

Monthly Meeting of Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council

A grouped parish council of the two Parish Areas of Severn Stoke and of Croome d'Abitot

Wed 16th July 2025, 7.30pm

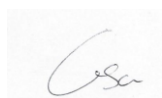
Croome National Trust Visitor Centre, SOQ room

Date of publication of this notice: 10th July 2025

This page is the cover sheet to the agenda, Summons and meeting guidelines.

Parish Councillors, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council will be held on Wednesday **16th July 2025, 7.30pm** at the SOQ room at Croome National Trust Visitor Centre, High Green, Croome d'Abitot, WR8 9DW.

What3 words location:///alleyway.rescuer.perfect



Mrs Lisa Stevens, CilCA, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. 9 The Limes, Kempsey, WR5 3LG. 07950256363. parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk



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Scan with your phone to
directly access the information
provided at the beginning of
each parish council meeting.

- The press and public may attend to address councillors on matters concerning the parish (allotted point in the agenda), observe the meeting or inspect draft documents. Comments **MUST** be made through the Chair and not aimed at individuals. District and County Councillors are invited to participate in this meeting at the discretion of the Chair. Public comments and questions to them must be directed to the parish council Chair or should be handled at the respective higher authority meetings.
- If this meeting is an extra ordinary meeting, these summons have been issued by the Chair.
- Occasional safety considerations may mean that we close and reschedule the meeting.
- The Register of Electors may be inspected by the Clerk to ascertain attendee residency.
- Names are recorded in the meeting minutes, unless individuals ask for this not to occur.
- With some restrictions, meetings may be filmed or recorded by the public. We are happy to provide guidance on what is permitted. Advice should be sought in advance to avoid disruption. The parish council may live stream those persons sitting at the council table on social media. The parish council may record audio information at this meeting. However, there is no legal requirement for the parish council to live stream a meeting in order to allow virtual public or councillor participation.
- **Please note 'Information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting' (QR code above to the right).**
- Each agenda item below includes the resolution to discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice. New items raised for formal vote will be included in the next agenda unless covered by St.Orders/Financ.Regis/Delegation to Clerk policies.
- If there are any adjustments required to encourage/allow public participation please bring these to the attend of the Clerk or Chair before or at the meeting. We will make all reasonable adjustments where possible.
- Please check fire exits arrangements upon arrival and check against your personal requirements. Please bring any difficulties to the immediate attention of any member of the parish council. In the event of an emergency, 'muster' is in the car park but, since attendees are only encouraged (not required) to sign in, no register will be taken.
- To our knowledge, there are no hearing/audio induction loops installed at this venue.
- The parish council does not hold or manage the wifi codes for this venue.
- Dogs may be permitted depending on the venue hire restrictions. Please enquire beforehand.
- Children are permitted but must not be allowed to disrupt proceedings please. Filming or recording of children is not permitted without written consent of parents/legal guardians - The council and public must take absolute care to meet this restriction.
- Councillors/the public are individually responsible for keeping their own language/phrasing to an acceptable level.
- The parish council has a risk assessment for public meetings. Please ask if you require a copy

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

Please take a moment read the council's privacy notice on our website, which explains how we use and look after your information.

1	Welcome, points of order, apologies for absence and declarations of interest. i. Apologies standard: Cllr L. Freeman. Motion to accept. ii. Apologies long term leave of absence: Cllr S. Faulkner. Motion to accept and approve. a. To note updates received to Register of Interests/dispensations. Cllrs are reminded to update their register of interests. b. To declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relevant to agenda. Cllrs who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest/ other Disclosable Interest (para 12(4)(b) Code of Conduct) must leave for the relevant items only, unless a dispensation has been granted. c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests relevant to the agenda. d. To declare any additions to the Register of Gifts & Hospitality. e. To consider written requests for the granting of a Dispensation (S33 Localism Act 2011). Motion to approve requests. f. To consider any adjustments required to encourage or allow public participation. g. To note the 5 parish councillor vacancies available for co-option upon application to the Clerk. iii. In the event of applicant/s stepping forward prior to the meeting*, co-option to fill up to 4 existing vacancies as per the adopted parish council co-option policy. *to allow qualifying criteria to be checked
2	Minutes of the parish council meeting 21st May <u>and</u> 11th June 2025 – to consider and approve.
3	The meeting will be adjourned for Open Forum (Public Question Time) Residents may raise any matter without notice. Please refer to the notes on your seat for further information.
4	Planning and Enforcement - to consider and resolve to respond to applications or enforcement matters. a. To note Worcestershire Parkway stakeholder engagement workshops 14th & 15th July hosted by Homes England and Summix. To note Cllr attendance if any. b. Motion: WCALC recommended template Motion in support of Neighbourhood Plans. See appendix 2. Debate and Motion as decided. c. Standing Item: To consider (and as required, arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting) planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda. Nil at time of publication. d. Standing Item: Devolution. - To note the published results and responses to the Local Government Reorganisation Survey and to note the slides from the Parish/Town Briefing – Local Government Reorganisation. - To note that the Clerk has sought WCALC advice about the possible requirement to renegotiate all leases (existing and supposed) for installation of public furniture on WCC verges and to renegotiate all bin emptying contracts with MHDC, in light of Devolution.
5	Community and Committee Representatives a. County Councillor Martin Allen b. District Councillors John Michael and David Harrison. c. Volunteer Footpaths Warden (VFW) i. To note that the VFW is assisting with report that footpaths adjacent to the Knights Hill pool are blocked with vegetation and the stiles from the main road to Madge hill are hazardous. 5 reports have been made to WCC ref damaged stiles and missing footplates. Farmers of cropped fields have not kept public footpaths clear. Motion to put VFW in touch with Savills. ii. No progress regarding the blocked right of way (fence/gate structure) at Clifton adjacent to The Maltings/Roseland. Motion to re-report to WCC and pass to County Councillor for action. d. Friends of St Denys' Committee i. Details of a Heritage Grant have been forwarded to the Committee. The programme will be delivered by the Architectural Heritage Fund and will run through until 31 March 2026. e. National Trust – to receive any updates or reports available. f. Tarmac – to receive any updates or reports available. g. Lengthsman – to receive any updates or reports available. To pass on/instruct as required a resident request for quarterly inspection by the lengthsman of the gutters, grips and drain tops in High Green h. High Green VAS stats report. i. Police – to receive any updates or reports available.

6	Flood Bund a. Updates if available. Non at time of publication.
7	Site of Old Village Hall a. To summarise current position and necessary closure of the site. Next steps. b. To consider a resolution with regard to public access of the bottle banks on site. c. To arrange a meeting with the new Savills rep Land Agent. d. Village Hall Committee Update, to include charity commission progress report and arrangements for the heras fencing.
8	Broadband a. To note Croome resident information ref BT poor broadband service (between 8-9 Mbps download). BT quote to resident for an upgrade totaling £394,273.20. Connection to existing BT services is not possible since the infrastructure is already at capacity. Concern that Croome will not be included in the Government run £5bn Project Gigabit or will be low priority.
9	Knights Hill, Birch Lane and Stonnall Close a. To note that the additional dog fouling signs have been installed by the Clerk, c/o the DCllrs. b. To note that information has been provided to residents ref dog waste and general waste bins. c. To note 1 missing parish council sign 'no parking in turning area' on the agreed garden fence in the lower cul-de-sac. Options for replacement. d. To note that WCC Highways have refused double yellow lines in Knights Hill cul-de-sacs due to the cost. They have agreed to investigate additional signage. e. Motion to request MHDC to begin parking enforcement at Knights Hill now that the parish council signage has been in place for four months.
10	General Projects Parish Wide a. Phone box High Green restoration - Work due to start imminently. Lengthsman has cleared vegetation from around the sides and top to allow easy access for cleaning and painting. b. To note that the dry weather has facilitated clearance of the blocked drains at Croome corner/London Arch by residents. Photos will be provided to the Clerk in due course and forwarded to the County Council as part of a request for annual clearance (4 yearly at present). c. Bin for A38 layby. On order. Delivery date mid August.
11	General Finance, Admin & Training a. To consider/motion to approve payment of accounts made in the previous month. App1. b. To consider/approve payment of outstanding accounts this month 2025 incl. Clerk expenses. App1 c. To receive the latest bank reconciliation and quarterly report Q1. e. To receive Clerk monthly timesheet. f. Press and social media policy. Next steps, or adoption. To be distributed asap to Cllrs. g. To note that N Power (electricity suppliers for Stonnall Close) have updated the parish council contact details on their system for correspondence, but are unable to change the parish council username from the previous Clerks home BT email address without cancelling the parish council business account. Since correspondence is now directed to the correct email account, the Motion is to live with this situation.
12	Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda. Cllrs may use this opportunity to report minor matters of info not included elsewhere on the agenda i. Item for next agenda – War Memorial. ownership, maintenance, lease of land/ownership of verge, progress with valuation.
13. Date of next scheduled meeting: Wed 24th September 2025, 7.30pm Croome SOQ National Trust	

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

Mr S Bott	Lengthsman invoice June 2025 received 03/07/25	£306.65
Mr S Bott	Parish Hall Mowing June 2025 received 03/07/25	£60.00
Information Commissioner	Annual membership 2024 - 2025 Direct Debit Standing Order set up 2021.	£52.00
Npower (took over from EON)	Electricity bill for street lighting at Severn Stoke, Stonnall Close.	Awaiting invoice
Mr Phil Moore	Internal Audit 2024/2025.	£20.00
HMRC Shipley	EmployEE Income tax payment	£5.00
Mrs L Stevens	Expenses & HMA (£26) July 2025	£43.15
Mrs L Stevens	Clerk wage June paid in July 2025	
Bank account service charge	Lloyds Bank monthly fee taking automatically from account.	£4.25

Appendix 2 – The Government is ending support and funding for Neighbourhood Plans.

Communication from Worcestershire CALC.

Neighbourhood Plans have been a cornerstone of localism, empowering communities to shape the development and growth of their areas. These plans play a vital role in ensuring that development in an area reflects local priorities and character. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has announced that it will cease commissioning new neighbourhood planning support services for the period beyond March 2025. The withdrawal of funding and support services is disastrous news for Neighbourhood Plans. Without access to grants and expert guidance, many local councils will struggle to progress or initiate Neighbourhood Plans. To this end we have produced a pack that contains a briefing note, a template motion your council can debate and a template letter that the council or individual councillors can send to their local MP. We hope that you are able to support our efforts to ensure continued support for Neighbourhood Plans.

Draft Motion for Councils: Future of Neighbourhood Planning Support Services:

Resolution Calling on the Government to Provide Dedicated Funding for Neighbourhood Plans
[Insert name of Council] acknowledges that:

- 1) Neighbourhood planning empowers local communities to shape the development and growth of their areas through the creation of Neighbourhood Plans.
- 2) The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans requires significant time, expertise, and financial resources, often placing a burden on parish and town councils.
- 3) Neighbourhood Plans contribute to more democratic, locally-informed planning decisions and support the delivery of sustainable development aligned with community needs and aspirations.

Therefore it is Resolved to

1. Call upon His Majesty's Government to provide increased and sustained funding to support the development, review, and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans.
2. Request that the Government ensures funding is accessible to all communities, to promote inclusivity and fairness in the planning process.
3. Write to [local MP] and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government to communicate this resolution and advocate for enhanced support for neighbourhood planning