

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 1st June 2015.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Paul Eden, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

Public Question Time: There were no members of the public present.

092/15 Apologies

An apology was accepted from Jill Howe.

093/15 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

None.

094/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

095/15 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

096/15 District and County Councillors' Reports

D/Cllr Mike Thompson commented that he had little to report to the meeting as it was still early days for the new District Council but it was his intention to attend as many meetings of the Parish Council as possible.

John Ellis asked him to raise the following topics with his colleagues in the Labour Group and with the District Council:-

- Had consideration been given to the establishment of a Bromsgrove Town Council.
- What was the Labour Group's approach to the distribution of the New Homes Bonus to Parish Councils?

097/15 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment

It was unanimously agreed to approve the payments as set out on the list circulated at the meeting.

(2) Financial Position Statement for May 2015

Keith Shakespeare, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed to approve the new Financial Regulations.

(3) Annual Return and Summary of Receipts & Payments for 2014/15

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the annual governance statement contained therein.

098/15 Approval of Parish Council's Financial Regulations

Keith Shakespeare, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed to approve the new Financial Regulations.

099/15 Street Lighting – Residential Development, Former Avoncroft Cattle Breeders Ltd, Buntsford Hill – Kendrick Homes

Having considered the Clerk's report and discussed the options available to the Parish Council, John Ellis, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should inform Worcestershire County Council that they were not prepared to meet any costs relating to the design and installation of street lighting on this development and that this should be the responsibility of the developer. The Parish Council would agree to maintain and pay the electricity charges for any new lights installed under the Street Lighting Initiative.

100/15 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Chairman reported that he was trying to arrange a meeting with Sgt Field to discuss the speeding issues in Shaw Lane and elsewhere. He hoped that he would be able to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 8th July.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Code of Conduct training on the 24th June was designed specifically for parish councillors and encouraged everyone to attend.

101/15 Project Updates

John Ellis reported that the Clerk had confirmed that the proposed Tai Chi classes would be covered under the Parish Council's insurance arrangements. He was pursuing the question of the CRB check with her. He added that he proposed to put a banner up to promote the event as well as issuing a press release.

The Clerk reported that he was in the process of ordering the benches for the Memorial Garden. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Sue Abel and the British Legion regarding the commemorative slabs and the official opening of the garden.

Paul Eden asked that the bench at the childrens play area in Shaw Lane should be repainted. The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

102/15 Diary Commitments

It was noted that John Ellis and the Clerk would be attending the meeting of the Worcestershire CALC on the 10th July.

103/15 Ryefields Road Play Area – Parish Clerk Update

The Clerk reported that he was currently looking at a number of options to improve the play facilities and hoped to be in a position to bring some costed options to the Parish Council's next meeting.

Following comments by Keith Shakespeare, it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the slide to be removed as it was dangerous in its present state.

104/15 Correspondence

None.

105/15 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

The following reports/items were noted:-

- Dean Smith commented that a waste bin/dog bin was needed in Wheatridge Road. The Clerk agreed to look into this.
- Dean Smith suggested that it would be helpful for the Parish Council to set up a Youth Club Working Group so that the Council could better support the Club. John Ellis replied that there used to be a Working Group until the Youth Club decided that it wanted to operate independently. D/Cllr Thompson commented that he was on the Management Committee for the Youth Club and would be happy to report back to the Parish Council. This offer was accepted.
- John Ellis reported that the Shack in Prior Avenue had been condemned by BDHT and it would no longer be possible to use the building for local council surgeries. It was agreed that future meetings should be held at the Parish Office.
- The Clerk reported that he was currently checking some details relating to the outdoor gym facility before signing off the contract.

107/15 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6th July 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman