

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Watkins (Chair), Cllr Preston (Deputy), Cllrs Cox, Faulkner, Freeman, Garrard, Hadley, Seward, Sturgess and Williams. CCllr Allen. DCllrs Harrison and Michael.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk and RFO).

Four members of the public (residency confirmed): M&JG, EH, MF.

Part 1 **Resident Question Time** – nil questions. Michelle Fullard (the new general manager for Croome National Trust) introduced herself. Estelle Hitchen (resident at Croome Court and member of Croome Heritage Community Trust) introduced herself.

Part 2 **Agenda Items**

1 **To consider apologies and to approve reasons for absence.**

Cllr Halling due to work commitments.

2 **Declarations of Interest, dispensations and points of order.**

All Cllrs have reviewed their declarations of interest as provided to MHDC. Cllrs noted the one parish cllr vacancy. Position has been advertised, with no interested parties.

3 **Minutes of previous meeting - Wed 5th May 2021**

Previously distributed and duly **approved**. Prps: LF. Scnd: EH.

4 **Councillors' Reports**

4a **County Cllr Allen**

- Updates and stats from WCC in respect of COVID 19 continue to be distributed by the Clerk.
- Welcome to new CCllr. CCllr Allen gave an update. 31 of 57 new County Cllrs are new and currently undertaking training. Due to this high percentage with minimal experience, County Hall has clamped down on member rules. All public concerns or reports requiring attention must now be submitted via the online 'report-it' service. If after 6/8 weeks of non-action, residents or the parish council can then contact their county cllr in order to chase.
- Worcs County Council is £74 million in the red and may not be able to immediately address local problems that are of low county priority.
- New secondary school to be built in Worcestershire. Location not yet known.
- Croome Arch – bollards previously placed to prevent dangerous parking cannot be concreted in due to safety concerns. Yellow lines will not be pursued due to lack of evidence and inability to enforce – CCllr Allen will monitor until early Sept and if can obtain agreement that there is an ongoing problem, the subsequent process for approval of yellow lines is 7 months.
- Stone Cottage drainage and ditch issues – Highways and Land Drainage Partnership officers have been in attendance on two occasions (plus previous attendance across five years), consider that the ditch is well maintained and will continue to monitor. Ultimately, the ditch is not the responsibility of the County Council as it is privately owned as part of the Croome estate.
- Flood bund continues to progress albeit slower than residents would like. Intention of County Hall is that construction will begin by Christmas.
- Application by parish council for a share in the county council flood relief grant has been turned down on the basis that the "hall committee has not committed to a rebuild". The Clerk noted that the parish council had not been formally notified of this and asked for confirmation in writing before informing the hall committee. Cllrs expressed dismay at this outcome. CCllr Allen advised the parish council that it can reapply for funding on behalf of elderly residents who need help with property repairs after flooding.
- The County Council has put through a motion to declare speeding a major problem in Worcestershire. If this comes to pass then this will place significant pressure on the Police Crime Commissioners to focus on the issue.
- CCllr Allen has a price list of all highways street furniture, which the parish council can request to see.

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm**

- 4b** *Standing orders were suspended at this point in the agenda to allow questions from the public. Prps: SW. Scnd: GS.*
- 1) EH – Ref the problem with parking at Croome Arch, visitors continue to park on the bend, leaving their vehicles blocking visibility and the road itself. Emergency vehicle access is required at all times. Previous bollards lasted a fortnight and the cost of reinstating them exactly the same as before is not a good use of public money. Could the area be designated as official parking? – thereby reducing the pressure on funds? Cllr Allen confirmed that official parking on a sharp bend is not permitted and is not an option.
 - 2) Cllrs questioned whether there is a confirmed accident risk on this bend? Also, whether the issue is more about drainage, verge damage and the need for joined up thinking with Croome estate and the National Trust. Cllr Allen confirmed that he will continue to chase with HD at Highways and asked to be included in the Croome Liaison Meetings. Cllr Allen
- 4c** **DCllrs David Harrison and John Michael**
- SWDP Review is ongoing. Revised timetable is as follows:
 - Publication Consultation (Regulation 19) – October-November 2021
 - Submission (Regulation 22) – March 2022
 - Independent Examination (Regulation 24) – May 2022-January 2023
 - Receipt of Inspector’s Report (Regulation 25) – March 2023
 - Adoption (Regulation 26) – April 2023
 - All the potholes reported by DCllr Harrison over past two months have been filled.
 - Update on southern link road, including night closures and CCTV on pedestrian underpass. The Broomhall Way footbridge over the A4440 Southern Link Road, from the new commercial and housing development to Power Park in St. Peter’s, is now fully open for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Standing orders were reinstated at this point.*
- 5** **Planning**
- to consider, comment and resolve to respond to applications**
- Cllrs had no concerns and noted the application received 13th July ref Croome repairs to orangery/temple greenhouse. Update on all previous applications – see appendix 3
- 6** **Community speed and traffic concerns.**
- a. **Severn Stoke and Clifton villages VAS.**
VAS has been installed at Clifton with thanks received from the village residents. Cllrs Seward and Freeman are maintaining the equipment. Additional poles allowing VAS to be situated at Severn Stoke village are still to be installed by County Highways and the Clerk is chasing with urgency. Clerk
 - b. **High Green VAS stats.** Not obtained due to IT difficulties.
 - c. **Kinnersley community speed watch training.** On hold.
 - d. **To note that the parish clerk has signed the West Mercia Police Community Charter on behalf of the parish council.** This formalises and regularise contacts between the PC and the local police and provides focus on priority issues of speeding, speed enforcement and rural crime. Duly noted.
- 7** **Tree planting for queen’s jubilee**
- discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice**
- Planting on any part of the land in relation to the flood bund cannot be considered at this time. Cllrs instructed the Clerk and asked Cllr Cox to advertise on Facebook and Klinks respectively to see if residents are interested in planting a tree in their own gardens. Clerk
Cllr Cox

8

Highways, footpaths & infrastructure

– discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

- a Corner nr (Croome) London Arch – dangerous parking and drainage issues**
Already discussed.
- b Re-discovery of the pavement and kerb along the A38.**
Previous County Cllr promised siding out and rediscovery of path from Severn Stoke village to Kempsey. Instead the work has been done this year from the Blue Bell pub to the county border towards Tewkesbury. Cllr Allen is to chase to establish timetable and confirm plans by Highways. Cllr Allen
- c Knights Hill periodic structural testing of street lighting.**
The Clerk is seeking quotes for the inspection and testing of the three column lights on Stonnall Close. Such inspections are required at least every 4 years and ideally every 3. The lights on Knights Hill will also require inspection via assistance of BT Open Reach who own the telegraph poles. Clerk
- d Milestone, High Green to Croome road. Maintenance update.**
Clerk searching for a company interested in such a small job. Cllr Freeman assisting. Metal plate ideally could be replaced with a material of non-scrap value. Milestone society have not responded to contact. Kempsey and Earls Croome PCs unable to assist. Volunteer is still ready and willing to get started and Cllrs expressed thanks for this. Clerk
Cllr
Freeman
- e Poorly draining water opp. Madge Hill – update if any.**
Highways' action continues to have no effect. Ditch needs maintenance on roadside. Cllrs will continue to monitor. No further action by Clerk.
- f To note that the road surface leading to Severn Bank has been repaired.**
Duly noted with thanks.

9

Group/Committee updates

– discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

- a Parish Hall AGM and community survey** – Clerk has requested copy of results of community survey. An update had been received from the hall committee and distributed to Cllrs. *'The Parish Hall Management Committee conducted their AGM on 30th June 2021. The meeting was held in St Denys Church car park due to the extension of Government Covid restrictions. The meeting was well attended with over 20 residents, committee members and councillors attending. In addition, four other members of the community had sent their apologies, but were keen to receive an update on progress. I informed those attending that the committee intend to settle the insurance claim, which we have now done, but that this was not going to provide the funds required to bring the hall back into use. The meeting discussed a number of options for the future of the hall, with a preference expressed for a rebuild. It was noted that any substantial investment in the hall should be made dependant on the successful completion of the bund. The existing committee members were reconfirmed into their posts, but we were pleased to welcome an additional three members of the community to the committee, giving the committee crucial extra capacity as we commence a fundraising and rebuilding programme. The management committee would welcome a stronger link with the Parish Council once we start to develop future plans for the Hall.'* Clerk
- Cllrs had attended the AGM and Cllr Halling is the parish council rep on the committee. Cllrs noted the previous Cllr news that the bid for flood relief funding had failed due to understandable hesitancy to commit to rebuilding whilst the fund bund is not yet completed and also noted the request for a stronger link once future plans are developed by the committee. Cllrs noted that the hall car park was tidied in advance of the AGM so that passing inspection by the public as they attended would be favourable. The Clerk noted that the invoice for this would be received shortly.

- 9 **b Severn Stoke Flood Action Group** – The following update had been received with thanks and distributed to Cllrs. *‘The detailed design of the bund is now well advanced, following the results of further ground investigations. The main hold up will be the lack of action by WCC in the design of the raising of the road. Pressure is being brought to bear on WCC, but seems to have little effect. Action on the Landscaping and Ecological plan is progressing well and it is hoped that the scheme will include additional areas for wildlife, ponds, hedgerows and woodland in and around the village. All other outstanding planning conditions are being progressed. As soon as the detailed plans have been prepared, we will look to present these to all interested parties.’*
Cllr Watkins noted that Croome Estate and tenants still have not had any contact in relation to land appropriation and compensation.

- c Tarmac Liaison Group**
No update. The clerk asked a question on behalf of a parishioner in relation to the public weighbridge at this site and subsequently obtained the following information:
Owner is Tarmac Quarry Products. Address: Off A38, Clifton Quarry Severn Stoke WR8 9JE Tel: 01905 371110. Weigh bridge size: 50 Tonnes 15m x 3m. Open Mon – Fri: 0700 – 1700. Sat: 0700 – 1200

- d Croome Liaison Group** – Date for next meeting to be set shortly.

Clerk
DCllr

- e Police reports** - PCSO Jon Hand had given apologies and submitted the following report.
1) *Some speed enforcement has been requested in relation to Severn Stoke on 14th of July. This will be repeated on a regular basis. That said, this is a force wide resource, I'd say about 90% of parishes in the county have speeding concerns so they will be spreading themselves around quite thinly. PCSO Hand is being trained in the use of the speed gun in addition to the above.*
2) *A new service called "Neighbourhood Matters" has just been launched. Anyone can sign up to it to hear about policing updates, crime prevention, ongoing incidents and to learn more about what we are doing in the community. To sign up just go to www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk*

Post meeting update: While operating in Severn Stoke the Force Operations team issued 12 tickets for drivers who were in excess of 30mph. They will return when they are not tasked elsewhere.

- f Lengthsman update**
Lengthsman continues to respond in timely fashion to all instructions and jobs. Clerk to draft an annual work schedule/list of priority jobs for Cllr and Lengthsman consultation. Ideally this could be published in Klinks in summary form, as parishioners have mixed expectations as to what the Lengthsman is permitted to do by County Hall. Cllrs **agreed** to consider paying mileage and the Clerk was **instructed** to collect mileage data for the remainder of 2021.

Clerk
Lengths-
man

- g KLINKS** – Feedback continues to be excellent. No Klinks in August.

10 **General Finance and Administration**

- a To consider and motion to approve the payment of accounts made in the previous month.** Appendix 1. Duly **approved**. Prps: SF. Scnd: GS.
b To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts July 2021. Appendix 2. Duly **approved**. Prps: LF. Scnd: SF

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm**

- c **To receive and motion to accept latest bank reconciliation and Q4 report.** Duly approved. Prps: GS. Scnd: LF
- d To note VAT reclaim made by Clerk. Duly noted. Clerk is in process of double checking whether laptop VAT was reclaimed in 2019/2020 financial year. Clerk

11 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.

- a To note that A38/A4014 roadworks will be managed so as to allow the Upton triathlon to proceed.

Next Parish Council meeting – 22nd September 2021, 7.30pm.

Signed ChairmanDate

Appendix 1. Items already paid via online banking late May and June 2021

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

Mr Simon Bott	Mowing Parish Hall and verges SB0317	£30.00
Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman April 2021	£208.00
Malvern Hills District Council	Garden Waste Collection Service 20/21 Renewal for Parish Hall x 2 bins	£140.00
BHIB Councils Insurance	Parish Council insurance policy renewal 20/21	£428.11
Information Commissioner	Annual membership 2021 - 2022	£35.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [April]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses May 2021	£14.39
Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman May 2021	£208.00
Mr Simon Bott	Mowing Parish Hall June 2021 includes clearance of entrance to hall car park for visibility splay. SB0324r	£37.50
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [May]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses June 2021	£13.19

Appendix 2. Item for payment July 2021:

Mr Simon Bott	Lengthsman June 2021	£234.00
Mr Simon Bott	Mowing Parish Hall 30 June 2021 plus mower hire. SB0331	£60.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [June]	£294.16
Lisa Stevens	Expenses July 2021. Backdated. Notifications to residents about road closure Birch Green	£7.68

**Minutes of Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm**

Appendix 3 – planning summary of updates

Application	Property	Detail	Update
21/00874/HP	2 High Green Severn Stoke Worcester WR8 9JS	Demolition of outbuilding and erection of single storey side extension	Parish Cllrs had no comments to make. Being determined by MHDC.
21/00306/LB 21/00305/HP	Cedar Cottage Kerswell Green Worcester WR5 3PF	Conversion of garage to extend annexe listed building consent	Parish Cllrs had no comments to make. Being determined by MHDC.
21/00792/LB	1 Lower Farm Cottages, Severn Stoke Worcester WR8 9JA	Replace north rooflight and install additional rooflight adjacent. Extend west brick boundary wall northwards.	Parish Cllrs had no comments to make. Being determined by MHDC
20/00668/FUL	Land At (Os 8554 4404), Church Lane, Severn Stoke, WR8 9JQ	Construction of permanent flood defence for the village of Severn Stoke with associated earthworks.	MHDC approved planning permission 6th Nov 2020. Next steps and snagging list.
20/01511/FUL	Cedar Lodge, Severn Stoke, Worcester, WR8 9JA	Change of use of Cedar Lodge and Coventry Barn (Part of old School House) to 2 residential dwellings ref: 16/00076/FUL. Variation to condition 2.	Being determined by MHDC.
20/00013/FUL	Orchard House Kinnersley Severn Stoke Worcester WR8 9JR	Erection of 7 no. new dwellings (3 no. 4 beds and 3 no. 3 beds and 1 no. 2 bed), the retrospective conversion of part of the existing building into a pair of two-bedroom semi-detached dwellings, associated car parking and infrastructure following the partial demolition of the existing building (Orchard House). Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 18/01253/FUL.	Application approved in May 2020. Update May 2021. District council has been advised of Amendment to approved plans and to scrutinised before discharge of planning conditions, ref outbuilding, parking and sewage plans.
20/000015/CM and 20/000009/CM	Ryall North Quarry, Land off Ryall's Court Lane, Holly Green, Upton-upon-Severn, WR8 0PF	Extraction (1.4 million ts sand gravel), temporary wharf, progressive lake restoration / Extraction of aggregates, restoration to agric and lake for watersports	Being determined by WCC.
20/000032/REG3	New roundabout on A38, entrance to Upton.	Proposed replacement of existing staggered junction with a 4-arm roundabout at A38 / A4104 Junction, Near Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire	WCC granted approval subject to receipt of detailed layout design of the Roundabout, including approach roads.

-end-