

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot held at 7.00pm at Severn Stoke Parish Hall on 13 May 2019**

DRAFT minutes. **Update 15/5/2020 – due to coronavirus outbreak, these minutes have yet to be approved by the parish council.**

**Present:** Cllr Stephen Watkins, Parish Councillor District Cllrs Harrison, Mrs L Gower (Clerk to the Parish Council), County Councillor Paul Middlebrough, Severn Stoke Parish Hall Chairman Roger Morrow, Mr Norman Snowball FLAG, Croome National Trust - Michael Smith and Katherine Alker and 16 members of the public.

**1 Welcome by Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council, Stephen Watkins.**

Cllr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the various speakers for attending this evening.

**2 Apologies for Absence** CSO Martin Butcher West Mercia Police. John Henderson.

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 May 2018.** The minutes of this meeting had been circulated (also available on parish council website pages at [Worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish](http://Worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish)) Approval of minutes was proposed by Mrs Keating Nash, seconded by Mrs Eileen Hadley, unanimously agreed.

**4 Report of County Councillor –County Councillor Paul Middlebrough**

Cllr Middlebrough gave an outline of the previous year with Worcestershire County Council. There was a £3 million overspend with 70% of the WCC funding being spent on vulnerable adults and children. Children's Services have improved following their "special measures" Ofsted report 2 years ago. They will soon be launching a new venture called Worcestershire Children First which will deal solely with vulnerable children. The cessation of some of the bus services came as a shock to all. There is hope for some changes as the policy on bus services in the rural community are not currently being met. This may be some form of community transport. The Library in Upton remains open with volunteers being used to support staff. Funding has been approved for the A3/A4104 function to have a round about at some point. The Flood Alleviation works at Upton have been finished recently.

**5 Report of District Councillors D Harrison & J Michael**

Cllr Harrison reported on the success of the fortnightly refuse collections and how well this seemed to be working. There has been a 10% reduction in black waste in the last year. All of the waste goes to the Hartlebury incinerator. This incinerator produces electricity and any waste product is used for tarmac.

District Council elections took place recently and Cllr Harrison and Cllr Michael were happy to be elected again. Following the elections there will be the possibility of Malvern Hills District Council being run by the Independent Councillors and there is no longer a Conservative majority.

Issues which Cllrs Harrison and Michael have assisted with over the last year continue to be Stonnall Close grass cutting, School House development and land drainage around Birch Lane. Residents are always welcome to contact us with anything they need assistance on.

**6 Report from Severn Stoke Parish Hall Committee – Roger Morrow Chairperson**

Mr Morrow gave a report as the acting Chair of Severn Stoke Parish Hall Committee, their AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 should anyone be interested in attending. The committee are currently ensuring that the hall safety, PAT testing, full electrical safety report etc are all up to date. The curtains on the stage are now working. Work going forward is being prioritised and stock take of kitchen, cleaning etc are all in hand. The bookings are good with the recent addition of the puppy training group and a watercolour course. The website is being updated. Mr Morrow gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Hanmer for being the Parish Council representative for a number of years. Clerk will ensure a replacement attends the meetings doing forward.

**7 Report from St Denys's Church by John Henderson circulated at meeting and read by Parish Clerk**

**The Parochial Church Council**

The PCC administers church business and is responsible to the Vicar, Revd Mark Badger. Church services are held every Sunday and weddings and funerals are conducted. The Parish Share for this Parish, rather like District Council Rates, is currently approximately £11,000 per annum, to meet Clergy Salaries and other expenses, pensions and housing and is met by the loyal congregation and other well-wishers. Further help and involvement is always welcome and the church is open daily between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. for peaceful reflection.

**St Denys' Church Improvement Proposals**

You will recall that in August 2015, an architectural survey was prepared and a sketch scheme was prepared for a toilet, kitchen, store, and ancillary works including installation of mains water, effluent drainage, heating, porch improvements and internal decoration. Following a public meeting in September 2017 instigated by The Friends of St Denys, it was agreed by a substantial majority that only the first phase, to provide a disabled toilet and modest kitchen, should proceed as soon as possible. This was to be dependent upon the scheme being flood resilient and that the further improvements envisaged in the full scheme should be deferred for the time being.

Last year, a scheme was submitted for Diocesan approval utilising a plastic loo pod, but the proposals submitted at no cost were rejected, with recommendations that a reduced floor area should be planned with architect's input. Last November, new Architects Messrs Poole Phillips & Associates of Pershore were appointed and the Plans, on display in the Church have been approved by the PCC and submitted to the Diocese. Tenders are awaited. Architect's fees for this preparatory work have been met by the Friends of St Denys at a cost to date of £5,343.60 including VAT. The Friends of St Denys currently have £15,500 available for the scheme. It is confidently expected

that this scheme will be approved by the Diocese, and that charitable grants will be forthcoming, but we must be ready to seek more funding, should this prove necessary, as there are unknowns, such as archaeological fees. The excavation for additional electric cabling, laying of the mains water pipe and provision the Trench Arch effluent disposal system has been offered by Envex Ltd of Severn Stoke free of charge, for which we are extremely grateful. The Friends plan to call a further Public Meeting, when costs of the Loo scheme are available to ensure that there is still a will and funds to proceed. The involvement of the community is vital to encourage a sense of belonging in this Parish and locality, with pride in our heritage to modernise our Parish Church building, which has been at the heart of the community for 800 years.

**Fund raising by the Friends of St Denys** The objects of The Friends are to raise funds to maintain, modernise and beautify St Denys' Church and to enhance community spirit in the locality. In addition to bearing the annual Church Insurance Premium and churchyard maintenance costs, to which the Parish Council also contributes, the Friends have met other substantial expenses, including the church electricity costs and repair of the Church Clock and Architect's fees. The committee has arranged fund raising events during the year including another open air Theatre Production in association with Worcestershire Cancer Aid on 27th July, 2019 which is being widely advertised. It is Noel Coward's comedy 'Private Lives' to be held in the grounds of Severn Bank House. Please book your tickets early to attract a big discount.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on the work of the Parochial Church Council and the Friends of St Denys in this community.

J B Henderson Churchwarden and Vice Chairman of the Friends of St Denys)

#### **8 Flood defence progress by Flood Action Group Norman Snowball**

Mr Snowball reported that another year has passed with progress being made. FLAG have met with the planners, an open meeting was held in February and discussions are underway with Severn Trent and Highways regarding land drainage and surface water. A full report is being prepared by BWB Consultants and this should be ready in approx. 4 weeks. The EA will compulsory purchase land and costs are all being considered regarding the parish hall car park, Ham Lane area. There is a lot going on.

#### **9 Croome Court – National Trust Update Michael Smith, Manager, Croome Court.**

Croome defined a programme of works in 2018 looking at infrastructure. This was lottery funded and currently a ground source floor heating system is taking place. There have been various exhibitions in the house and many more to come in the future months. The parkland is continuing to have restoration work done, electric car charging points hope to be added, a better base for disability provision and linking walks and extending visitor walks. There is still much wildlife with nightingales, otters returning to the river and visitor numbers are approximately 30% up on last year. If anyone has any issues or queries please feel free to raise them.

#### **10 Tarmac Report May 2019.** Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 13th May, but i can give you an update on the quarry progress for the last 12 months and going forward:

We have completed extraction of mineral in Phase A, the batter slopes have been restored and seeded in preparation to become the active silt lagoon in the near future, extraction of mineral has commenced in Phase B. The extraction of mineral in Phase B should be exhausted by the end of the year / 1st quarter of 2020. Production and Sales have been strong for the year and has continued into quarter 1. Restoration of the batter slopes in Phase B will be ongoing during the soil handling season.

There will be soil stripping and civil works ( ie oil pipeline and road crossing points ) being undertaken in Phase C this year in preparation for the extraction of mineral.

Regards Colin Stafford, Quarry Manager

#### **11. West Mercia Police Report**

The monthly crime figures I disseminate to all parishes in our monthly newsletter can be used to give the broad picture of crime in the parish. I have checked the figures, and the annual totals for Severn Stoke and Croome for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are:-

Anti-Social Behaviour 7 (4 relating to one incident) Burglary dwelling 0 Burglary non-dwelling 2 Theft 4

To update you on some other Safer Neighbourhood Team matters, this year we have had changes to the local management team:-

Our new Safer Neighbourhood Teams Police Inspector for Malvern Hills Policing Area is Inspector Tanya Beckett. And the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams Police Sergeant is Simon Hallam.

During the year special operations have been mounted to tackle rural acquisitive crime. They include Op FarmWatch in which 3 night-shift operations were undertaken in rural locations across the Malvern Hills area, staffed by Officers from Safer Neighbour Teams across the patch. These involved targeted patrols of hot-spot areas for rural burglary and theft, stop checks on routes that may be used by offenders travelling to commit rural crime, and reassurance visits and calls to rural burglary victims. Additional daytime targeted patrols have been performed across our rural areas to further deter and disrupt criminal activity.

Malvern Hills Safer Neighbourhood Teams are now able to call on the skills of a volunteer who is working with us to increase community engagement by posting Police messages on crime and security to our Neighbourhood Watch network and on social media.

We encourage parishioners who are comfortable with the internet to sign up to receive information updates on crimes in their local area using the Community Messaging Service (CMS). It's easy - just go online to our West Mercia Police website at [www.westmercia.police.uk/register](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/register); and follow the instructions to register and enter your preferences, so that you can receive up to date crime messages by email for the areas of interest to you.

Thank you and best regards, PCSO 40072 Martin Butcher Kempsey and Alfrick Safer Neighbourhoods Team  
Malvern Police Station email [martin.butcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:martin.butcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) Telephone 101 extn 67809

**12 Open Forum – Residents Question Time**

The Clerk gave a brief outline of other items addressed by the Parish Council during the year including. The new Parish Council commences tonight, with two new members joining, Nicki Cox from Kinnersley and Graham Steward from Severn Stoke, thanks to Hugh Hanmer who decided not to stand again and we thank him for his many years on the parish council. We continue our efforts to reduce speeding throughout our parish. We hope the white gates have some affect. Clifton is now having regular enforcement due to excessive speeding results, Severn Stoke is awaiting a new bike operator being trained. Unfortunately, the mobile speed flashing sign was stolen, it was insured and a new one of some description will be purchased at some point. The permanent one at High Green is now working well. We have been consulted on all planning applications within the parish from Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council and we continue to pursue MHDC where we think appropriate with properties such as The Lodge and The Old School House. We are responsible for the street lighting costs in Stonnall Close and Knights Hill and have switched provider to Eon recently due to Npower increasing their costs substantially. We have purchased two new litter bins for the layby at Clifton (prior to the mobile snack business, who are great at keeping the layby clean!). These will be installed shortly. Donations from the Parish Council this year include £1000 to Friends of St Denys towards the upkeep of the Church yard, £100 to Royal British Legion, £50 to St Richards Hospice in memory of Cllr Pam Addis. £1000 to FLAG. All agendas and minutes of our meetings are available on the "my parish" pages of the Worcestershire County Council website.

**The meeting closed at 19.50pm** Signed.....Chairman of Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council  
Date .....