

Minutes of the Meeting of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

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

Wednesday 24th January 2024, 7.30pm At Croome Court SOQ meeting room

Parish Councillors Present:	Cllr Larry Freeman (Chair) Cllr Susan Faulkner (Deputy Chair) Cllr Royston Garrard Cllr Richard Hill Cllr Pat Preston Cllr Nicola Sumner Cllr Ray Williams	(rep for Croome parish ward) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward) (rep for Croome parish ward) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward) (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward)
Also in Attendance:	Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO). County Cllr Martin Allen. District Cllr John Michael. District Cllr David Harrison. M.F (National Trust). S.S (Lengthsman). 3 members of the public. 1 visitor from outside parish. <i>The meeting commenced at 7.30pm</i>	
Apologies:	J.H (St Denys'). P.J (Environment Agency). 2 residents	
Absent	Cllr Lee Russell	

1.	<p>Introduction, apologies and points of order There are currently 4 vacancies on this parish council, (1 in the Croome parish ward and 5 in the Severn Stoke parish ward). The quorum of this council is that 4 parish cllrs must be present for the meeting to proceed. Apologies as above duly accepted.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest. Councillor Freeman declared a non-pecuniary interest – he has become a member of the Committee for the Friends of Croome.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes <i>To receive and consider approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.</i> - 29th November 2023. 2 administrative amendments to front page. Duly approved and signed except for front page. Prps: SF. Scnd: PP.</p>	
4.	<p>Flood bund - Enviro Agency update available. Appendix 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions to be relayed to EA. 1) Concern that the EA is promising commencement of the build but upcoming quotes might still be over their threshold? 2) Archaeological survey has only been completed from the road to the pool and has to go all the way around the site. Is there a date for this? 3) Trees have been felled and piled at great cost but the arising trunks and logs have not been removed whilst the equipment was on site. The equipment will have to be re-hired, at more cost? - Report from St Denys': Church was flooded early this month, but thanks to volunteers available at very short notice, we managed the 'uplift' before the water entered. This was thanks to the timely warning from Stephen Watkins. The Insurance Company appointed Contractors are due to start the clear up and the drying out process is likely to take at least two months. When the correct ambient relative humidity has been regained, the contractors should restore the church furnishings to their proper places. Only then can the church re-open for services. - Report from Rose and Crown: We have weathered the worst floods in the history of our beloved pub, and we are immensely grateful for your unwavering support. Against all odds, our team has worked tirelessly to swiftly clean up and restore our establishment to its former glory. Despite the challenges, we reopened in just 11 days. We look forward to welcoming our customers back. - Councillors wished it to be recorded that the publicity that Andy at the Rose and Crown provided in working with the press has greatly helped and will greatly help the parish in keeping this project in everyone's mind and in focusing the attention of everyone involved. - Report from residents: Information is that water entered two homes and the garage of two others. One household self-evacuated without assistance. 	

Public open forum. *Standing Orders suspended. Residents provided with guideline notes on each seat prior to meeting commencement. Nil questions. Standing orders reinstated.*

Welcome and update from the **National Trust.**

- Changing Place Groundworks are up and running - slowed slightly by extreme temperatures for concrete pour. Hopefully it should all be installed by end of Jan, however opening may not be for a couple of weeks whilst staff all trained on the kit (in case of emergencies). DCllrs and Parish Cllrs will be invited to the official launch.
- Couple of days over Christmas where parking got difficult inspite of best efforts of the staff. Social media updates worked well asking the public to rearrange visits when the car park was full.
- Sewerage treatment plan options continue to be explored. Public consultation will take place shortly.
- Celebrations planned for the 200 year anniversary of the guidebook by the head gardener at Croome.
- Defford airfield heritage group will be working with Kempsey residents to commemorate D-Day.
- Parish council will be kept informed of the NT Woodland Management Plan and the Parkland Plan. The NT is looking at Biodiversity Net Gain for all planning applications.
- A farming and land use advisor is now in post for a local group of NT sites. Looking at linking up pockets of woodland, nature corridors and river catchments.
- While we have permission to use the paddock for additional parking we have not yet implemented any work to change the surface. We have appointed a project manager who is commissioning all the necessary surveys. Aiming for pre-app advice in May/June 2024, then internal approvals, before going to full planning permission this autumn/winter with works sometime in 2025.

Resident led discussion on Biodiversity and the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- Concern it appears to dive straight into the detail without fully appreciating the broader issues and specifying what we are recovering to.
- Biodiversity is very difficult to define. Document talks about much loved species which sometimes have low ecological value. Better index would incorporate Species richness or Species diversity in addition to Biodiversity.
- Sometimes preferable to consider creating new habitats rather than attempting to manage existing ones and giving rise to unintended circumstances.
- Funding is crucial – if initiatives are withdrawn then ecological benefits can be transitory.
- Encourage Gov to work is tenant farmers.
- Recruit a Biodiversity Champion as a new cllr as a way of filling existing vacancies.
- Invite Malvern Hills District Council Biodiversity Officer to next parish council meeting.

Resident concerns that public rights of way and footpaths are full of horse manure and that many rights of way are blocked or not in a good state. NB. Councillors debated later in meeting under planning.

5.	Co-option for unfilled vacancies x 4. Nil candidates stepped forward.	
6.	<p>Councillors' Reports <i>To discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</i></p> <p>County Council Martin Allen - report in Appendix 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question in relation to lengthsman scheme and its continued funding notwithstanding the £20million deficit this year. CCllr to represent to WCC that this scheme is vital to the parish. WCC will dip into £70million reserves next year in order to cover costs. <p>DCllr David Harrison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank you all for cards and best wishes. SWPR Review was submitted 27th September 2023 and inspectors have been allocated to examine this. 	

	<p>DCllr John Michael.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malvern Hills Trust Levy (Residents within the Malvern Hills District Council wards of Chase, Dyson Perrins, Malvern Link, Pickersleigh, Priory, Wells and West Malvern and the parishes of Colwall, Guarlford and Mathon pay a contribution towards the Malvern Hills Trust as part of their annual Council Tax bill), is working towards an amalgamation of all relevant acts of parliament by 27th November 2024. - MHDC are in a reasonably secure financial position and has no debts and has reserves. Likely to be a 5% increase in council tax this coming year for Band D. - 2024 Ward Budgets will be £1,000 per district councillor. 	
7.	<p>2024/2025 Budget</p> <p><i>Standing Orders relaxed to allow public input.</i> No input provided by public upon invitation. DCllrs advised that it is wise to have a small increase each year and save for contingencies, than have an emergency budget and significantly rise precept all in one go. Some insurance companies no longer cover vandalism to street furniture and need to plan for this once the PC 3 year Insurance Long Term Undertaking ends in June 2024.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders reinstated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Motion 1: Proposal to retain unchanged the parish council precept at £9,870 in 2024/25. Or.... b. Motion 2: Proposal to increase the parish council precept by 2.5% in 2024/2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Parish Councillor Debate. Option might be to retain precept at current rate and carry any unexpected costs. Concern about managing risk. Recent bus shelter vandalism and damage to two bins in laybys were not budgeted for and may happen again. PCs needs to manage risk and plan for worst case scenarios. <p>Vote Motion 1. No change to precept. Proposer was found, but no seconder. Motion rejected.</p> <p>Vote Motion 2. 2.5% increase to precept. Prps: RG. Scnd: NS. 1 Abstention. Carried by majority vote. Clerk instructed to make submission to MHDC before deadline of 31st January 2024.</p>	
8.	<p>Planning and Enforcement</p> <p><i>To consider and resolve to respond to the following applications or enforcement matters. Parish councils are statutory consultees, have no powers to approve or reject planning applications and can submit 1 of 3 responses: No Objections, Support or Object, along with comments as nec.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. M/23/01526/LB. Associated Ref: M/23/01525/FUL Coventry Barn, Severn Stoke, Worcester, WR8 9JA. Conversion of existing barn into a single dwelling – retrospective application only. Motion to restate previous PC submission and note concerns from residents regarding high visibility of the site. Prps: RG. Scnd: RW. Duly Carried. b. M/23/01779/HP. Orchard House, Kinnersley, Severn Stoke, Worcester, WR8 9JR. Proposed enlarged orangery for Plot 4 and 5. Motion to comment on the basis that the site is not visible from the road and the amendment to a previous application is not a concern. However, Parish Councillors noted that there may remain a number of outstanding conditions attached to previous planning applications on the same site, which should be requested to be discharged first before progressing with new projects. Enforcement to be notified of concerns in relation to waste and materials stored on site and a possible building on site that has no permissions. 	

<p>8 con.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> <p>f.</p> <p>g.</p>	<p>Various scenarios for method of submitting discussed. Minutes reflect all parish council considerations and so concerns are therefore already visible for public inspection. Prps: RW. Scnd: LF. Duly Carried. <i>Note post meeting: Parish Council comments submitted via email must also be submitted via the MHDC planning portal.</i></p> <p>Public Consultation: Hereford Worcs Fire Service changes and reductions. Deadline 04/03/2024. https://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation/ Councillors Freeman has distributed a short summary of comments to all parish councillors. Debate relating to regional and concerns that are not covered by the proposals. Increase population, environmental concerns, motorway accidents, current response times and how these might be affected by the proposals. Motion: Submission format is not easy to use and does not facilitate an overall parish council response. All Cllrs should inspect the proposals and make their own submission. Prps: LF. Scnd: PP. Duly Carried.</p> <p>Public Consultation: WCC Local Nature Recovery Strategy Issues and Options. Deadline 23/02/24. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lhrs. Motion: to use J.H resident suggestions for a drafted response. Clerk to submit. Prps: LF. Scnd: SF. Duly Carried.</p> <p>To discuss the parish council Biodiversity Policy and options for developing a range of small 'events' to inform, educate and help increase biodiversity increase. - Motion to adopted the Policy. Prps: PP. Scnd: NS. Duly Carried. - Further debate on level of Parish Council input on the matter of Biodiversity. - Focus on getting younger residents involved; advertise for resident members of a Working Party; invite residents to a parish meeting to present the topic of Biodiversity; Look at options for improving biodiversity on the flood bund site; set up meeting with NT in advance of public meeting. NB. No formal vote but general consensus in the positive.</p> <p>Resident correspondence: The footpath 566(C) Severn Stoke to Kinnersley deep ploughed and impassable to pedestrians. Motion: to write to Savills and ask for a prompt to tenant farmers to care for all rights of way. Acknowledged that at the moment it is difficult for farmers to access flooded land with extremely high-water table. Prps: LF. Scnd: PP. Duly Carried.</p> <p>Standing Item: To consider and as required, arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting for planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda. M/24/00030/HP Roseland, Clifton Worcester, WR8 9JF 23/01/24 <i>Councillors familiar with the location advised that this section will not be visible. Motion: Clerk to submit a comment of "Parish Councillors had no comments or objections to make and have not received any correspondence on this matter from other residents" after two weeks post meeting, to give Cllrs a chance to view for themselves and in the event that no further correspondence is indeed received. Prps: SF. Scnd: PP. Duly Carried.</i></p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p>	<p>Project updates - Discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p> <p>2024 D-Day celebrations - Attendance and progress from working party. Beacon lighting at 21.15 on 26th June 2024. Trying to broaden involvement, oncluding the Defford RAF museum. National Fish and Chips week, live entertainment and brass band.</p> <p>Damaged Litter Bin - A38 Clifton layby x 2. Insurance claim 4502877850 made, £125 excess. Quotation for replacement costs: £494.38, Glasdon EQ70097794, replace like for like. Order placed with Glasdon.</p>	

c. **Bus shelter** - Severn Stoke A38. Insurance claim 4502877889 made, £125 excess. Quotation for repair costs: £188.23, Glasdon EQ70097798. Order placed with Glasdon.

d. **Defibrillator** - DHSC offer of grant match funding for £750 has been received towards a Fully Automatic Defibrillator MindrayC1A and External Heated Cabinet with Keypad lock. Project spec agreed with equipment host: publican at the Rose and Crown:

- Match funding (MF) for defib equipment for £750, with outstanding cost being £750 payable by the PC. In addition to MF, the parish council had received a donation of £500 from the County Councillor Martin Allen and has also been promised a donation of £100 from local residents. The total cost to the parish for this equipment is therefore only £150, which the parish council will cover in the form of a donation to the project. All of these payments take the form of charitable donations to London Hearts and so VAT is not payable. The parish council will take management of all donations and ensure that the invoice is paid in full.
- The parish council has agreed to donate under S137 to cover the costs of annual replacement of pads and sundries (as arising: face masks, shaving equipment, glow stick, torch and batteries and a high vis jacket) and the cost of an initial training session if a charge arises for that. If the parish council is to order any such of the above, one month advance notice is required for approval of invoices at full council.
- The publican at the Rose and Crown has agreed that the pub will host the cabinet and defib on an external wall and provide an electricity supply, for which the parish council will not be billed (similar equipment at other parish councils suggests only £10 pa in electricity). All installation costs will be covered by the pub. Should the pub change hands in any respect, full communication will take place to ensure that the defibrillator can continue to be hosted by pub and maintained by the brewery/publican concerned. Monthly checks and the logging of these checks on the Circuit website will take place by the publican.
- Unhindered access to members of the public at all times (except in cases of flood!). It will be prudent to include the equipment in the parish flood action plan and state that the defibrillator will be registered as out of action when the pub is not accessible due to flood water. This is possible via the online Circuit website for which all parties shall have the passcode.
- The cabinet and defib will not be covered under the parish council insurance policy and will not be entered onto the parish council list of assets. The parish council will not undertake to replace the defib and cabinet in the event of theft or damage. The parish council will not be responsible for maintenance of the defib or cabinet - only for sundries as listed above as a donation under S137 Power to provide things not otherwise authorised for the benefit of some or all of its parishioners and to cover visitors to the parish.

Motion: accept match funding. Prps: RH. Scnd: RW

Motion: accept WCC £500 grant and allocate towards Defib. Prps: PP. Scnd: RW.
Both duly **Carried**.

Councillors expressed their sincere thanks to all involved: Andy at the Rose and Crown for making the initial approach to the parish council in respect of the project and for offering to host without reservations, Residents for their financial donations planned, Martin Allen County Councillor for his offer of a grant from his divisional fund.

e. **Stonnall street light columns** - Works advised by KIWA not relating to public safety. Awaiting advice on contractors from Street Lighting Environmental Services at County Hall. Reminder of Nov 2023 email sent. KIWA cannot undertake the project. Likely that Prysmian will need to be approached if no other contractors can be suggested by County Hall. Councillors were happy for Prysmian to be contacted.

f. **Knight's Hill Resident parking problems.** District Ward Funding Grant application for £250 progressed for additional signage to remind residents and visitors of the turning space and access to driveways. Grant should be received in February. Discussion will then take place with residents.

g. **VAS updates (speed signs)** - Smart water applied to all VAS owned by PC. Vandalism at Kinnersley location has meant that this location will not be used for the time being. An application has been made to the Police Crime Comm Safer Roads Grant for additional VAS – same spec as Kinnersley’.

10.	<p>Parish Hall - <i>To discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice</i> Demolition proceeded 27th Nov 2023. Thank you to hall committee for organising and successfully carrying through. A couple of legal firms specialising in Charity Law have been sourced. Committee members have been asked to review the constitution and provide feedback by 12th Feb on areas of concern/areas to be clarified and any specific questions to raise with the solicitor. Committee will consolidate feedback and will then proceed to consult with the solicitor as soon as practicable. Committee members are agreeable that the PC has agreed to contribute to the cost of solicitor fees.</p> <p>Councillors noted concerns that the material stored on site for the flood bund is preventing the flood water from draining away fully from the hall site. Clerk to relay to EA. Lengthsman is clearing up remaining debris slowly but surely, with thanks.</p> <p>Planning for meeting with Savills ref future purpose of parish hall site – hold off until constitution is clarified and until further is known about PC requirements/aims/suggestions with regard to Biodiversity.</p> <p>Confirmation of removal of fencing on site. Heras fencing has been taken down but not removed from site, as ground is still too wet. Residential access (acquired rights) to gardens has been reinstated.</p> <p>Hedgerow removal on site – EA works to prevent bird nesting in advance of ham lane works and bund construction. Ecologist’s view is that EA had permission to remove the hedge as part of the planning permission and Ecological survey. No further action required.</p>	
11.	<p>Group/Committee/Other project updates <i>Along with the Motions on this agenda, to discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice</i></p> <p>Lengthsman</p> <p>a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tidy up has been conducted round War Memorial. Thank you. - Hedge tidied back at Clifton. Thank you. Hedge along A38 Severn Stoke is overgrown and has brambles and so residents are correct in asking for it to be cut. EA has agreed to assist with this. - Two bins (not green waste) are due to be collected from hall site by MHDC. New Administration and Amenities Manager at MHDC James Marshall: complementary reviews and grateful for assistance to the parish so far. - Continuation of grass cutting on parish hall site. Quotation per occasion is £48, plus £20 one off payment for the year for fuel and transportation of arisings from effect 1st April 24. Motion: accept quotation: Prps: RG. Scnd: SF. Duly Carried. - Motion with immediate effect (24.01.24) for an additional two hours a month payable on the lengthsman timesheet for assistance in moving the VAS AND all Lengthsman hours payable at £19.00 per hour (increase from £17.50) AND all mileage at 0.45p for lengthsman duties. Prps: LF. Scnd: SF. Duly Carried. <p>b. St Denys’ Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raffle draw: Sold 1255 raffle tickets. Profit £1183. Thank you from St Denys’ for all that supported this event. <p>c. Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kyle Gordon confirmed as next Chief Constable for West Mercia Police. - Note completion of quarterly police contract (focus on speeding & vandalism street furniture). 	

<p>12.</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> <p>f.</p>	<p>General Finance and Admin <i>Along with Motions on this agenda, to discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice</i></p> <p>To consider/approve payment of accounts made in the previous month. Including DHarrison bulb invoice £500 App 1. Duly approved. Prps: LF. Scnd: RH.</p> <p>To consider/approve payment of outstanding accounts. App 2. Duly approved. Prps: PP Scnd: SF.</p> <p>To consider/approve the latest bank reconciliation. Approved. Prps: LF. Scnd: NS.</p> <p>PARISH COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FOR CHURCHES. Levelling Up Bill is an amendment to the 1894 Act to allow other subsequent Acts to allow money to be spent. E.g., the 1957 Act will now allow the Council to spend money on church clocks and churchyard maintenance. Motion i. Amend S137 policy to be used as a general grants policy through which all grant applications are managed. Prps: RW. Scnd: NS. Duly Carried. Motion ii. Grant limit: £500 per application as a suggestion. No proposer or seconder. Motion declined. Funds and existing commitments do not allow this threshold at this present time. Motion iii. Grant limit: £150 per application. Prps: RG. Scnd RH. Duly Carried. <i>The Clerk notes: VAT was not discussed at this meeting but the parish council cannot commission projects second hand and claim back VAT.</i> Motion iv. Existing room hire arrangements with the church (£500 pa) will need to be renegotiated for April 2024 onwards. Agreement, no formal vote.</p> <p>Parish Council website and logo. Motion to approve proceeding with .gov. website and consent for quotes. Prps: RG. Scnd: RH. Duly Carried. Motion to approve proceeding with .gov email accounts for each councillor and consent for quotes. Eg parishcouncilwebsites (aka NetWise) provide 12 email accounts with 10GB storage for each mailbox for £312 pa. Prps: PP. Scnd: SF. Duly Carried.</p> <p>Progress with logo. Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust as an example logo. Deferred until next meeting due to time.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.</p> <p>i. 20/12/23. Resident correspondence: Chicken manure in fields at Severn Stoke. Public nuisance.</p> <p>ii. Nov, Dec & Jan: Resident correspondence: overgrown hedge under care of Environment Agency</p> <p>iii. Councillor Training Jan 16th 2024, 18:30, Zoom. (Cllr Freeman, Garrard and Hill)</p> <p>iv. 16/01/24. Local Aggregate Assessment: Data up to 31 December 2022. Noted for info only.</p> <p>v. 10/01/24. Natural Networks Programme funding increased to encourage more wildlife-rich habitats</p> <p>vi. 30/11/23. Old Hills Footpath – Outstanding issue of regularisation of route. Matter has been in abeyance 21 years: WCC Public Rights of Way Team “not a priority, and a lack of funding.”</p> <p>vii. 09/01/2024. Fallen poplar toppled into River Severn. Reported to EA and they have taken responsibility. <i>Items for future agenda:</i></p> <p>viii. High Green phone box, maintenance/refurbishment of.</p> <p>ix. High Green phone box - electrical testing progress.</p> <p>x. High Green noticeboard – slab needs re-siting. Board needs replacing.</p> <p>xi. Mph roundels A38 Severn Bank. £300 (already allocated to the project) in reserve pending invoice.</p> <p>xii. Communication strategy and Vision, including Leaflet/poster for general parish.</p> <p>xiii. Exploration of parish council rebranding to ‘Local Community Council’.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

14. **Dates of next meeting:**

Please always double check meeting dates and times before attendance, as meetings may unavoidably change at short notice. Meetings venue unless otherwise stated: SOQ room, Croome National Trust Visitor Centre. Satnav: Near High Green, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW. What3 words location: ///alleyway.rescuer.perfect

- Wed March 20th 2024, 7.30pm, Croome SOQ meeting room. Councillor Freeman Apologies for this meeting. Sue happy to Chair. Clerk instructed to rebook SOQ room as church will be unavailable.

**Wed 20th March 2024, 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting of Residents
Parish Council meeting afterwards**

(St Denys' Church, booked) (Avoids easter holidays). Meeting of the parish electors organised by the Parish Council. Electors freely contribute to the agenda. Meeting celebrates local activities and debate s current issues. It is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. (Annual Parish Meetings must be held between 1st March and 1st June each year)

Wed 22nd May 2024, 7.30pm - Annual Meeting of Parish Council

(Croome SOQ meeting room booked) (Avoids half term). Appointments take place for: chairman, vice-chairman, committee members and reps to other bodies. The public are cordially invited to attend to observe proceedings. (Standing orders state: In a year which is not an (parish) election year, the annual meeting of a council shall be held on such day in May as the council may direct. In a year which is a year of ordinary elections of parish councillors, the annual meeting of a parish council shall be held on, or within fourteen days after, the day on which the councillors elected at that election take office"). First item: Election of chair and sign declarations of office. Retiring/previous Chair will be in attendance in order to preside over first item only, as necessary.

Wed 19th June, 7.30pm - Finance Committee with full parish council present. (Croome SOQ meeting room booked)
Annual audit accounts will be signed off at this meeting Residents may apply to inspect these once signed off by Cllrs.

Wed 17th July 2024, 7.30pm (Croome SOQ meeting room booked) (Avoids summer holidays)

Wed 25th September 2024, 7.30pm (Croome SOQ meeting room booked)

Wed 27th November 2024, 7.30pm (Croome SOQ meeting room booked)

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

#Clerk & RFO: Mrs Lisa Stevens, 9 The Limes, Kempsey, WR5 3LG.

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Appendix 1. Items already paid since last PC meeting:

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

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Appendix 2. Items for payment 2023 outstanding:

19/12/2023	Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman invoice Nov 23	Nov worksheet	£288.45
19/12/2023	KIWA Ltd	Inspection + report Lighting Columns Stonnall Close, S. Stoke	I1501000022428	£648.00
19/12/2023	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Chairman Expenses	expenses to chair	£58.00

Table appendix 2 continued

04/12/2023	Mrs Lisa Stevens reimbursement for Storage king invoice	Shredding of all remaining paperwork from parish hall upon demolition		£30.00
30/12/2023	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Clerk wage November 2023. declared to HMRC 20/12/2023	Month 9	£311.84
08/01/2024	Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman invoice Dec 23	Dec worksheet	£290.55
08/01/2024	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Ink Cartridges reimbursement	ST864686210	£26.39
09/01/2024	Scouts Kempsey 6th Worcester	Annual donation to entire scouting group	donation	£50.00
09/01/2024	SARA - Severn Area Rescue	Annual donation to flood search and rescue	donation	£50.00
tbc	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Expenses Jan 2024		£37.50
tbc	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Clerk wage December 2023. Declared to HMRC.	Month 10	£311.84
Invoice dated 1 st Nov. Received 20 th Jan 2024. Van Der Hills Nursery	D. Harrison	Kinnersley Daff Bulbs reimbursement		500.00

Appendix 3. Bund update received from The Environment Agency

We have two suppliers that we are in final discussions with. The procurement process has taken longer than originally anticipated due to the scope having to change because of all this wet weather – originally, we were hoping to have all material on site by the end of the winter, that is now looking very unlikely due to the wet weather/ground conditions, so the supplier is going to have to work with material being imported during the construction phase. This doesn't change things too much, but we do need to account for this with the supplier selection.

In the next week or so, or at least when ground conditions are dry enough you will see us in Severn Stoke carrying out a site walk over with the suppliers. We haven't done this yet because of the flooding but this hasn't slowed down the procurement process.

The site clearance and Great Crested Newt trapping is scheduled to recommence in February, when conditions are suitable to get back onto site. At this time, construction is anticipated to start in the spring. I will have a further update for you at the end of the month with final details of who is going to be building the scheme. Thank you for your support with the scheme, I appreciate that yourselves the residents of Severn Stoke and Andy at the Rose and Crown have been hit badly by this flood event.

Paul Jones B. Eng. (Hons), C.Eng., FICE.

Partnerships and Strategic Overview Advisor | West Midlands

Environment Agency, Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN REPORT TO SEVERN STOKE PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2024

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS ON DEMAND BUS

On Monday 08/01/2024, the bus service has started to charge and is now considered to be live. I am still waiting for leaflets showing the areas that the service cover. Tewkesbury is now a destination that residents can travel to. The last Community Bus will run week this week.

HEREFORD & WORCESTESHIRE FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATION

HWFS have put out a consultation to make changes and reductions to the service.

The consultation closes on 04/03/2024.

The fire stations that would lose a vehicle are: Wyre Forest, Hereford, Redditch, Droitwich, Leominster, Bromyard and of more concern to us, Worcester (reduction from 3 to 2) and Malvern (reducing from 2 to 1). <https://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation/>

COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

You may be aware that the boundary Commission have now propose no change in the Division of Croome.

They appear to be looking at a minor change in the Division of Trinity in Malvern.

This is good news for your residents, consistency is important.

DEFFORD MILL RE SITE VISIT 04.08.2023 COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

The signs have been ordered and should be installed before the end of April 2024. The cost is £1345.68 plus vat. As for planning enforcement, this is now in the hands of MHDC.

SIDING OUT OF FOOTWAY IN KINNERSLEY OPPOSITE THE ROYAL OAK #5650

As I reported last time, I have requested a small section of footway to be Sided out. The Parish Gang are going to do it. I am still waiting for a date when this work will be carried out.

SIDING OUT OF FOOTWAY IN SEVERN STOKE #6359 21/12/2023

I have requested a small section of footway to be Sided out. The Parish Gang are going to do it. I am still waiting for a date when this work will be carried out.

OLD HILLS FOOTPATH 21 YEARS, 30.05.2023

Earlier in the year 30.05.2023 I took this matter up with WCC Public Rights of Way Team by phone. The short answer is that it is not a priority, and they are not going to look at it at the moment due to a lack of personal and funding. I have requested that the Cllr in charge of this section, Head of Highways, Cllr Mike Rouse look into this. Interestingly, I have found out that a "good application" that is clear cut, still takes 10 years to complete!

ROAD OUTSIDE THE ROSE AND CROWN

I have asked for this road to be attended too; it needs repair. WCC have now committed to the work. It is planned for the 24/25 financial year (likely to be summer 2024) but we don't have an exact date as yet.

Signed **Chairman**

.....Date