

Severn Stoke and Croome D’Abitot Parish Council

Parish Council Elections

4th May 2023

Please put the date in your diary, ready to vote. Photo ID is required at polling stations. Deadline for nominations to stand as a candidate in these elections is 4th April 4pm at MHDC offices with completed paperwork. If seats for parish councillor remain vacant after 4th May 2023, the parish council can co-opt volunteers (who meet age and residency criteria) with little fuss and without the need to re-advertise the vacancy – ask the Clerk for more information and to get on the standby list just in case of a vacancy.

What does a parish lengthsman do?

The Lengthsman Scheme is an arrangement between the county council and the parish council by which the parish council is permitted to appoint (hire on a self-employed basis) a lengthsman – our lengthsman for Severn Stoke parish is also employed by Kempsey Parish Council, bringing benefits of shared equipment and local knowledge. Lengthsman carry out minor local highways jobs identified by the parish council. The parish council can claim money back from the county council for tasks that are ‘approved’. That means that while your parish councillors have control over the work schedule of the Lengthsman, they can set only set tasks that the on the County Council’s list. Residents cannot instruct the lengthsman directly, but can contact the parish council to ask or suggest that a job needs doing and that maybe the lengthsman could get involved (remember to include a photo if you can). It is best that the below list is checked first to see if the work might be possible:

Drainage: Clear gullies, headwalls, and outfalls; Advise landowners/frontagers when their ditches need cleaning (Nb. lengthsman are often not permitted to work with flood debris due to risk of contamination);

Vegetation Clearance: Remove vegetation obstructing signs and at junction visibility splays; Removal of basal tree growth from highway trees; Side out footways to normal width and spread arisings on verge where possible; Negotiate with frontagers for them to cut back overhanging vegetation.

Miscellaneous: Rotation and charging of mobile Vehicular Activated Signs (VAS); Clean dirty signs, reposition signs which have been knocked out of place; Snow clearance and gritting / salting by hand; Removal of illegal fly posting.

This list is not exhaustive but gives a good indication of the invaluable work that our lengthsman does for our parish. **In short, the Parish Lengthsman scheme is all about doing the little things that matter to communities** and gives parish councils the ability to prioritise according to local knowledge and resident requests. If you spot any work that might fit within the lengthsman remit, please report it to the Parish Clerk (severnstokeandcda@gmail.com) and we will gladly investigate.

Speed enforcement

West Mercia Police have agreed to formalise an increase in speed enforcement and as a consequence, camera teams have visited along the A38 through Kempsey and Severn Stoke and Clifton. Since 1/8/22 the Police Road Safety team have completed the following mobile enforcement activities; A38 Kempsey – 5 visits with 39 notices of prosecutions issued. A38 Clifton – 18 visits with a total 225 offences (notices of prosecutions issued). West Mercia Police Motorcycle support team have also carried out routine patrol in Severn Stoke, with 1 offence recorded. The parish council continues to ask for similar enforcement at Kinnersley and in the vicinity of Croome. The Vehicle Activated Speed sign has now been put up in Kinnersley – thank you to those volunteers that helped. This sign will be moved regularly around the parish.

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

NEXT MEETINGS: (1) Wed 10th May - Annual Meeting of Parish Council & formation of new council post 4th May elections. 7.30pm at SOQ meeting room Croome National Trust. (2) Annual Parish Meeting on Wed 24th May 2023, 7.30pm at St Denys' Church.

Lisa Stevens, Parish Council Clerk, T: 01905 820956 / 07950256363,
E: severnstokeandcda@gmail.com 9 The Limes, Kempsey, Worcs, WR5 3LG.
Website: <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish> Severn Stoke