

**This month Severn Stoke and Croome d’Abitot Parish Council has sadly bid farewell to Parish Councillor and Chair Stephen Watkins, who is standing down after more than 30 years of exceptional service.** Born and bred in the parish, Stephen has represented residents in a dedicated, passionate and meticulous manner and the Parish Council would like to express its grateful appreciation. Stephen has been instrumental in helping to raise the profile of the parish and in making sure that a local perspective and local voices are properly considered in all things. Stephen will remain active in the parish in advisory roles concerning the flood bund and the parish hall – put simply, we cannot let his knowledge go to waste. Please join Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk in wishing Stephen all the best.

Congratulations to Councillor Larry Freeman who was duly elected as the new Chair of the Parish Council at the annual meeting in May, with Councillor Graham Seward as his deputy.



**The parish council will also be bidding a very reluctant farewell to Parish Councillor Paul Sturgess** who will be stepping down after moving away from the parish. Paul has been steadfast in his concerns about traffic and speeding and his determination helped secure new speed sign equipment for the parish - shared with his erstwhile community at Clifton. Parish Councillors and the Clerk wish Paul all the best in his new home.

As a result, after also saying farewell to Eileen Hadley earlier this spring and, with a previous existing vacancy, the parish council has 4 vacancies at present, two of which are available for immediate co-option. (Co-option is the process where volunteers are made a member of the parish council through the choice of the present members usually via an interview). Nationwide elections are scheduled in spring 2023, including for Severn Stoke and Croome d’Abitot parish. **As a result, we are presented with a unique opportunity for new parish councillor/s to come forward to be co-opted onto the parish council and to try out the role for a few months. These volunteers would then have the option to consider whether or not to stand for formal election in May next year. Why not give it a go!**

**Situation and timetable at date of publication of this notice:**

- 2 vacancies (E.Hadley and additional previous vacancy) available for co-option immediately. Interested parties should approach the parish clerk for a chat and a one-page application form. Eligibility criteria apply (incl. age, address/place of work).
- 2 vacancies (S.Watkins and P.Sturgess) will be advertised on parish noticeboards shortly, asking electors if they would like to fill these positions by holding a public election. If by the deadline of 25 days, fewer than 10 such come forward, these two positions will also be filled via co-option.

Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to discuss the above. **Lisa Stevens, 9 The Limes, Kempsey, WR5 3LG, 07950256363.** A number of leaflets are available if residents would like to know more about the role of parish councillor.

Public Notice: On behalf of Severn Stoke and Croome d’Abitot Parish Council, I confirm that the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights (inspection of end of year accounts upon appointment) are Monday 13 June 2022 to Friday 22 July 2022. Though in truth, residents are welcome to view the parish council accounts at any time outside these dates upon appointment. Parish Clerk.