Duly **accepted**.
v. Adjustments required to facilitate participation. Nil.
vi. **Open Forum**. Nil residents present.
vii. **Resolved. Motion** to approve the minutes of 25th March 2026. Prps: PP. Scnd. RH.
Duly **approved**.

25/26 Matters to be resolved at this Annual Meeting.

- i. **General Power of Competence.** This council cannot adopt the general power of competence for 2026/2027 (criteria apply, see Appendix 4). Duly **noted**.
- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Simon Bott | – coopted January 2026 | Croome d’Abitot Parish Council |
| Cllr Ian Daly | – coopted March 2025 | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Cllr Richard Hill | – coopted September 2023 | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Cllr Laura McEwan Hill | – coopted June 2025 | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Cllr Pat Preston | – elected May 2023 | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Cllr Ray Williams | – elected May 2023 | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Vacancy | – unfilled at May 2023 election. | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Vacancy | – unfilled at May 2023 election. | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Vacancy | – unfilled at May 2023 election. | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Vacancy | - upon resignation of cllr | Severn Stoke Parish Council |
| Vacancy | - upon resignation of cllr | Croome d’Abitot Parish Council |
| Vacancy | – unfilled at May 2023 election. | Croome d’Abitot Parish Council |
- ii. **Review of council vacancies** and discuss strategies for recruitment/co-option. Options for advertising posters were distributed and future events were discussed. June is national recruitment month. The Clerk was **instructed** to approach KPC with a view to a joint stall at the fete. **Action: Cllr McEwan-Hill** to distributed example fliers. The Clerk was **instructed** to explore options for a banner on the website that would take visitors to a recruitment poster.
- iii. **Insurance. Resolved. Motion** to confirm arrangements for the current **insurance policy**. As of June 26 this parish council will be in the 3rd year of a 3 year long term undertaking with Ecclesiastical care of Clear Council (brokers) £725.15 including cover of war memorial (as a courtesy, ownership unexplored) up to £60k. *Insurance certificate available on the website.* Prps: RH. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved**.
- iv. **Risk Assessments. Resolved. Motion:** Review and acceptance of **risk assessments**. (Reviewed March 2026 by Clerk). Prps: PP. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved and adopted**.
- v. **Parish Councillor Allowances. Resolved. Motion:** to approve payment of elected parish councillor allowances for 2026/2027, upon receipt of qualifying application on individual basis. £25 per qualifying Cllr, to be paid in Q3 of the financial year. Allowance to be paid back pro rata if a Cllr retires/resigns before the end of the year. Payments will be published as per the Transparency Code but will be anonymised. Prps: SB. Scnd: RH. Duly **approved**.
- vi. **Asset Register. Resolved. Motion:** Acceptance of existing asset register. (Reviewed by Clerk March 2026). Prps: PP. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved and adopted**.
- vii. **Reserves. Resolved. Motion:** Acceptance of reserves register. (Reviewed by Clerk March 2026). Prps: LMH Scnd: PP. Duly **approved and adopted**.
- viii. **Policy Documents. Resolved. Motion:** Acceptance and roll over of all existing policy documents, including the “Press, Social Media, Email, Website and IT policy”. Prps: RH. Scnd: PP. Duly **approved and adopted**. The Clerk was **instructed** to double check email signature requirements and send a reminder out to all.
- ix. **Resolved. Motion** to instruct the Clerk to review the co-option procedure. Prps: SB. Scnd: RH. Duly **approved**.
- x. **Project and Committee Reps. Resolved. Motion** to review and confirm membership. Prps: RH Scnd: PP. Duly **approved**. A list of all committee members will be placed on the website.

Thanks to all involved and we look forward to 2026/2027. Close of the annual meeting of the parish council.

Monthly Meeting 20th May 2026 of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

Commencement of the monthly meeting at 7.45pm. All declarations and attendance as above.

26/26 Reports from the County Cllr and District Cllrs.

- i. **CCllr Martin Allen.** The report from our CCllr has been received and distributed, with no questions for the record. See Appendix 6. Pledge for a donation of £500 towards the Severn Bank VAS repairs, for which thanks was given.
- ii. **DCllr David Harrison.** Update on annual planning statistics: 17 planning applications have been received in 2025/2026 for Severn Stoke Parish, of which 11 were approved and 6 were refused. 5 planning applications have been received for Croome Parish, all of which have been approved. Summary of flood bund history to date which will be provided to the parish council in due course. Ref. enforcement matters at Severn Bank, one caravan has been removed and one is for sale.
- iii. **DCllr John Michael** spoke to support repairs to the Severn Bank VAS rather than replacement, as the more cost-effective option, given the large amount of warning signs already in place.

27/26 Reports from third parties

- i. **National Trust** – Planning permission has been granted to improve parking at Croome, including increasing capacity, creating a new visitor welcome building, and adding a play area. The project aims to resolve ongoing parking issues, particularly during wet weather. Work begins on 1 June and will take place in phases:
 - Phase 1 (16 weeks): Conversion of the paddock into a hard-standing car and coach park, with the orchard used temporarily for overflow parking.
 - Phase 2 (10 weeks): New car park opens while remaining areas are improved. The visitor welcome building will be constructed throughout phases 1 and 2.
 - Final phase (approx. 4 weeks): Minor finishing works, with most parking available.Contractors (Walsh, based in Norton) will aim to minimise disruption, although increased lorry movements can be expected, particularly early on. There is no requirement for a traffic management plan as part of the planning permission. Deliveries will be limited to 8.00am–10.30am, and drivers will be reminded to take care in residential areas. A residents' meeting is planned for Wednesday 30 September to review progress. Additional works taking place:
 - Court building: Tower re-roofing from September (scaffolding from August to December).
 - Gardens: White Bridges refurbishment in September–October, with possible temporary route changes.
 - There will be small evening nature events over summer, plus three larger events: two outdoor theatre performances (June and August) and a running event in August.
- ii. **The Village Hall Committee.** In a recent meeting the Hall Committee discussed the potential to rebuild the village hall and agreed to fund initial investigations to determine whether a rebuild project is viable now that the flood bund is being built. This includes ground investigation and a simplified architect's design to establish overall build costs. A floor plan has been drafted in readiness for a future planning application. The Committee hasn't formally voted on proceeding with the project and won't do so until all feasibility studies and funding is in place. Once a grant timetable has been published by MHDC, the community will be approached for involvement in the project. MHDC grants require a project start date within this current year. The bund construction site works have kept the hall footprint clear. An AGM date will be published shortly.
- iii. **Friends of St Denys'.** Minutes of the last committee meeting have been distributed to parish cllrs. Cllr debated a proposal to re-examine parish council contributions towards churchyard maintenance, currently £500 pa. Cllrs requested a breakdown of current maintenance costs, reported to be £290 a month and details of recent quotations and maintenance specifications. Cllrs also requested information on what the Committee are doing to facilitate the issue of churchyard maintenance and what volunteers assist at this present time. **Action: The Clerk** will send a letter to the Friends Committee in due course.

- iv. **Flood bund.** Planning conditions have been discharged, newt license conditions have been discharged and the project contract has been formalised with Griffiths. Mobilisation of the construction work started late April 2026 at the old hall site. Nb. setting up the area for the welfare cabins. Stone has been imported to raise the cabins up out of flood level. Vegetation clearances started on 5th May. Ham Lane will be reopened in late June for the anglers, in accordance with their annual calendar. Farm access will be via a gatemaster system which will make silage transportation difficult but timings and frequent access can be accommodated. The aim is to complete construction around Christmas 2026/early 2027. Further planting and landscaping work will then follow into spring 2027. Dame H. Baldwin MP attended a site visit 15th May. The bottle banks have been moved to St Denys' car park – with thanks to the Friends of St Denys', to Savills and to MHDC for permissions.
- v. **Upton library.** The parish council donation of £200 has been returned to the parish council upon adoption of all such local libraries by the County Council and in anticipation of Devolution. Duly **noted**.

28/26 Parish Infrastructure - to discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

- i. Planning applications – nil.
- ii. **Severn Stoke Bank Sharp Corner Westcotec VAS. Resolved. Motion** to approve repairs. Prps: RH. Scnd: PP. Duly **approved**. CCllr Allen has offered an additional £500 from divisional fund to help. We currently have £650 in reserves from previous district and county council grants towards this project. A quotation for replacement £6129.60 inc VAT from Westcotec was rejected.
- iii. **Kinnersley Westcotec VAS.** A new battery has been obtained and this VAS is now operational.
- iv. The life expectancy of the **Evolis Radar Speed Sign batteries** have shortened through useage and are only lasting 6 days. The Clerk was **instructed** to seek quotes for 4 more batteries.
- v. **Kinnersley 30mph Speed Roundels.** Highways have indicated that they are now open to new orders therefore project to be revitalised. **Resolved. Motion** to approve use of CIL funds. One pair of roundels costs £300. Prps. PP. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved**. Proposed location: Kinnersley from A38 at 30mph speed reminder sign. The Clerk was **instructed** to contact TC (Highways) and copy CCllr MA in.



- vi. **Bin A38 Birch Lane layby** – Lengthsman is now in a position to install. Permission obtained MHDC. Duly **noted**.
- vii. **Severn Bank sunken manhole at Kinnersley turn** has been repaired by BT. Duly **noted**.

28/26 Parish Infrastructure continued

- viii. Proposal – seek new **bus timetable** noticeboards for Severn Stoke and Clifton bus shelters, to include bus time QR codes and updated timetables. The Clerk was **instructed** to contact TC (Highways) and copy CCllr MA in with this request.
- ix. **Croome corner drains**. Highways works moved from April to mid-May and early June. The headwall and the damaged (squashed and split) pipework under the wall will be repaired. Duly **noted**.
- x. Proposal – seek Highways replacement of pedestrian footpath in vicinity of 2 – 8 Kinnersley (Road ref: C2105 Severn Bank A38 to Kinnersley). Reason: surface is breaking up. The Clerk was **instructed** to contact TC (Highways) and copy CCllr MA in with this request.
- xi. Social media post ref street lighting Knights Hill. No correspondence has been received by the Clerk. Proposal for inspection. **Action: Cllr Preston** to inspect and report back
- xii. **Flooding at Kinnersley** – Highways have investigated and reached the conclusion that the road-side pond has been in situ for over 100 years and the break in the hedge at this location is as it has always been historically. Road-side drains are inspected and cleared on a rotational basis. Land Drainage Partnership can be requested to inspect and enforce ditch maintenance. Duly **noted**.
- xiii. Proposal to support the **Daffodil Golden Mile Project**. See Appendix 5. **Resolved. Motion** to approve a grant of £200. Prps: PP. Scnd: RH. Duly **approved**. Cllrs noted that it would not be possible to support bulb planting along verges of national speed limit. Planting date proposed as 16th October 2026. General discussion as to how the PC could tap into the project and advertise, with support being given by all Cllrs present.

29/26 Finance, admin and training

- i. **Resolved. Motion** to consider/motion to approve payment of accounts for this month and the previous month. Prps: PP. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved**. Appendix 1.
- ii. **Resolved. Motion to approve** purchase of ink cartridges 20/05/2026 AM £82.99, Receipt presented to Cllrs for inspection. Prps: PP. Scnd: LMH. Duly **approved**.
- iii. **Resolved. Motion** to receive and approve the latest bank reconciliation/quarterly report (as applicable). Prps: LMH. Scnd: PP. Duly **approved**.
- iv. **Resolved. Motion** to receive the Clerk's timesheet. Prps: RH. Scnd: PP. Duly approved.
- v. Clerk's correspondence list for information. Duly **accepted**. Appendix 2.
- vi. To note that the accounts and audit paperwork for 25/26 are with the internal auditor for assessment. Duly **noted**.
- vii. To note that the annual website support and hosting agreement for Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot Parish Council for 2026/2027 has been accepted and signed. Duly **noted**.
- viii. To note that confirmation has been received that Home Working Allowance for the Clerk does not need to be declared on the HMRC PAYE app and is correctly payable via expenses up to the existing threshold £26 per month. Duly **noted**.
- ix. To note staffing committee's previous proposal that the Clerk's working hours are increased from 6 to 8 per month and instruction for the Clerk to proceed with amending the standing order and to backdate any amended pay from April 2026 onwards. Duly **noted and approved**. Prps: SB. Scnd: PP. Duly **approved**.
- x. To note the current condition of the noticeboard at High Green and to add this matter to the next agenda. Duly **noted**. The structure is sound but looks in a sorry state.

30/26 Date of the next meeting. Wed 10th June 2026 7.30pm. Croome NT SOQ meeting room.

Signed

Chairman

.....Date

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

Proper Officer, RFO & Parish Clerk: Mrs Lisa Stevens, 9 The Limes, Kempsey, WR5 3LG.
Tel: 01905 820956 / 07950256363 parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

New website: <http://severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk>

Notes to minutes – Terms

- Once approved, the Motion/decision is called a “resolution”
- Resolved – Where a decision is made about a Motion.
- Duly Approved – Motions where a formal vote took place, accepting the Motion.
- Duly Accepted/Agreed – Motions where no formal vote took place but the action/recommendation within the Motion or debate is to proceed. Usually for non-financial matters or for items already agreed as part of an existing budget.
- Declined – Motion where a formal vote took place, with the Motion rejected.
- Duly Noted – Information not requiring a vote.
- Abstentions or votes against a Motion will be noted but the minutes will NOT always show individual names, unless Councillors have declared an interest and the transparency of that interest must be maintained.

Requests for this information in other languages/audio/large print will be reasonably considered.

Please take a moment read the council’s privacy notice, which explains how we use and look after your information and your rights. This document is available via the website above.

Appendix 1. Items for payment or already paid this month and the previous month.

1	Mr T Hughes	Lengthsman Services March 2026	£374.85	£0.00
2	WCALC	Annual Subscription	£479.54	£73.06
3	Npower	Street lighting Stonnall close and knights hill.	£174.06	£8.29
4	Mrs L Stevens	Expenses & Home Working Allowance (£26)	£42.05	£0.00
5	Mrs L Stevens	Printing Inks Reimbursing payment made to StinkyInks	£186.68	£31.11
6	Mrs L Stevens	Replacement printer head.	£47.95	£0.00
7a	NEST Pension	March Clerk contrib £13.34.PC contrib £10.01	£23.35	£0.00
7b	NEST Pension	April Clerk contrib £13.34. PC contrib £10.01	£23.35	£0.00
8	HMRC Shipley	EmployER Income tax Nil as of 21/04/2026	£0.00	£0.00
9	HMRC Shipley	EmployEE Income tax backdated Feb 2026.	£5.75	£0.00
10	HMRC Shipley	EmployEE Income tax.	£5.00	£0.00
11	Mrs L Stevens	Clerk wage 1 month in arrears. 6 hours a week	redacted	£0.00
12	Bank	Bank account service charge	£4.25	£0.00
13	Mr T Hughes	Lengthsman Services April 2026	£373.50	£0.00
14	Westcotec	1 x battery for the Kinnersley VAS	£121.80	£20.30
15	Clear Councils	Annual Parish Council Insurance25/26	£725.15	insurance tax not claimable
16	Malvern Hills District Council	Garden Waste Collection Service 26/27 Renewal for Parish Hall x 2 bins	£155.00	£0.00
17	Mrs L Stevens	Expenses & Home Working Allowance (£26)	£38.54	£0.00
18	NEST Pension	May Clerk contrib £13.34. PC contrib £10.01	£23.35	£0.00
n/a	HMRC Shipley	EmployER Income tax Nil as of 19/05/2026	£0.00	£0.00
19	HMRC Shipley	EmployEE Income tax payment.	£5.00	£0.00
20	Mrs L Stevens	Clerk wage 1 month in arrears. 6 hours a week	redacted	£0.00
21	Bank	Bank account service charge	£4.25	£0.00

Appendix 2. Clerk correspondence list

	Police Crime Commissioner newsletter
	PCSO quarterly contract
	NALC Chief Executive's bulletin
	WCALC monthly bulletin
	CPRE newsletter and monthly bulletin
	MHDC Planning monthly bulletin
	WCC Funding Finder monthly bulletin
	The Rural Funding Digest - Looking for funding for your local project or community group
	The Rural Bulletin – national rural news and ensuring rural communities have a voice
	Rural Services Network weekly bulletin
	HMRC – payroll update and legal requirements.
	Parish Magazine monthly submission

Appendix 3 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Good Practice Guide:

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLISHED NOV 2014



1. The annual meeting of the parish/town council (often erroneously called the AGM) must be held during May in each year. During an election year it must take place between the 4th day and 18th day after date of the election.
 2. The clerk must give at least 3 clear days' notice to councillors and via the public notice for the annual meeting which, like all other meetings of the parish/town council and its committees, is open to the public. Nb. Publication of dates of all meetings is made by this council in January each year.
 3. In election year, councillors – except the chair and vice-chair - cease to be in office on the 4th day after the election. The chair and vice chair remain in office until the successor is elected at the annual meeting.
 4. In election year, each member of the parish/town council must sign a declaration of acceptance of office before s/he may take part in the annual meeting or any other meeting.
 5. The person who takes the chair for the first item is the previous chairman whether or not s/he is still an elected councillor. If the previous chairman is not present, the previous vice chairman must take the chair, and if s/he is not present another councillor must volunteer to take the chair for the first item. The clerk must not take the chair.
 6. The first item of business must be the election of chairman. The person presiding for this first item will be the previous year's chairman. If they are a properly elected or co-opted councillor then the person presiding may use their personal vote, and in the event of a tie must use their casting vote as well. If they have also been nominated for the chair, they may use both their personal and their casting vote for themselves in the event of a tie. In an election year where the previous chairman has not been re-elected, they cannot use a personal vote but must use their casting vote in the event of a tie; they cease to hold office as soon as the new chairman is elected. Upon election to the chair, the new chairman must preside and the previous chairman, if no longer a councillor, must join the public.
 7. Each year, regardless of whether it is an election year, the chairman must sign a further declaration of acceptance of office form on election to the chair and before taking the chair. There is no requirement for the vice chairman to sign such a form.
 8. Agenda items must include the election of chairman as first business, and may include such items as election of vice chairman; appointment of committees and working groups, members to outside bodies; adoption of annual accounts; review of insurance, standing orders, financial regulations, scheme of delegation.
 9. The annual meeting may also undertake the business of an ordinary meeting. There is no need to have a separate ordinary meeting of the council.
 10. The minutes are adopted at the next meeting of the council - not the next annual meeting.
 11. Members must complete a register of interests within 28 days of election/co-option to the office of councillor. These should be sent to the monitoring officer, sometimes via the clerk. If re-elected, it is generally accepted that councillors need only provide changes to their register. The monitoring officer will provide the clerk with a complete copy of the register for all councillors on his/her council. It is useful for the clerk to bring this along to the annual meeting to allow individual councillors to check for any changes in their interests.
- end Appendix 2. This guidance is in supplement to requirements within Standing Orders

Appendix 4 - What is the General Power of Competence?

The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal councils (district, county and unitary councils etc). It also applies to eligible¹ parish and town councils. [Footnote 1 An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification \(Parish Councils \(General Power of Competence\) \(Prescribed Conditions\) Order 2012\).](#)

It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000. The scope – and some limitations – of the General Power are set out in sections 1 to 6 of the Localism Act 2011.

In summary, the GPC enables councils to do things²:

- an individual may generally do
- anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- for a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area (although in practice councils will want to realise such benefits).

[Footnote 2 Further discussion of the legal implications of the GPC can be found in the Local Government Association \(LGA\) essay 'Power to make a difference', October 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/nppcc4b>](#)

But there are some limitations on the General Power, either because they are not things which an individual can do or because they are excluded by the Act.

The GPC will not:

- provide councils with new powers to raise tax or precepts or to borrow
- enable councils to set charges for mandatory services, impose fines or create offences or byelaws, over and above existing powers to do so
- override existing legislation in place before the Localism act 2011, so-called 'pre-commencement limitations' (however powers enacted after commencement of the GPC will only limit the GPC if this explicitly stated in the legislation).

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/general-power-competence-empowering-councils-make-difference>

Appendix 5 – Daffodil Golden Mile Project, Cllr S. Bott

You might recall at our recent meeting I mentioned daffodils and Kempsey's recent Daffodowndilly Days. I see the greater Daffodil Golden Mile Project developing in two ways:

- Repetition of Daffodowndilly Event annually in March 2027, with additions and refinements. Kempsey has a working party looking at this which will pull in other local organisations and develop new ideas.
- Extension of the Golden Mile, potentially south down the A38 to link up with Severn Stoke, and north to reach the Ketch Roundabout.

I have been working on the most important aspect of bulb planting - finding able bodied volunteers. I am exploring the possibility of finding volunteers of working age who have allocated Volunteers' Days from their employers. I've now met face to face with representatives of: McDonalds Malvern Link, Platform Housing Group, BT/Outreach, Nuyards Country Store & Garden Centre

The response has been positive and encouraging. From my discussion with Nick Richardson of Platform Housing I have nominated Friday 16 October 2026 as Volunteers' Bulb Planting Day. I am going to carry on trying to make contact with possible volunteers employed by such local presences as Severn Trent Water, Edwards Garage and Harvey & Brockliss.

Susan is in discussion with Kempsey Parish Council about purchasing 4,000 bulbs for filling in gaps and extending daffodil coverage around the Parish. My reason for writing is to establish whether or not Severn Stoke & CDA would like to get involved. I would anticipate seeking funding from Councillors Harrison, Michael and Allen for the necessary bulb purchase.

Appendix 6 – County Councillor Martin Allen report to the Parish Council May 2026

CHANGES AT COUNTY HALL - As you know the county council elections were held last May 2025, it brought sweeping changes. Reform swept into power. Jo Monk was their leader until she was ousted by Alan Amos. Five Reform members have now left Reform and formed their own party.

Last Thursday it was the County Councils AGM, during which the Conservatives, LibDems, Greens, and some Independents took over running the council. All of us felt that there was no other viable choice. Unfortunately, the Conservatives have now reluctantly left this coalition on instructions from their HQ in London.

KERSWELL GREEN ROAD CLOSURE - Severn Trent have given notice that they are going to close the road through Kerswell Green between 0700 – 1700 each day from 29/06/26 until 12/02/27, this is for major work to the sewage system. I am pleased that this time Highways have accepted my request for the diversion routine to go up through Severn Bank and then Kinnersley.

SHARP BEND VAS SIGN AT SEVERN BANK, SEVERN STOKE - I received an email from Lisa on 29.04.26 about the sign, I understand it will cost £6500 to replace. I am happy to offer £500.00 of my divisional funds to help with the purchase.

ROAD REPAIRS - A38 Severn Stoke near to the turn to Kinnersley the sunken manhole cover has now been repaired. However, Severn Trent have still not carried out the repair to their manhole cover on the A38 near Stokes Gardens, Highways have chased this up several times and will continue to do so.

A38 ROAD CLOSURE - From 28th until 30th of May, parts of the A38 from Kempsey to Severn Bank in Severn Stoke will be closed between 2000 -0600 for road surface dressing.

End of report.

End of minutes.