

**Minutes of Annual Parishioner Meeting
Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30pm**

- Present:** Cllr Watkins (Chair), Cllr Preston (Deputy), Cllrs Faulkner, Halling, Seward and Williams. Cllr Allen. DCllrs Harrison and Michael.
- In Attendance:** Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO). Paul Jones, Environment Agency, Partnerships and Strategic Overview Advisor. Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Michelle Fullard (National Trust), John Henderson (St Denys' Church Warden), Richard and Laura Hill, representing the Parish Hall Committee. 10 other members of public.
- Apologies:** Cllrs Cox, Freeman, Garrard and Sturgess. 2 Parish Council vacancies. RM, P&PP. PCSO.

Annual Parishioner Meeting – 7.30pm

- 1 **Welcome and nomination of Chair.**
No nominations from public. S.Watkins chaired this resident meeting.
Standing orders remained suspended throughout meeting.
Those present offered a moments silence for the victims of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Internationally considered an act of aggression, the invasion has triggered Europe's largest refugee crisis since WWII.
- 2 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021**
Duly **approved**. Prp: GS. Scnd: RH.
- 3 **Paul Jones, Environment Agency (EA) update on progress with the flood bund.**
The meeting and EA presentation scheduled for 19th November 2021 with Harriet Baldwin MP and representatives of the local community to discuss the proposed scheme did not take place and a new date is awaited later this year. The archaeological evaluation of the area covered by the proposed embankment and highway realignment was carried out by Worcestershire Archaeology and found nothing of note. The business case for the entire scheme has been finalised. No compulsory purchase of the land will take place – NB the EA is only pursuing the right to build on the land. The design of the Ham Lane highway realignment has been finalised between Worcs County Council and EA and will maintain a route of access over the bund whilst allowing for a continuous flood embankment. Water held back by the finished bund will be redistributed across the existing flood plain without making sig. difference to the water table. Hedgerow removal and site clearance has commenced, with each aspect of the project (from sourcing and bringing material on site through to construction through to landscaping) now passing to separate contractors. The intention is for construction to begin this year, with the worse case scenario that the bund would not be completed until 2023. A method statement containing details of any highways closures/traffic lights on A38 and infrastructure operations such as wheel washing stations etc will be released shortly. WCC are waiting for costings for road control/closures from a contractor – 3 months notice is required in order to close a road. *The above summary covers responses to a number of public questions. Parish Cllrs thanked Mr Jones for attending. The Flood Action group had no additional information to add.*
- 4 **County Councillors' Report**
The final phase of the scheme to fully dual the A4440 Southern Link Road (SLR) from Junction 7 of the M5 to the Powick Roundabout (Phase 4) will be completed this year. This includes current work to the Ketch roundabout, which will be finished this summer. Work near Upton to construct a new 4-arm roundabout to replace the current A38/A4104 staggered crossroad junction is running ahead of schedule. A grant is now in place for siding out of the public footpath along the A38 between Severn Stoke and Clifton and this work will now proceed after much local and Cllr lobbying

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4. Continued

Additional poles to allow the VAS to be placed in Severn Stoke village have been erected and are now being used by the parish council. WCC are putting on an additional community bus services between Upton and Tewkesbury. Severn Stoke village has been included in this timetable and prearranged pick up will take place at the war memorial after Earls Croome pick up. Residents must phone to order this service. (Details on the leaflet - see end of these minutes). WCC has made a bid for £87million grant for bus service improvements – watch this space. 170 speeding offences have been recorded along the A38 in the past year. Birch Lane will be closed for surface dressing between 9th April and 3rd May 2022.

5

Report from DCllr David Harrison and DCllr John Michael

Summary of various planning and enforcement matters throughout the year, all of which were useful to the public present but which had already been noted at previous parish council meetings and so are not replicated here. Thanks to residents of the parish who donated items to help refugees from Ukraine. Police and PCSOs are now up to strength in the parish and will respond if residents phone 101 (police non-emergency). MHDC have launched a new grant initiative called Destination Zero. This is a five-year programme with funding of £100,000 earmarked for Community led projects across the MHDC area. It is aligned with Spacehive Crowd Funding. One project funded through this is an Electric Car and Electric Bike borrowing through the Malvern Hills Car Club. Residents can join the scheme by paying a monthly fee. Flood debris at the Hall will be collected by MHDC later this week.




Destination Zero Community Fund

- ✓ £100,000 fund
- ✓ We could pledge up to £10,000 towards your project
- ✓ **Create A Project** to be matched to this fund

6

Report from Severn Stoke Parish Hall Committee Richard Hill, incorporating information provided by the Parish Clerk.

Recent months have seen much debate at parish council as the future of the parish hall including all options for buying the site, extending the current lease or moving entirely to a new plot. The results of the resident survey conducted in Jan 2021 were summarised in Klinks and suggested that there is both a local and wider need for a community hall facility. The Parish Hall AGM in June 2021 had a good turn out and consensus at that meeting was that the hall should be retained in some format, ideally redeveloped and that facilities should not be moved to the church. It is the view of the management committee that if substantial investment is to be made in the hall, then options to seek to purchase the land should be explored in order to mitigate the risk that the tenancy could be withdrawn. The Hall Committee has approached the parish council asking if a Public Works Loan could be investigated. These loans are available to parish councils to borrow money from the Treasury for local projects. The loans are subject to low interest rates and are often repaid through levying an additional precept on the Council Tax of the Parish.

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6. Continued

The parish council is considering options and obtaining legal advice with regard to this land, which cannot be guaranteed not to flood even once the bund is completed. Meanwhile a development brief has been put together by the Hall Committee, which has been sent to Richard Timney at Community First. Community First specialises in providing high quality advice and support to community groups and organisations, to help them grow and meet the needs of the communities they serve. Next steps are to employ architects and move to a conceptual sketch looking at design and scale and costings. These can then be used to explore funding options and which can be presented to the public in order to gather opinion and support. Nb the current idea is to rebuild, including raising the floor level and tackling the failed foundations. Footprint of the building cannot be extended on the current site due to underground utilities.

The CCLr noted that once the Committee and Parish Council have a better idea of direction, they should approach him with regard to finance options. *The above summary covers responses to a number of public questions*

7 Report from St Deny’s Church, John Henderson, church warden.

The church continues to face many setbacks, including flooding earlier in the year, theft of lead from the roof in February 2022 and, storms further damaging the roof and letting rain in. Consents and funding are being sought to replace the roof with a non-lead material but it is not known whether permission will be forthcoming, in particular with English Heritage likely to raise an objection, as the section normally covered with lead is visible from all directions. Low level dehumidifiers are on at present. More effective, powerful equipment cannot be used as the electricity supply within the church needs updating. St Denys’ improvement proposals include a hope of modernising the church. The bund must be completed before this work would proceed and the church continues to explore whether there is the will in the parish to manage and contribute to such an operation.

8 Croome Court – National Trust update on Croome Court, Michelle Fullard, General Manager for South Worcs, including update on opening times obtained from the NT website.

The Parkland, Croome Court, RAF Museum, Church, Canteen, Shop and Play Areas are open at Croome. You no longer need to pre-book a ticket to visit Croome. At peak times, particularly at weekends, our car park may reach its full capacity. This will mean that we cannot accept any more visitors on to the site. The cafe and shop are open 10am-5pm daily. The ground floor of the house and the RAF museum are open everyday 11am-4pm. The Church will be open everyday from 10am-5.30pm. The shuttle service is available from the RAF visitor Centre to the house everyday 11am-4pm. A number of projects are occurring inside the House, including the restoration of the library and the return of original Robert Adam book cases from the V&A museum. This summer will see a Ted Deerhurst exhibition. ‘Lord Ted’ was son of George Coventry, 11th Earl of Coventry and was Britain’s first ever professional surfer. Ongoing works to control damp in the Temple Greenhouse and also to reinstate the weather vane which was damaged in recent storms.

9 Tarmac Update – provided by S. Watkins

Mineral extraction operations continue to be concentrated in phase C, south of Sheepcote Lane, where we have c. 1 year of remaining reserves. Consideration is being given as to how to restore this section given the scenario that the oil pipeline does not have to remain in place. Prospective drilling (summer 2021) 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, it was hoped to focus on addressing pre commencement conditions for the permitted extension east of the A38 – however it is now not at all certain that this expansion will go ahead due to cost.

Minutes of Annual Parishioner Meeting
Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30pm

10

West Mercia Police report

Our police officers and PCSO introduced themselves at the flood forum in the Rose and Crown Car park last month. We have welcomed PC 3879 Dee Stanley and PCSO 40422 Faye Allen- Carter, both of whom have moved from Pershore Safer Neighbourhood Team and will be operating as part of the Kempsey and Alfrick team. Over the past month or so, we as a team have been pushing the online tool, Neighbourhood Matters. This is a free service available to all and it is where West Mercia Police will provide community messages, crime prevention advice and details of community engagements. Residents can sign up to receive messages via this link <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>



11

Lengthsman report, Mr Simon Bott

Report on all activities in the past year, including work to obtain twice yearly the MHDC road sweeper for the parish and for Severn Stoke village, which regularly has blocked gullies and guttering. Many of the bollards in the parish look tired and he has managed to fix and maintain some of these. Ongoing problems with fly tipping of domestic rubbish, tyres and animal waste including cat litter and rabbit hutch litter. MHDC have photos of the car involved in dumping cat and rabbit litter and have passed the information to the police. Support for the Destination Zero grant scheme and also encouragement for 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. <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/adopt-a-street>



12

No additional comments or questions from the public.

Clerk asked residents if they would like to receive parish updates via email and asked anyone interested to leave their email address. Meeting closed.

Monthly Meeting of SS&CDA Parish Council – 8pm

- 1 **Attendance, Declarations and points of order.**
Attendance as previously listed.
To note one parish cllr vacancy. Position has been advertised (spring 2021 ref Breslin). This vacancy is available for immediate co-option, and interested parties can apply to the Clerk.
To note a second parish cllr vacancy upon the resignation of Eileen Hadley. Notice advising electors of the option for a public election, should the required number of electors request it, to be published shortly. IE. Position not available for immediate co-option.
- 2 **Minutes** – to consider the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 09/02/2022 and the extra ordinary planning meeting held on 09/03/2022. Duly **approved**. Prp: GS. Scnd: PP
- 3 **Planning** Clerk
a. **M/22/00177/FUL Associated Ref: M/22/00176/LB Rose And Crown, 25** Church Lane, Severn Stoke, WR8 9JQ. Installation of a galvanised spiral staircase to provide a safer alternative of escape. Repairs include the addition of a lead window drip on the 3 casements located on the front elevation and repair of an existing outbuilding and replacement of a timber shed for a metal counterpart. *Cllrs had no concerns by email and had no comments to make at the meeting.*
b. **M/22/00340/LB and M/22/00339/HP Christmas Cottage, 48** Kinnersley, WR8 9JR, application for a summer room extension. *Cllrs had no concerns by email and had no comments to make at the meeting.*
c. *Standing Item:* To consider and as required, arrange an extra ordinary meeting for planning applications received after publication of agenda.
i. **M/22/00319/LB Croome Court, Croome D'abitot, Severn Stoke.** Proposes to install cappings to open chimney flues at Croome Court. *Cllrs had no concerns by email and had no comments to make at the meeting.*
ii. **M/22/00134/CU. Dog exercise space, Kerswell Green.** *Cllrs had no concerns by email and had no comments to make at the meeting.*
iii. In ref to 50 Kinnersley, Cllrs noted that building of the new garages had already commenced 3 weeks ago, prior to planning permission being given. They have filled in the ditch, with a plastic pipe in it and put in the footings. *Cllrs had no comments to make, as the matter has already been reported to Enforcement.*
- 4 **Speed, parking & traffic concerns**
No additional points raised
- 5 **Highways, footpaths & community infrastructure**
Cllrs noted concerns about the number of very large and heavy vehicles that use Birch lane as a cut through to and from the A38 junction in the village. The lane is very narrow with no passing places which means if such vehicles do meet something coming the other way they either have to back up or pull onto the verge side which damages the environment. The lane is also heavily used by horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians. Cllrs **agreed** that additional signage might be appropriate and instructed the Clerk to forward the matter to WCC David Jew. Options include signs at either end of the Lane warning that it is narrow with no passing places or, preferably, a weight limit exclusion. Prp: GS. Scd: SW. Clerk

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- 6
- a. **Group/Committee updates**
- Future of Parish Hall - Motion to create a Parish Council Community Facilities Working Party to discuss and provide way forward with regard to Parish Hall and possible future additional/optional use of St Denys'. To include wider public agreement on membership, budget for stationery and postage and agree first meeting date.**
- Cllr Watkins noted that a Merchant Ventures meeting is planned on 5th 6th June 2022, at which land agent reps will be meeting with tenants looking to renew a number of leases. This would be an ideal opportunity for the parish council and hall committee to meet with the estate to discuss options. Cllr Watkins
- Preliminary soundings by S.Watkins suggest that the estate are looking to move the hall to another site and either sell the existing land to a third party or look to use the site for another purpose once the flood bund is completed. The land steward Ben knight has offered to meet with the Hall Committee and FLAG on 25/26th April 2022 as a preliminary meeting prior to June. Critical point to explore asap is ownership of the land and whether or not the lease needs to be extended. Clerk and Cllr Halling to attend the next Hall Committee meeting (30th March provisionally) to really discuss options in readiness for late April meeting with Estate. Clerk
Cllr
Halling
- Cllr to clarify the following before 30th March:
- Whether the parish council has powers to legally contribute to projects relating to the church (this would have bearing on whether the church could be considered as an alternative facility in the event of the hall being demolished). Clerk
 - Whether NALC and CALC (organising providing legal advice to the parish council) would support or condone the parish council obtaining an extension to lease of land that cannot be discounted from future flooding
 - As above but in reference to public loans.
- b. Cllr **approved** formation of a parish council Community Facility Working Party, membership of which is:
R Williams, G Seward, S Faulkner, L Freeman, S Watkins as a resident liaison member, 2 reps from the hall Clerk
£50 budget for postage and stationery.
Prp: SF. Scnd: PP.
It was proposed that this working party first meet in one months time.
- c. **Croome Liaison Group (31st March next meeting).**
Meeting is going ahead.
- d. **Croome Residents Liaison Group report (NT reps and local residents) (21st March).** Meeting proceeded but was not as well attended as meetings held in the afternoon. Future meetings will revert to afternoon sessions. Residents attended to raise concerns about parking facilities within the park, yellow lines and bollards at London Arch.
- 7
- a. **General Finance and Administration**
To consider/motion to approve payment of accounts made in the previous month Appendix 1. Prps: GS. Scnd: SW. Carried.
- b. To consider/motion to approve payment of outstanding accounts March 2022. Appendix 2. Prps: PP. Scnd: RH. Carried.
- c. To receive and approve the latest bank reconciliation.
Prps: GS. Scnd: PP. Carried.

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Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30pm**

- d. To approve signatures on the parish hall green bin direct debit, reducing the annual bill by £5.00.
Prps: PP. Scnd: RH. Carried.

8 **Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.**

- a. Clerk of Earls Croome had re-raised the issue of the dead tree's in the coppice we discussed before, top of Dunstall, Astons side of the road. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to mention to the land tenant possibly Roger Allard. Clerk

Next Parish Council meeting (Parish Council AGM)– Wednesday 25th May 2022, 7.30pm

Signed ChairmanDate

Appendix 1. Items already paid Feb/March 2022 since last PC meeting:

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

Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman Feb timesheet 2022	£272.00
Lisa Stevens	Bollard replacement parts (reflectors)	£26.00
Lisa Stevens	Thank you for Cllr Hadley after over 30 years parish service	£29.11

Appendix 2. Item for payment March 2022:

Westcotec Ltd	Additional VAS brackets for Severn Stoke and Kinnersley. Invoice 13265	£189.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [Feb 2022]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses March 2022. Including stationery, ink and paper in prep for annual audit	£23.67

COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE - CB2



New Service

between **Upton-upon-Severn and Tewkesbury**

Every Wednesday

leaving Tunnel Hill at 1000
via The Graftons, Upton High Street, Ryall, Earls Croome,
Severn Stoke, Baughton, Naunton, Uckinghall & Ripple

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**All journeys must be pre-booked.**

For more information, please call Community Action on  
**01684 892381**  
(9.00 – 3.30 (Mon-Thurs) and 9.00 – 12.30 Friday)

This is a 'Ring and Book' service operated by Community  
Action Malvern which is flexible to meet your local transport  
needs

|                                                                                                                                   |                      |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Upton-upon-Severn - Ryall - Earls Croome - Baughton</b>                                                                        |                      | <b>CB2</b>                    |
| <b>Naunton - Uckinghall - Ripple - Tewkesbury</b>                                                                                 |                      |                               |
| Operated by Community Action Malvern                                                                                              |                      | No service on other days      |
| <b>Wednesdays only</b>                                                                                                            |                      | <b>from 26th January 2022</b> |
| <b>Tunnel Hill, Upton-upon-Severn</b>                                                                                             | <b>1000*</b>         |                               |
| <b>The Graftons, Upton-upon-Severn</b>                                                                                            | <b>1005*</b>         |                               |
| <b>High Street, Upton-upon-Severn</b>                                                                                             | <b>1010*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Ryall (The Beeches)</b>                                                                                                        | <b>1015*</b>         |                               |
| <b>The Yorkshire Grey, Earls Croome</b>                                                                                           | <b>1020*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Earls Croom Village Hall</b>                                                                                                   | <b>1025*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Baughton village</b>                                                                                                           | <b>1030*</b>         |                               |
| <b>The Blue Bell, Ryall</b>                                                                                                       | <b>1035*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Naunton</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>1040*</b>         |                               |
| <b>A38 Naunton turn</b>                                                                                                           | <b>1045*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Uckinghall</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>1050*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Ripple</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>1055*</b>         |                               |
| <b>A38 Ripple turn</b>                                                                                                            | <b>1100*</b>         |                               |
| <b>Tewkesbury (outside Boots)</b>                                                                                                 | <b>1110 (approx)</b> |                               |
| <b>THE RETURN JOURNEY WILL LEAVE TEWKESBURY AT 1300</b>                                                                           |                      |                               |
| * The route is flexible and the exact times depend on route and no. of passengers boarding/alighting.                             |                      |                               |
| Note, therefore, that the bus may arrive in Tewkesbury earlier .                                                                  |                      |                               |
| <b>Please ring to book your journey . Pick-up time will be confirmed on booking</b>                                               |                      |                               |
| Bookings must be made by 12-30pm the previous day                                                                                 |                      |                               |
| <b>FARES:</b> Adults £8.00 return : Concessionary Bus Pass holders £4.00 return                                                   |                      |                               |
| <b>The booking line is 01684 892381</b>                                                                                           |                      |                               |
| It is open Monday to Thursday between 09-00 and 15-30 and on Fridays, 09-00 to 12-30 : There is an answerphone at all other times |                      |                               |