

Minutes of Annual Parishioner Meeting
Minutes of Annual General Meeting of SS&CDA Parish Council
Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm

ONLINE MEETING
OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF SEVERN STOKE PARISH

Present: Cllr Watkins (Chair), Cllr Preston (Deputy), Cllrs Faulkner, Freeman, Garrard, Halling, Seward, Sturgess and Williams. CCllr Middleborough. DCllr Michael, 1 Parish Council vacancy.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO).
RM (Parish Hall), J&M, J&P, R&L.

Annual Parishioner Meeting - 7pm

Part 1 **Resident Question Time** – nil questions.

Part 2 **Agenda Items**

- 1 **Welcome and apologies and nomination of Chair.**
Cllr Eileen Hadley (IT equipment), Cllr Cox, DCllr D Harrison – report sent instead.
No nominations from public. S.Watkins agreed to Chair this resident meeting - approved unanimously. *Standing orders to remain suspended through meeting.*
- 2 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2019**
Previously distributed and duly **approved**, with amendments contributed by Cllr Freeman in relation to correct road names.
- 3 **County Councillors' Report** – Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 3](#). Update on close co-operation over the past year between the County Council, the residential care sector, Acute Hospital Trust and education sectors to ensure that services were maintained were possible and not overwhelmed. Thanks to all residents for their help in all the good neighbour schemes. The vandalised bollards at Croome London Arch will be replaced and cemented in on both sides of the road. An assessment will be made of yellow lines with seasonal/time restrictions. Existing yellow lines will be regularised. Cllr Garrard noted that the existing bollards are too wide apart and CCllr confirmed that this will be rectified.
- 4 **(DCllr David Harrison and) DCllr John Michael** - Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 4](#). Praise for all officers and staff at district and county councils for working so hard during the pandemic. Cllr Michael is conducting a review of all existing potholes in the parish – all will be noted/resubmitted where required to the county council for action. Current potholes may not impact on cars but they are a major hazard for cyclists. In response to a question from Cllr Watkins, DCllr Michael confirmed that the report by DCllr Harrison within K.Links is published without input from DCllr Michael and that DCllr Harrison speaks for himself on this matter.
- 5 **Report from Severn Stoke Parish Hall Committee** - Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 5](#). Thanks to Cllr Halling for helping to make the hall safe after most recent flood event in 2021. In summary, ongoing surveys looking at bringing the hall back into use, but the committee must weigh the risk of repairing the hall before the flood bund is built. Various applications for funding are being explored (thanks to DH for his input) and initial recent survey results seem to demonstrate ongoing support for this a community space. Full results will be published soon. Thanks to the public for their input – a third of households responded. The Committee will be seeking much more community input in to hall/event running/maintenance/fund raising. Cllr Middleborough noted that the parish council has applied for the £18k grant for flood relief and that this application is in the system – hopefully to be resolved within the next 6 weeks.

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- 6 **Report from St Deny's Church** - Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 6](#). Whilst the church was closed due to flooding and covid19, work still went on in the parish to establish phone networks for the vulnerable, food banks and video church services. St Denys' improvement proposals include a hope of modernising the church. The bund must be completed before this work would proceed. In the meantime, they are looking to work with the pub, PC and parish hall to set up a working party to establish future use of the church and whether there is the will in the parish to manage/contribute to such an operation.
- 7 **Report by Flood Action Group**
Planning permission has been granted (Nov 2020) for the bund and the next stage is the detailed design. The level of detail included by the application (for full planning permission) is necessarily acknowledged as light in detail, as that is expected to come forward as part of the discharge of conditions. The Environment Agency has given initial responses to all public consultation points raised up to this point and confirmed who is responsible for action (in effect a snagging list). Updates will be given as progress is made. Points included in the list are Ham Lane safety; drainage and overhead powerlines; existing oil pipeline; bund height; bund slopes; Biodiversity - off-site mitigation; flood risk; bund alignment; stockpiling of material and wheel washing; red line plan amendments; historical event levels; compensation to tenants; future ownership and maintenance; and ground conditions. BWB (consultants) are making good progress in respect of the detailed design and meetings will be arranged to discuss and explain the detailed design as soon as it is available. May 2021 sampling to establish bedrock levels have found that the bedrock is much deeper than anticipated and an update is expected on this shortly.
- 8 **Croome Court – National Trust update on Croome Court** Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 7](#). Praise for staff during pandemic and noting the impact of the 2020 'Reset Programme' on the site and on staff numbers. Croome Court re-opens on Wednesday May 19th and will be open Wednesdays to Sundays. The RAF Museum re-opens Monday May 17th and will be open Sundays to Tuesdays. Exiting changes in 2021 with a new general manager and some house furniture and garden sculpture projects. Cllrs encouraged that a liaison meeting be held with Croome NT as soon as possible.
- 9 **Tarmac update – Nick Atkins, Strategic Planning Manager - Central**
Mineral extraction operations continue to be concentrated in phase C, south of Sheepcote Lane, where we have c. 2 years of remaining reserves. Following completion of a s278 highways agreement, we will shortly be installing a crossing over Sheepcote Lane that will allow dumpers to cross the road, rather than the tractor and trailer arrangement we currently have in place. Recent prospect drilling further south towards the village has proved that extending the extraction area in this direction is not viable due to mineral quantity and quality issues. Having discounted the further south extension, work will now be focused on addressing pre commencement conditions for the permitted extension east of the A38. All of the land to the north of the Severn Way has been signed off by the planning authority as being restored and is now in its aftercare period. Residents are reminded not to swim in the river, due to unseen dangerous currents. The most dangerous sections are being fenced off.
- 10 **West Mercia Police report** - Previously submitted and distributed see [Appendix 8](#). Dave Perridge - West Mercia Police Road Safety Operations Manager has gratefully acknowledged receipt of info relating to driveway ownership from parish council. His team will collect data ASAP (there is a bit of a backlog due to Covid restrictions) and see where we go from there re speed enforcement.

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7 **Minutes** - Normal monthly parish council meeting 24th March 2021, with Cllr amendments actioned – Approved. Prps GS. Snd: LF.

8 **Parish Council Policies** (standing orders, financial regs, code of conduct and risk assessments). To re-adopt all parish council policies with a commitment to review all documents by Sept 2021. Approved. Prps: SW. Snd: RW.

Monthly Meeting of SS&CDA Parish Council – 8pm

1 Declarations and points of order – nil

2 **Speed & traffic concerns** - *To discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice*

- a Update on site visit with Highways and progress since last meeting.
- White gates to north of Severn Stoke village - no room at present. Can re-assess in future once A38 speed review has been conducted by WCC (as result of roundabout works etc) and if 30mph limit is extended beyond its current position. Reasoning - no room for white gate on old hotel side of A38. One white gate alone would not be useful nor would it look good.
 - White gates to south of village - can look at placement once A38 speed review has been conducted by WCC.
 - VAS location - new poles may be required and Highways to look into this. Previous location near Parish Hall not suitable due to lack of visibility by oncoming traffic round the bend. Existing pole on A38 opp Three Winds and Half Acre bungalow to be strengthened/straightened and extended. Existing poles on A38 nr old pub carpark and Birch Lane turning to be double checked by Highways for viability, as A38 at this location has more of a curvature than would be preferred.
 - VAS location at Clifton agreed (a bit further south from The Maltings).
 - Clerk was ensure timetable for fortnightly movement agreed with those involved and to confirm with Hannah also. Parish Cllrs asked the Clerk to look at whether a monthly timetable was possible. Clerk
- b High Green VAS stats. Between 29th March and 5th May 14,567 vehicles passed through, with a max speed recorded at 50mph in the 30mph zone.

3 **Planning updates – nil**

- 4 a. **General Finance and Administration**
- b. To consider/motion to approve payment of accounts made in the previous month Appendix 1. Prps: GS. Scnd: SF. Carried.
 - c. To consider/motion to approve payment of outstanding accounts May 2021. Appendix 2. Prps: GS. Scnd: LF. Carried.
 - c. To consider insurance policy and accept quotation. Clerk to seek clarification as to whether the parish hall land should be ensured by the PC first. Clerk
 - d. **Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021 - To consider and motion to approve procedures and paperwork - Annual Audit Return.** The Clerk asked members to consider and review effectiveness of internal procedures/audit conducted across entire year.

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- During the 2020-21 FY, the move to BACS payments and away from cheques has improved speed and responsiveness of payments. This should be continued as normal practice for making payments.
- Extra signatories have been added to the bank accounts and this should be maintained in the event that council membership changes.

e **To approve certificate of exemption. Pps SW. Scnd GS. Carried.**

f **To consider and Motion to approve Section 1 of the AGAR - the Annual Governance Statement.**

The Clerk briefly talked members through this section. This document takes Members through a review of internal control. Clerk recommended that Members approve this section. **Motion to approve and agree Section 1** of the AGAR. Pps PP, Scnd GS, **APPROVED** unanimously.

5. a **To consider Section 2 of the AGAR - Accounting Statements.**

The Clerk to give a briefing on the Accounting Statements and confirm that she, as RFO has already signed the Accounting Statements prior to presenting them to Members at this meeting 03/05/2021.

Motion to approve and agree Section 2 of the AGAR. (SW proposed, SF

b seconded, **APPROVED** unanimously) *Chair only to minute, sign and date the Annual Governance Statement Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2020.* Chair to complete this item as soon as possible.

c **Approval and signature of the Declaration** that the statement of accounts is unaudited (externally). Approved.

d **Approval and signature of the Notice** of Commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights. *Commences 14 June and ends 23 July 2021.* Approved.

6. **Correspondence**

- Gov consultation on experiences with remote meetings.
- Resurfacing of M% junction 8 roundabout has been postponed.

Next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 14th July 2021, 7.30pm

Signed ChairmanDate

Appendix 1. Items already paid via online banking March and April 2021

(Approved under previous agenda or required payment under contract monthly):

26/03/2021	KLINKS – annual sub	£150.00
31/03/2021	Simon Bott – Lengthsman March 2021	£247.00
31/03/2021	Simon Bott – Mowing parish hall. SB308.	£30.00
29/04/2021	Simon Bott – Mowing parish hall. SB311	£30.00
30/03/2021	PCC SEVERN STOKE annual donation	£125.00
30/03/2021	FRIENDS OF ST DENYS' annual donation	£495.00
29/04/2021	EON electricity bill for street lighting.	£76.92
29/04/2021	CALC membership fee	£455.72
29/04/2021	Stinky Ink, printer cartridges – invoice split with Grimley PC. Clerk reimbursement.	£19.96
26/03/2021	Lisa Stevens Clerk expenses March, includes Zoom.	£17.79
28/04/2021	Lisa Stevens Clerk expenses April, includes Zoom (May will be last Zoom subscription)	£23.92
29/03/2021	Lisa Stevens – Clerk wages Feb 2021	£294.16
29/04/2021	Lisa Stevens – Clerk wages March 2021	£294.16

Appendix 2. Item for payment May 2021:

Clerk Wages	Standing Order - Wages April 2021.	£ 294.16	VAT nil.
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Appendix 3

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR - PAUL MIDDLEBROUGH'S REPORT

As we all know the last municipal year has been terribly unique. The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on the parish sadly with deaths and illness, disrupted vital education for students and pupils at all levels of education, and led to social isolation with on occasions mental health problems. On top of this has been the devastating hit to the hospitality businesses in the village, and of course residents who have lost their jobs or been furloughed. Even as the pandemic exploded the County Council and individuals were still struggling to cope with the aftermath of the floods in February 2020. Nowhere was the impact of this felt more than in Severn Stoke. That said what a spirit of community support has been seen. Neighbour helping neighbour, and the support organised by Severnside parishes together with the commitment of all the key workers who live in the parish. Let us hope the positive signs from vaccination, with the reduction in numbers of Covid cases continues and life comes back to normal but with a revival of community spirit before too long.

WHAT HAS THE COUNTY COUNCIL BEING DOING OVER THE LAST YEAR?

There has been close co-operation between the County Council, the residential care sector and the Acute Hospital Trust to ensure the acute hospitals were not overwhelmed through bed blocking. As we know in March 2020 provision of PPE equipment was not flowing efficiently but this was sorted out as the spring went into summer. Similarly, the county was assisting Academy Trusts and individual schools during the many changes to education during the year. This included help with PPE, IT equipment and meals for the most disadvantaged. Here2Help is a community action scheme, originally dedicated to helping those who needed support during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now developing the service, so it offers advice, support and help to a wide range of services across Worcestershire. Here2Help has been such a success, we have expanded the range of resources available. Here2Help will provide support for people of all ages and is available for both residents and organisations to access information, advice, tools, guidance and local support available to them or others in the local community based on their needs. At the beginning of the pandemic many county services, libraries, registrars, and household recycling sites were closed until Covid safe arrangements could be put in place. Whilst it was not quite back to normal by March 2021 every week seemed to bring arrangements to how they were before Covid.

Highways safety work continued, and slowly as compliant working arrangements were put in place planned repairs began to be started including new pavements and resurfacing existing pavements. It is disappointing the attempts to improve road safety at the London Arch have been maliciously thwarted. The alternative of double yellow lines, an anachronism in a rural setting seems the only alternative but this will need a commitment from Malvern Hills District Council and the Police to enforce. You will have seen that work on the southern link has progressed and it is on target to finish in the spring of next year. The next big phase of work after realigning the roundabout is to replace the bearings on the original bridge and today this it means the new bridge carriageway will be the single track for some time.

Using my Divisional Funds I have been able to allocate support to projects in the parish.

FOR SEVERNSIDE PARISHES THROUGH MOTOV8

- £1,000, support of young people in Kempsey and the community response to Covid-19 in the Parishes of Kempsey and Severn Stoke
- £1,000, preparation for stock at the foodbank needed to support vulnerable people, children and families over the Christmas period and New Year 2020/2021
- £1,000, purchase of a community fridge

FOR SEVERN STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

- Purchase of a VAS to be shared between Clifton and Severn Stoke villages.
- £500 to purchase of horticultural equipment to be shared by Kempsey and Severn Stoke Parish Councils

Once again it has been a pleasure to work with your dedicated and unpaid parish councillors but unfortunately largely through the media of Zoom and emails. Equally working with John Michael and David Harrison we have continued to work together for the benefit of parishioners. PAUL MIDDLEBROUGH, MAY 2021

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Appendix 4

Malvern Hills District Council – District Cllrs report – submitted by D.Harrison.

Severn Stoke Planning – 14 applications submitted of which 12 had been approved, 2 refused and 0 Withdrawn
Croome D'Abitot Planning – 9 applications submitted of which 7 had been approved (5 are hedge/tree apps), 1 refused and 1 Pending

Refuse collection /freight vehicles, confirming that there was an increase in property numbers and there was an increase in the amount of “black waste” but there was a slight increase in tonnage for “recycling”. These were probably due to the increase in householders. There was a large increase in “garden waste” and this was because more households took up the offer of the “brown bin” to save trips to the tips. One new Road Sweeper has been purchased this year.

There was also a large increase in fly tipping in the area – again possibly due to not wanting to take the rubbish to the tips which were in part of the early COVID been closed. I would like to thank Simon Bott, Lengthsman, in his capacity and also the work done in keeping the village tidy and safe. The “Street Scene Team” under Rob Rick have been dealing with this and also litter and dog litter. I thank the many volunteers dealing with litter throughout the area.

The Customer Centre at Malvern in the Council House has been closed for a whole year and is due to re-open in May this year.

The SWDP review (2nd Version) has been delayed for 12 months and it is expected to be presented to the inspector at the end of 2021/start of 2022 with a view of adoption at the end of 2022. This is mainly due to not being able to get important consultant reports and also not being able to get road traffic statistics, both due to COVID-19. The proposal is for Severn Stoke that the village will move from Category 4 to Open Countryside (i.e. will not have a settlement boundary).

Several million pounds has been distributed to various businesses during the COVID epidemic and flooding by Malvern Hills District Council, Finance department. This also includes the Rose and Crown, The Church and the Village Hall. Details were sent on the flood and covid grants.

Malvern Splash has been undergoing a complete re-fit during the Pandemic and is now OPEN. Priory Park is likewise undergoing a complete transformation of the Children’s Play facilities.

Severn Stoke Flooding – several instances of flooding have taken place in Severn Stoke and John Michael and myself are dealing with these. This is main central area but also Birch Lane and Sandford Villa Farm area. Sandbags were arrange from Malvern for various residents in the village. The fire Brigade were also called to help remove one resident during the high flood and a local farmer was recruited to remove the straw rubbish from Church Lane along with Cllr Stephen Watkins.

Flood Defence – I am sure that a full report will be made available by the SS FLAG. John and myself are now in regular contact with the planners, the Environment Agency and the designers and it is hoped that this will be progressed this year.

Busses – The First busses were cancelled during the first weeks of Covid Lockdown but the Astons busses remained running throughout.

Southern Link Road is progressing well and expected to switch to the new lanes in May 2021. The existing carriageway will be closed and repairs will be carried out, new drainage installed and a new cycleway and footway will be constructed. The latest information that the cycleway and footpath will remain closed until Spring 2022. Diversion will be signed via Diglis bridge.

Here 2 Help. Both Cllr John Michael and myself worked mainly in 2020 with the Here2Help to direct those people referred to the best place for their requirements.

Ward Budget - £1000 from Cllr John Michael and myself was split between the Severnsiders in association with Here2Help (£500), The Lengthsman (for Equipment for Kempsey and Severn Stoke) and Kempsey PACT for litter picking kit.

Lastly, but by no means last – I wish to thank all the Parish Councillors for all the work they have done in the village over the last two years. This also includes the Clerk, the Lengthsman as well as our County Councillor Paul Middlebrough and all the residents of “the patch” – long may covid be forgotten!!!!

Appendix 5

Severn Stoke Village Hall Report

The Village Hall has been closed since being flooded in Feb 20. In contrast to previous flood events where the water levels rose and fell in days, this time the water remained above the Hall floor level for over a week. Structural issues with the building were identified during assessment of flood damage. The management committee arranged to fence the site for safety, thanks to the support of Rob Halling.

The Management Committee and our Insurers commissioned independent structural surveys that both identified structural concerns, but suggested different causes. Further investigatory work to the Roof and Foundation was conducted in March 21, with assessment ongoing. The management committee consider it likely that the offer from our Insurers will not be sufficient to bring the Hall safely back into use, due to the need to resolve the structural issues. We also recognise the risk of attempting to bring the Hall back into use in advance of the bund being in place. The probability of flood events appears to be rising, with another flood event impacting the Hall in Jan21, further delaying the assessment of the structural damage.

The committee is exploring alternate funding options, but felt it necessary to first commission a survey of the community to assess the ongoing support for such a community space, and seek additional members for the Management Committee. Almost one third of the Parish households took the time to respond to the survey, for which we are most grateful. While analysis of the results continues, we believe the responses show a continued desire for a substantial community space. However, the types of events requested suggest dedicated events effort, a role that the current management committee couldn't support. We also note that many of the users of the Hall in recent years were not residents of the Parish. A summary of the survey findings will be published to the Hall website and K.Links in due course.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor David Harrison for his ongoing supporting and advice in relation to the Hall.

Appendix 6

Parochial Church Council and Friends of St Denys Church Severn Stoke.

1. The Parochial Church Council

St Denys' Church was flooded in February, 2020, along with the Parish Hall, the Rose & Crown and several houses. The usual three months drying out period then coincided with the first Covid lockdown. Worship resumed when permitted, limited to a maximum of 30 attending. Following the Christmas 2020 service, the church was again flooded and was re-opened for two services per month from Easter Sunday, 4th April, 2021.

A flood relief grant from the MHDC of £2,500 was received for the first flood, which assisted church collections much reduced due to closure. Meanwhile, the PCC have maintained payment of their Parish Share of over £11,000 per year to support our portion of the costs to maintain our Rector in post, serving the Benefice of Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot and Norton, which on average totals £77,000 per annum.

During Covid, the church organisation in cooperation with other organisations and Councils provided meals for the vulnerable, a Food Bank, prescription delivery service and at least 250 telephone calls per week to the housebound and lonely. Until Covid restrictions are lifted, St Denys' Church remains closed for all but two services per month.

2. St Denys' Church Improvement Proposals

The modernisation project approved by the Diocese to provide mains water, drainage, a lavatory suitable for dis-abled use, a kitchen and storage area within the Church has been put on hold, due to the flooding, Covid and the delay in commencing construction of the flood bund. Following the serious structural damage to the

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Parish Hall, the Church Standing Committee held a welcome informal meeting with Roger Morrow, Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee to register an interest in furthering the proposal that the Church should be made more available as a community facility and meeting place, and for the Hall and Church to be complementary. It is hoped that with the co-operation of the Parish Council, the Parish Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council and The Rose & Crown, a Working Party could be established to discuss how the amenities might best be utilised.

3. Fund raising by the Friends of St Denys

The objects of The Friends are to raise funds to maintain, modernise and beautify St Denys' Church and to enhance community spirit in the locality. The Friends meet the costs of the Church insurance, electricity, repairs and churchyard maintenance. Due to Covid, only one fund-raising event, a very successful Grand Draw, was held in the last year. The Friends' Committee works hard to make ends meet and seeks donations as well as involvement of the community to utilise the church building fully to provide modern community uses, whilst respecting its 800 year old heritage.

J B Henderson Churchwarden and Vice Chairman of the Friends of St Denys), 29th April, 2021

Appendix 7

Update from Croome - Katherine Alker, Garden and Outdoors Manager

As for so many places, last year was an unusual year for Croome. Having closed in March 2020, we re-opened in June 2020, and visitors were welcomed back into the garden in limited numbers on a bookings-only basis. The number of booking slots available has now risen to 1200 per day, and we are finding that while weekends and school holidays are fully booked, mid-week days are not. As a result, we are now allowing 'walk-ups' Monday to Friday providing we are not already fully booked. Members are free (cards must be shown) and non-members must pay.

Croome Court re-opens on Wednesday May 19th and will be open Wednesdays to Sundays. The RAF Museum re-opens Monday May 17th and will be open Sundays to Tuesdays. We still have the one-way route operating in the garden, however there are also many options for walking in the park and along the river. We would like to remind everyone that dogs should be kept on leads at all times as there are now stock in the fields and nightingales nesting in the woodland areas; they build their nests low to the ground hence the importance of keeping dogs on the lead.

The canteen at the RAF Visitor Centre is open and the outdoor seating is now available for use. The indoor seating will re-open later in the month and we will be offering a wider menu of hot food again. The shop at Croome is one of the few remaining National Trust shops in the area. Many were closed permanently during the Reset Programme. We have a good and varied range of plants for sale as well as many other products.

Our volunteers are returning to site. Although we are having to change some of the ways of working to maintain our Covid-safe measures, we hope that more volunteer roles will be able to return over the coming weeks.

Michael Smith, General Manager at Croome since 2003, left his position in January 2021. We welcome our new General Manager Michelle Fullard in mid-May. There have been a few other staff changes at the property including some redundancies in the 'Reset Programme' of late 2020.

Looking forward we have some exciting projects to come this year including the return of 18th century bookcases to Croome from the V&A Museum and the creation of four new statues of the 4 Seasons to sit in the Evergreen Shrubbery.

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Appendix 8

Kempsey & Alfrick SNT

Firstly, a very brief introduction. My name is PC Jon Hand, as of two weeks ago I took over the role of Safer Neighbourhoods Officer from PC Nadia White who has moved on. I have worked in Safer Neighbourhoods before covering the Pickersleigh & Chase ward in Malvern and have also briefly covered this area for a few months in 2016. PCSO Martin Butcher has also moved on having retired last month, I will be joined by PCSO Stacey Birks who is coming over to join me.

I don't think I need to say that this last year has been far from normal. Over the last year COVID-19 has affected the way each and every one of us lives our lives, this has clearly impacted on crime statistics and trends.

During first lockdown things went very quiet as any cars on the move were stopped and the occupants spoken to, this had an impact on travelling criminals as it made them more obvious than usual. Figures in relation to road traffic accidents and road related deaths have also reduced due to there being less traffic on the road.

This is now starting to become an issue again as people start to venture out onto the roads more and more, I'm fully aware of the reports of speeding through Severn Stoke on the A38. Looking through our system I can clearly see that the vast majority of calls to us concerning the area are in relation to bad driving or speeding. We have a recently established a motorbike tasking team which I intend on booking from time to time in order to try and calm the issue and fine those that flaunt the road traffic laws.

This last year we've also had to contend with policing the Coronavirus restrictions which was an added strain on resources. Most of the reported breaches turned out to be malicious or the restrictions have not been fully understood by the persons making the call to Police.

We had a small spate of damage to motor vehicles for a few nights in January this year, searching the system I have found three offences spread through Kinnersley and Severn Stoke. We have also had several reports of a smell of cannabis coming from two separate address in the parish. Clearly this is anti-social and I will do what I can to address it.

Other than the above, there has been no real series of crime.

We have recently acquired a "fleet" of e-bikes which I intend to make full use of when time allows. Hopefully this will make me more accessible to residents without the barrier of being in a car. This will allow me to park a marked vehicle at one end of the village in an effort to slow cars down while I can patrol the wider area on bike.

If required we are easily contacted on ka.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk.

I hope you are all well and we look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Jon & Stacey.

Appendix 9

Lengthsman – S. Bott

My name is Simon Bott. I live in Kempsey and have been Lengthsman for the parish since 2016. I am contracted to work four hours each week, all year round. Over the past twelve months I have concentrated on a number of areas, to contribute to some stewardship of the parish.

Footways: the best way to preserve footways is to use them. Nothing beats boots on the ground for keeping footways accessible. One area that continues to be quite a challenge is the footway along the A38 at Severn Bank – I have carried out siding out, leaf clearing and some attempts at moss clearing in this area. Similarly the footway at the Kinnersley Turn, where I am encouraged to regularly see joggers using the route.

Boundary Gates; we have three sets of boundary gates for Kinnersley, two sets for High Green, and one set at the edge of Kerswell Green. I make best endeavours to keep these gates clean, and to trim the verge so that they remain prominent. I would like to tip my cap to the local residents in Kinnersley and High Green who keep the grass trimmed at some of their gates.

Signage and Street Furniture: along with keeping the Parish's boundary gates looking clean and tidy, I try and ensure direction signs, location signs and speed limits match three criteria:

Visible – keeping vegetation cut back

Clean – obvious what the sign's function is

Legible – sometimes a challenge if lettering is fading.

Fly-Tipping: this is a nationwide problem, and I would like to give credit to the helpful and very responsive service we enjoy from Malvern Hills District Council through their Street Scene Team. The most challenging event I can think of over this year is the two huge tractor tyres dumped in a deep ditch on the road across Kerswell Green. Somehow MHDC successfully extracted the offending tyres. Anyone can report fly tipping through MHDC's 'Report It' page of their website, but I am more than happy to do the reporting if you contact the Parish Clerk.

Litter: another National scandal, but I encourage everyone to sign up to Adopt-A-Street through Malvern Hills District Council. This award winning scheme gives us all the opportunity to make a positive contribution to local stewardship.

Severn Stoke Village Hall: I cut the grass at the hall and the War Memorial in season and look forward to the day when the hall is restored to full use.

-end-