

MINUTES OF STOKE HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5th February 2020 at the Pavilion at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Collins, R Wright, G Iaccarino, J Hopper, G Jinkerson, D Thomas

District Councillor and County Councillor: N Legg, G Francis

Clerk: Mrs A Rose

4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** V Clifford-Jackson, C Bussey and S Hull
2. **The Chair closed the meeting for any disclosures of interest by Councillors;** There were none.

The Chair re opened the meeting

3. **To discuss the Football Club proposals for improving the condition of the pitch on the playing field:**

The Chair invited R Ward (Chairman) and G Baker (Treasurer) of Stoke United Football Club to talk through the proposal of the pitch improvement programme in depth. The FA support a programme to improve pitches that fall below the minimum standard recommended for football. The playing field in its current condition falls below the recommended standard which means Stoke United Football club qualify for a grant up to £30,000.00.

G Baker explained the full plans and processes of the work required in depth to all Councillors. In order to accept the grant and start the work R Ward and G Baker will require written permission from the Parish Council. The playing field would require fencing off for 8 weeks for the ground works to establish. The timeframe is quite short and would like to begin this work at the start of April as guided by TH Groundcare who will be carrying out the work on behalf of the Football Club.

It was confirmed and agreed by all that the Parish Council has no responsibility with regards to all work carried out for the Pitch Improvement Programme. All terms and conditions for the grant eligibility are between the FA and Stoke United Football Club. The Pitch Improvement programme and General Terms and Conditions will be attached to these minutes.

After an in-depth conversation the following actions were agreed; proposed by G Jinkerson, seconded by D Thomas and unanimously agreed.

- Permission granted for the Football Club to introduce the Pitch Improvement Programme to the Playing Field, Stoke Holy Cross. The clerk was tasked with writing a letter of permission and emailing to Stoke United Football Club.
- The Parish Council had agreed to contribute towards the programme by not charging the annual pitch hire to the football club for six years, the next payment required from the football club would be September 2026.
- Due to the specialist works required to the field it was agreed that the contractors appointed on behalf of the Parish Council only carry out the regular grass cutting to the field only. The clerk was tasked with contacting CGM and The Garden Guardian to cancel and remove the scheduled works of verti drain, fertilising and seeding to the playing field.
- Stoke United football club will be responsible for any additional payments required for the pitch improvement programme; they will also provide the protective fencing around the playing field for the recommended 8 week period for the ground works carried out by TH Groundcare.
- The football club will create a poster to introduce the Pitch Improvement Programme, confirming the date and period of when the field will be closed. The poster will be circulated to schools, parents from the football club and the clerk. The clerk will then circulate the poster to the notice boards, facebook page and 5+ Magazine.
- The clerk was tasked with providing an update on the current mole situation.

4. **To review the lease agreement between the Parish Council and the Football Club:** After a in-depth discussion and following the pitch improvement programme the following changes were recommended; proposed by S Collins, seconded by J Hopper and unanimously agreed.

- Extend the current lease for a further 10 years (lease expires 2032)
- Waiver the annual pitch hirer for six years (Annual hire amount will be reviewed in 2026)
- Change the start time for Sunday Matches to 10:00 am.

Signed:

Date:

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The clerk was tasked with making the amendments to the lease agreement and to send to R Ward and G Baker for agreement and signing.

5. To discuss the condition of the football goal posts at the playing field: After reviewing the safety inspection report provided by David Bracey Play Safety Inspections and taking on board comments received from Stoke United Football Club; it was unanimously agreed by all to remove the two goal posts on the Playing Field and to be replaced with a new goal post kindly donated by the football club. Positioning will be agreed in June once the first stages to the pitch improvement programme have taken place. Proposed by G Iaccarino, seconded by D Thomas and unanimously agreed by all.

6. To receive any correspondence: There were none.

There being no other business the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20:50pm.

Signed:

Date:

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