

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Severn Stoke & Croome d’Abitot Parish Council Wednesday 25th September 2024, 7.30pm At Croome Court SOQ meeting room

Parish Councillors Present:	Cllr Susan Faulkner (Chair) Cllr Larry Freeman Cllr Royston Garrard Cllr Richard Hill	(rep for Severn Stoke parish ward), (rep for Croome parish ward), (rep for Croome parish ward), (rep for Severn Stoke parish ward).
Also in Attendance:	Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO). M.F (National Trust). O.B (National Trust). L.H (Village Hall Committee) S.B (Lengthsman). 3 members of the public.	<i>The meeting commenced at 7.34pm</i>
Apologies:	<p>Parish Cllrs Preston and Williams.</p> <p>Cllr Martin Allen – agreed to abstain from attending for one month to allow the PC to work through a backlog of projects. Thanks given. Back to normal next meeting.</p> <p>DCllrs John Michael and David Harrison – agreed to abstain from attending for one month to allow the PC to work through a backlog of projects. Thanks given. Back to normal next meeting.</p> <p>J.H (St. Denys’ rep). P.J (Environment Agency) was due to attend but did not show.</p>	

81/24	<p>Introduction, apologies and points of order</p> <p>a. There are currently 6 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. Nil candidates stepped forward for co-option to fill existing vacancies. Apologies were duly accepted. No new declarations of interest. No adjustments were requested to allow participation. Fire exits in new venue were clearly signposted.</p> <p>b. Minutes - <i>To receive and consider approval of the minutes of the previous E-O meeting.</i> 21st August 2024 Duly approved. Prps: RG. Scnd: RH. Carried.</p> <p>c. Thank you to outgoing parish cllr Nicki Sumner who has resigned due to working commitments. The vacancy has been duly advertised with no persons requesting an election as yet.</p>	
-------	---	--

82/24.	<p>Public open forum. <i>Standing Orders suspended. Residents provided with guideline notes on each seat prior to meeting commencement.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comment to be passed to district cllrs – concern that responses to planning applications have proven reactive rather than proactive. For example the new town planned at Norton/Worcester Parkway – planning is not sufficient forward thinking and the area will be left to cope with increased traffic, increased visitor numbers at Croome NT for example and increased pressure on services. Request for parish council and other local parish councils who will be similarly affected to push for the District and County to put a framework in place for this purpose. Clerk to research options for a parish plan and see whether this would usefully assist. - Can the parish magazine be placed in the phone box once renovated – Cllrs agreed. Reminder that the parish council publishes its contribution via the parish council website. 	
--------	--	--

83/24	<p>Flood bund No update received from the environment agency. Press report attached in Appendix 2.</p>	
84/24	<p>Councillor and Friends Reports</p> <p>a. County Cllr Martin Allen. Appendix 3 for report distributed to parish cllrs.</p> <p>b. National Trust. Appendix 4 for report distributed to parish cllrs.</p> <p>c. Lengthsman - Continues to help move VAS around the parish, which is time consuming but worthwhile to prevent the equipment from becoming stale. Lose slab at High Green noticeboard has been re-sited. Repairs to High Green village white gates are complete. Flytipping in multiple locations has been reported. Badge carcass reported. Broken zebra post at London Arch has been reported and subsequently repaired by Highways. Resurgence of rabbit litter dumped at Clifton. Signpost residents to MHDC litter picking scheme. War memorial grass cutting is underway in readiness for November. Cllrs requested that the hedge by the red phone box in High Green be cut back and also at the noticeboard in Clifton.</p> <p>d. Update on Clerk liaison with WCC regarding the lengthsman scheme: Concerns relate to the online invoice submission system, reasoning and uses of data collected by the county council, ability of the lengthsman to work under new (or existing but now enforced) constraints, regular imposition of new requirements and lack of consultation. Note for clarity: Membership of the lengthsman scheme is a 'power' not a 'duty' of the parish council. This scheme has been hosted by the County Council since 2002. - <i>Update:</i> Clerk reported that she has had a phone meeting with highways and T.Crake. Received reassurance that the increased data collection by the lengthsman scheme does not amount to increased scrutiny. Also reassurance that the lengthsman system is not cross referenced with the highways maintenance and flood reporting system. Also reassurance that there is no way immediate way for highways to cross-reference whether a drain flood incident is at a location that has recently been cleared by a lengthsman...and so there is no culpability trail or possibly of the parish council and clerk being held accountable in the event of an accident/incident/damage to people/property. The increased time it takes to complete the paperwork is not something that was covered. Clerk is content that the risk to the pc is minimal and would advise continued membership of the scheme. Motion: to continue membership of the lengthsman scheme. Prps RG. Scnd: LF. Carried.</p> <p>e. St Denys's church Committee – <i>report below distributed to parish cllrs for info.</i> I should be very grateful if you could give some publicity to the Church Insurer's decision not to continue to provide cover for Flooding, as it is no longer 'an unforeseen event'. This means that it will, be even more important for residents to assist by volunteering. It requires those who are fit and able to lift the pews out of floods way and move them during any following clean up operation, as well as undertaking the clean up of deposited silt. Please could any volunteer initially contact John Henderson Tel: 01905 371 218 to provide details of likely availability and preferred means of contact. Other information for the Meeting: The major repairs to the church building have been completed and CCTV coverage is to be installed.</p> <p>f. High Green VAS stats report. Backdated figures to be provided to the Clerk to be added to the minutes. 30th July to 31st Aug West to East: 17,940 vehicles with a top speed of 55mph at 8.30am. Same dates East to West: 10.053 vehicles with a top speed of 45mph. Cinema dates</p> <p>g. Tarmac - <i>report from last meeting for info.</i> Tarmac will be pursuing the extension side (A38 Sandford). This will be subject to further applications and with plans to use lorries to transport material across the main road. The number of lorries is not planned to increase along the A38 in the short term.</p>	<p>S.B</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Garrard</p>

<p>84/24 con</p>	<p>Tarmac report continued</p> <p>There is sig. archaeology on the extension side of A38 and Tarmac will be seeking a variation of planning in order to deal with this. The Restoration Scheme (already amended) will need to be revisited. The planned screening hedgerows at Sandford will not occur in the short term and not until the revision / planning applications have taken taken. PC will be part of the consultation. Original planting scheme to north of old quarry is being undertaken with consent of district biodiversity officers.</p> <p>h. Police. Cllrs to please decide on this quarters policing priorities. 1) speeding. 2) to note increase overnight activity, including camping at Ham Lane and at the Croome layby (between Croome and High Green).</p> <p>i. Clerk 'quick fire' update. Cllrs to take as read unless questions arise. Appendix 5.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>85/24</p>	<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 one of three responses: No Objections, Support or Object, along with comments as required.</i></p> <p>a. M/24/00913/FUL Update on Croome out of hours planning application - if or when the matter with go to NORTHERN area planning committee at MHDC. No update available. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to check whether Highways would commission and install traffic monitoring tubes down Rebecca Road as part of a future NT traffic plan.</p> <p>b. Standing Item: <i>To consider and resolve to respond, or, as required, arrange an extra-ordinary parish council meeting for <u>planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda.</u></i> Nil items.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>86/24</p>	<p>Parish Hall Maintenance and future use of site.</p> <p>a. See appendix 6 for update provided by the Hall Committee</p> <p>b. Motion: to proceed with formal resident consultation on future use. Parish Council suggestions for a wild flower garden with planting and seating have been turned down by Savills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllrs agreed that the land use and purpose of the site should be seen as entirely separate from the existing hall charity. PC continues to have liability for the land even though it is empty. - The Clerk was instructed to draft a consultation document as a starter for ten. Consultation should not be combined with any future consultation by the Hall Committee as to charity purpose. <p>c. Motion: Timetable for Hall Committee to clarify charity purpose so that parish council can set 5 year budget for ongoing annual lease of land from Savills and plan for pursuing option to cancel lease in the event of timetable expiring. Next date for negotiating lease is 2028. Lease expires in 2033. Hall committee are attending charity law training 24th October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllrs noted that the audit process requires the land to have an acknowledged purpose by June 2025 and so consultation with residents should proceed asap. - Question: would the landlords explore extending the lease beyond 2033/widening the permitted purposes of the land, if we have a letter from auditor requiring purpose and public value for money? - Proceed on the basis that a way forward must be established by June 2025. The rent for that period has been paid. <p>d. Note that heras fencing and concrete feet have been removed from the site – thanks given.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>87/24</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p>	<p>Knights Hill parking/access to driveways</p> <p>Motion: Proposal for sign content. Vote to approve without amendment of wording. Prps: RG. Scnd: LF. Carried. Clerk instructed to proceed with purchase. Location 1 – telegraph pole in top culdesac. Location 2 – fence attachment lower culdesac. Verbal agreement from both residents.</p> <p>CLLrs accepted that the price shown below is subject to change, dependant on exact fixtures and fittings required for each location. Clerk instructed to proceed within grant budget.</p> <div data-bbox="544 488 1141 925" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="264 972 627 1211" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Aluminium signs, £65.38, Price per item-incl. VAT. Fixing via pole attachment. Material: Anodized or white lacquered Aluminium. Thickness: 1,5 mm, Minimum Size: 70 x 30 mm, Maximum Size: 2000 x 1200 mm, Production Method: Digital Printing + UV-laminate, Options: Reflective, Double-sided (Gobond) Lifetime (outdoors): 7-10 years, Fixings: Screw, Standoff, Adhesive Tape, Flag Attachment, Pole Attachment</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>88/24</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p>	<p>Overgrown verge Birch Lane/Stonnall Close visibility splay</p> <p>Motion: Write to Savills to clarify ownership and ask them to maintain the verge. Prps: RG. Scnd: LF. Carried.</p> <p>Motion: instruct lengthsman to inspect and advise in the meantime. Prps: SF. Scnd: RH. Carried.</p> <p>Motion: Explore option to place a parish council owned grit bin at this location. Proposal was amended to ask WCC first for the go ahead and then proceed with purchase if WCC are happy and Savills consent. Clerk also to ask Tarmac if they will sponsor before allocating a budget to this project. Prps: LF. Scnd: RG. Carried.</p> <p>CLLrs may consider the necessity of slabs under the grit bin if advised so by WCC.</p> <p>Info from Highways: The cost of a green grit bin is £284.71+ VAT and includes the cost of the bin, delivery and one fill of salt. For a bin to be sited on the Highway, the assessment criteria has been updated with a more community based approach: • You will need to provide the name of a person(s) responsible for the bin and provide proof of your public liability insurance • You will be required to enter into a formal agreement in order to acquire a green grit bin. • You will be responsible for future maintenance and restocking of these bins from your own salt stocks If the bin can be sited off the public highway (ie on private land) then no assessment is required. You are welcome to source your own bin from any supplier, if it is sited off the public highway. One tonne bags of salt are available from us at a cost of £127.27+ VAT per bag, (delivered) or you can of course source your own supplies.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

89/24	<p>Upton Library.</p> <p>a. Motion: The library committee has asked for a donation of up to £500 to help stave off closure threat. Clerk advises inclusion in calculation for 24/25 precept and begin an annual donation of £250. This motion did not find a proposer or seconder. The Clerk was instructed to ask again for more statistics and information on how our residents use this facility before the PC can consider a one off/regular commitment.</p>	Clerk
90/24.	<p>Parish Council website and .gov email address and development of use of social media.</p> <p>a. Parish Cllrs attended an online presentation 19th September. The following Approved Registrars presented. Alchemy, Albany Computer Services and WJP Software Ltd (Active Council) Alchemy and Active Council are Office 365 packages and Albany use a bespoke system. The first year start up costs for Domain name and E Mail were very similar Alchemy £312 inc VAT, Active Council £326 Inc VAT and Albany £328 (not VAT applicable) but all have varying annual costs for Domain name renewal ,hosting costs , maintenance cost software subscription etc (note costs include £100 +VAT CDDO Discount) From investigation Website design and build costs can vary greatly however Active Council also offer a website template which is used by a number of Parish Councils. This was demonstrated in their presentation and had an initial discounted cost of £455 +VAT and an annual maintenance cost of £274 +VAT.</p> <p>b. Cllrs agreed that a gradual phasing of new domain, official email accounts and a website is appropriate and will assist with budgeting. Domain and emails first and website in 2025, before the deadline of June 2025. Councillors also felt there was benefit in using office 365 based system in terms of security, secure shared storage and flexibility to feed into our new website.</p> <p>c. Motion: to choose one company as a result of that presentation. Justification, parameters and costs will be presented at this meeting and will feed into budget and precept calculation for 24/25. Proposal to select 'Active Council': requesting emails and domains in 2024 and website in 2025. Prps: RG. Scnd: RH. Carried.</p> <p>d. Motion: to explore purchase of video conferencing and microphone recording. The Clerk was instructed to seek advice on options and suitable equipment from WCALC. Pc will need to test suitability in the church and SOQ. SOQ has good wifi/full fibre already.</p> <p>e. Social media dairy/timetable. Cllr Faulkner talked everyone through the social media diary. Cllrs accepted the proposals without amendment.</p>	Cllr Hill Clerk Cllr Faulkner
91/24	<p>General Finance and Admin</p> <p>a. VAS grant suggestion: debate on option to purchase additional 30mph wheelie bin stickers for residents with remainder of grant. Motion if Cllrs require. In light of recent resident home made options. Motion to purchase within remaining grant budget. Prps: LF. Scnd: RH: Carried. Stickers would just be made available to anyone that requests them.</p> <p>b. To consider/motion to approve payment of accounts made in the previous month. App 1. Prps: LF. Scnd: RH. Carried.</p> <p>c. To consider/ to approve payment of outstanding accounts this month 2024. App 1. Prps: LF. Scnd: RH. Carried.</p> <p>d. To receive the latest bank reconciliation. Prps: RG. Scnd: LF. Carried.</p> <p>e. Duty to prevent bullying/harassment/sexual harassment. Adoption of policy drafted by Clerk this spring. Signature by all Cllrs to confirm that they have read this policy. Copy of document available at all parish council meeting and summary poster with WCALC contact details displayed on meeting noticeboard. Motion to adopt: Prps: LF. Scnd: RG. Carried.</p>	Clerk Clerk

f.	<p>Nb. From October 2024 Councils could face a surcharge of 25% on top of any compensation awarded to an Employee who successfully makes a claim of Sexual Harassment at an Employment Tribunal, if a Council cannot demonstrate how they have complied with the new rules. However those Council's that have taken all 'reasonable steps' to implement workable procedures will have a defence against claims at the Tribunal for Sexual Harassment, under s109 of the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p><i>Agenda republished 19/09/2024. Motion to retrospectively approve replacement of light unit at Stonnall Close. To Supply and install new painted 5m steel column c/w suitable LED lantern and back shield + removal and disposal of existing column - £1555.90. This work has been advised as crucial by Prysmian. Prps: LF. Scnd: RG. Carried.</i></p>	Clerk
92/24.	<p>Advert - Volunteer opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Denys' Church Committee has various vacancies. - Leaflet delivery volunteers wanted across the parish. - Biodiversity parish champion. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Please contact the parish clerk for more information</i></p>	
93/24. a. b.	<p>Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda</p> <p>Cllrs may use this opportunity to report minor matters of info not included elsewhere on the agenda:</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC - Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Save the Date - 26 September 2024</p> <p>Next agenda: seek quotes for phone box maintenance and incorporate into annual budgeting.</p>	Clerk
94/24	<p>Dates of next meeting</p> <p>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</p> <p>Wed 29th November, 7.30pm – (SOQ booked)</p>	

Signed ChairmanDate

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.
Tel: 01905 820956 / 07950256363 severnstokeandcda@gmail.com

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/>

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

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

This document is available via the website above, searching 'S' for Severn Stoke and then selecting 'publications'.

Appendix 1a and 1b. Items already paid August 2024 since last PC meeting and September 2024:

(IN some cases, approved under previous agenda or required payment under contract monthly)

Aug, Q2 HMRC period 5	22/08/2024	Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman invoice July 2024. Claimed from WCC 22/08/24	July worksheet	£370.80	VAT £0.00
	22/08/2024	Mr Simon Bott	Parish Hall Mowing July 2024	SB0460	£90.00	VAT £0.00
		David Harrison	Poppy wreath reimbursement	Invoice received 23/09	£20.00	VAT £0.00
	12/08/2024	HMRC Shipley	Monthly income tax payment. Clerk reimbursed parish council manually on 22/08/2024	HMRC	£4.20	VAT £0.00
	22/08/2024	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Expenses and mileage August 2024 ONLY. £30 monthly HWA for August paid in September.	Expenses sheet	£49.09	VAT £0.00
	28/08/2024	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Clerk wage July (paid one month in arrears). New payrise effective April 2024 is £303.12 per month via standing order. Home working allowance now paid as part of expenses manually.	Month 5	£303.12	VAT £0.00
Sept, Q2 HMRC period 6	20/09/2024	Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman invoice Aug 2024	Aug worksheet	£372.15	VAT £0.00
	20/09/2024	Mr Simon Bott	Parish Hall Mowing Aug 2024	SB0467	£45.00	VAT £0.00
	22/08/2024	Society of Merchant Venturers as Endowment Trustee for St Monica Trust	c/o Savills (UK) Ltd. Ref 55299 Parish Hall lease.	938800	£453.60	VAT £75.60
		Kempsey Parish Council	Room booking for August extra O meeting. Youth Centre on Wednesday 21 August 6.30-10.00pm. £12.50 per hour	597	£43.75	VAT £0.00
	20/08/2024	HMRC Shipley	Monthly income tax payment. Clerk reimbursed parish council manually.	HMRC	£4.20	VAT £0.00
	20/08/2024	Mrs Lisa Stevens	HWA & Expenses Sept 2024. Includes £30 monthly HWA for Aug AND Sept.	Expenses sheet	£86.49	VAT £0.00
		Mrs Lisa Stevens	Clerk wage August (paid one month in arrears). New payrise effective April 2024 is £303.12 per month via standing order. Home working allowance now paid as part of expenses manually.	Month 6	£303.12	VAT £0.00
		Mrs Lisa Stevens	Lanyards for Cllrs, brown envelopes.	Receipts	£24.33	VAT £0.00
		National Trust	Hire of the S.O.Q Building . Clerk to pay by card and to be reimbursed.	Invoice dates 21st August 2024	240.00	VAT £0.00

Appendix 2 - MP Repeats Backing for Severn Stoke Flood Scheme

West Worcs MP Dame Harriett Baldwin has called for renewed efforts to deliver a permanent flood protection scheme for Severn Stoke. Dame Harriett met with the chief executive of the Environment Agency to repeat her support for the scheme, and she was briefed on a plan which should see the scheme built next Spring. The MP formally asked Worcestershire County Council to take over the project after the Environment Agency failed to find a contractor to carry out the project. The county council already has a contractor in place which will be used to raise the road through the new bund when it is built. The Environment Agency team has pledged to confirm the details of the project build next month with the intention of constructing the scheme early next year. Dame Harriett said: "The Severn Stoke project has had many false dawns but I am hopeful that this time, both the Environment Agency and Worcestershire County Council are aligned to get spades in the ground next year. "I had a constructive meeting with the chief executive of the Agency who took the time to update me on the challenges delivering both the schemes in Severn Stoke and Tenbury Wells. "Both schemes remain firmly on my list of priorities and I am looking forward to the Environment Agency's update on the Severn Stoke plan early in October. "Severn Stoke is inevitably going to flood again but I am confident that the relevant bodies are now motivated to work together to get the bund built next year." ENDS

Appendix 3 – County Councillors Martin Allen report

Good evening, I understand that you do not wish me to speak at this meeting, I fully understand your reason so you can catch up on your business. Please see my report below.

- #7436 DAMAGED FOOTBRIDGE ON FOOTWAY I understand this footbridge has now been repaired/replaced.
- WCC PLANNING COMMITTEE - Due to Cllr Neilson leaving the Independent and Green group and moving to Labour I have lost my place on the WCC planning committee. The committee is required to have political balance and therefore I could not remain.
- COUNTY COUNCIL VOTE FOR PAY INCREASE - At the last WCC council meeting, councillors voted for a 17% pay rise. I was on annual leave, and I did not attend the meeting. If I had, I do not believe I would have voted for such a large increase. The increase will come into effect after the May 2025 county council elections.
- ON DEMAND BUS - My usual reminder that the service is running and asking you to promote it.
- LIBRARY IN UPTON - In 2014 Upton Villages Together was formed as a charity to manage the library building, if the local parishes do not contribute to the charity, it may not be able to continue. I don't know how many Severn Stoke residents use the library, be it for books, or one of the many groups such as the mother/toddler group. Please consider if you can contribute, thank you.
- CORNER AT THE LONDON ARCH - As you know, the plan is to install grips either side of this area and hopefully it will stop some of the water that runs down as the gate is much lower than the road so this will always happen. We will also resurface and reshape the entrance which should stop the water holding as deep as it is now but WCC won't be able to completely stop the water going down there unless a Kerb line is installed along the front, or drainage is added, and this would be a rather large job for the benefit gained. The work is due to be carried out mid-October.
- COVENTRY CLOSE - There is an issue with water entering driveways of residents, they are concerned that when the road is resurfaced, the amount of water going from the highways to their land will increase. I understand that WCC intend to install Grips leading from the road to the ditch north of Coventry Close. The work is now scheduled for the 14th of October, but this date may change due to operational reasons.
- APRIL COTTAGE DRAINAGE PROBLEM - This is an ongoing problem which is going to be more complicated than first thought to resolve. Unfortunately, DJS have been out and surveyed the area as the gang could not find the pipe that was on the plan. They have now found that it is actually an old culvert which is 2m deep, which is a lot deeper than Ringway are allowed to work without trench support. As they didn't anticipate it being this deep, they will have to revisit the job with trench support to stop the sides potentially caving in whilst the lads are in the trench. Ringway won't be able to source the trench support by Saturday and the drainage team will need to revise the scheme drawings. confirm that the work has been programmed in for the 14th of October due to having to fit around the specialist contractors schedule.
- FOOTPATH WARDON TRAINING - County have replied to you re your request for Footpath Wardon Training. As they stated, currently they are unable to fill the position for a Training Officer.
- COUNTRY STYLE DOUBLE YELLOW LINES TO GO IN AT CROOME - WCC Officer, Dave Jew has authorised the yellow lines to go in outside and near Croome Court.

Appendix 3 - Cllr report continued

- THE BUND - This part of a report you have had from the EA: *After not being able to find an affordable contracting route over the winter that complies with the Government procurement rules, we are now exploring a contract with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and their contractor. It will take several months before we know if WCC's contractor can offer an affordable price to build the scheme. We expect to be able to report back to you towards the end of this year to confirm or otherwise if the cost is within our budget. It is then that we will be able to provide you with an initial programme for the work. I will let you know if I hear anything from WCC on this matter, although I expect the matter will be classed as commercial in confidence and I will not be allowed to pass on any information I receive.*
- STONNALL CLOSE, SEVERN STOKE DROPPED KERB - Some of you may be aware there is a dropped kerb request which is causing some concern to residents in Stonnall Close. I have gone over the heads of the Officers I normally deal with, and I have chased this up with senior officers in the Council. I have had this reply: *Good afternoon Martin, Further to the conversation we have just had, I can confirm that the application number for the vehicle dropped crossing is 5848 and the application was made on 28/07/2024. We will not refuse a dropped kerb on the basis of parking, as strictly speaking this is taking vehicles off the road. The type of vehicle being parked on the new driveway is irrelevant to WCC. The application has been put on hold for now as the resident has not parted with any money yet, however this will not be indefinite, and we currently have no reason to refuse the dropped crossing. County Highways Liaison Officer, Directorate of Economy and Infrastructure.* This is a standard policy throughout the County and not one I am able to challenge.

Cllr Martin Allen ends.

Appendix 4 – National Trust report

- Visitor figures as of week ending Sunday 22 September are almost exactly the same as last year year to date. Pre covid visitor numbers were 200,000. Post covid visitors are 250,000.
- We held 3 nights of outdoor cinema final numbers below. We had a banner made for the exit to remind visitors to drive carefully and obey speed limits. This looked ok, I hope, but will review if extra one needed or stronger message. Positive feedback on the event was received from residents.

The Greatest Showman	902
Grease	507
Pretty Woman	652

- We continue to plan for car park improvements and are looking to put in a pre-app for advice this autumn. For info, as residents had asked about it, EV charging points will be included. We were pleased to have one of our summer staff come to work on the Worcester on demand bus service and thank councillors for that. I have also met one of the Worcester Wheels drivers who has a regular client he drops nearby and then collects so he comes to us for a lunch break.
 - On Saturday 28 September we have a free entry day to mark the 10 Year Anniversary of the opening of the RAF Museum at Croome, Harriet Baldwin will attend.
 - We are planning for October half term at the moment with some plant themed Halloween activity and hope that the weather stays fair so the paddock can be used for parking as we needed the extra space many times over the summer holidays.
 - We have a unique light and sound installation, created by an art collective Leo & Hyde, in the Long Gallery in the house for 3 weeks in December this year from Friday 6 December to Sunday 22 December. It is inspired by the story of the Hortus Croomensis and the plants at Croome. It will be shown during permitted opening hours, but we will be open longer than normal at this time of year, to make the most of the festive season. We will use festoon lights down the buggy path so that visitors can continue to visit the house after 4pm. Last entry to the site will be 4.30pm (allowing an hour to go to the house, see the installation (15 mins run time) and leave) and we will close as permitted at 5.30pm. The reception, toilets, shop and café will also be open - closing at 5pm. We hope by encouraging people to start their visit to us after 2pm it will alleviate pre-lunch pressure on the car park.
 - We continue our dialogue with the Planning team regarding the live planning application for a variation to condition 16 and thank everyone for their feedback on the council website and for attending meetings.
- ends-

Appendix 5 - Parish Clerk quick fire update

- Prysman advising on replacement of light column Severn Stoke.
- Written to residents at Clifton regarding overgrown hedge along bus stop section.
- Correspondence with MP in reference to flood bund and concern over progress.
- Pursue Meeting: National Highways: disruption caused to A38 communities during M5 night closures. Ongoing.
- Responded MHDC regarding latest planning applications as per instructions at last meeting. Including M/24/00913/FUL Croome extended opening hours.
- Assisting residents/Savills regarding resident concerns with overgrown verges at Stonnall Close/Birch Lane.
- Resident request for a reduced speed limit at Croome to 30mph. Scoping request to Highways has suggested that any amendment to speed limit should wait until results of yellow line trial.
- RE write to new administration at Worcester City to stress concern about the planning permission for housing at the Ketch roundabout and concerns as to resident exposure to vehicle fumes and concern as to resident access to facilities and services (lack of).
- Liaised with WCC with regard to simplifying the lengthsman submission worksheets. Liaised with WCALC re process.
- Monthly magazine submission to Kempsey Times.
- Social media first go practices.
- NPPF consultation response.

Appendix 6 – Parish Hall update - 25th Sept 2025

Village Hall Charity Status

- Following legal advice received earlier in the year the Hall Committee is looking to change the charitable objectives. It has been agreed that the change to the charity will be to transform into some kind of trust to hold charity funds for a defined period of time, for example three years. The purpose of this is to enable time for a greater vision of the future to be realised in terms of a) flood prevention in the village, b) changes in government planning policy recently announced and going forward and how this might 'shape' the village in the future, and c) clarity on sources of funding, e.g. section 106 funding etc.
- Both the Charity Commission and members of the parish need to approve any change in charitable objectives. The Hall Committee are currently working on the details to enable this to happen and is hopeful that that approvals can be achieved within 6-12months. In response to the motion at 8.b. (PC Agenda 25/09/2024), while the Hall Committee will endeavour to manage its affairs within the timeline mentioned there is no certainty, so the PC is asked to bear this in mind when taking its decisions. The Hall Committee understands there is interest in how the charity will move forward and will continue to share progress as decisions are made.

Secretary, SSVH Management Committee

-end-