

## STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

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**A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

**Present:** Councillors John Ellis (Vice Chairman) (In the Chair), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Paul Eden, Alyson Jewson and Keith Shakespeare.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllr Mike Thompson plus 1 member of the public.

**Public Question Time:** There were no questions to be considered.

### **143/15 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Jill Howe, Dean Smith and Peter Williams.

### **144/15 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **145/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 September 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 September 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **146/15 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

None.

### **147/15 District and County Councillors' Reports**

D/Cllr Mike Thompson reported that he was still pushing the District Council to plant a hawthorn hedge in Wheatridge Road and also on the new arrangements which had been put in place by the Head of Environmental Services at the District Council to manage local issues such as grass cutting, general maintenance etc. He also commented on the discussions which had been taking place at the District Council regarding the possibility of joining the proposed Greater West Midlands Authority. It was very unlikely that the District Council would be interested in this idea but would consider becoming part of a new Worcestershire authority.

### **148/15 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 June 2015**

This was noted.

### **149/15 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

The Clerk reported that the refurbishment of the play equipment at Ryefields Road would be completed at the end of the week.

The Chairman then commented on the problems facing the future of the SHAC and the discussions which had taken place with the Chief Executive of BDHT. The replacement of the SHAC with all the necessary works would cost in the region of £15 - £20,000. As a result, the Clerk had written to a number of organisations seeking their support and responses were awaited. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that further discussions would be required with BDHT regarding the future management of a new SHAC if the project succeeded.

### **150/15 Potential Social/Affordable Housing Projects in the Parish**

Diane Brown explained that she, together with Sue Abel, had attended a presentation by Ruth Bamford, the District Council's Head of Planning & Regeneration, at which they had been told that if the Parish Council could identify any plots of land which might become available for social housing, the District Council would look favourable on any applications for those sites. It was agreed that Diane Brown and Sue Abel should try to identify any possible sites and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

### **151/15 Arrangements for Carols in the Park - 2015**

The Council considered the arrangements for the forthcoming event which would take place on the 12 December and unanimously agreed the following:-

- A budget of £300 should be made available to cover the cost of the event.
- Provision of a PA system.
- A donation of £25 to the Hand Radio Club for the use of their generator.
- The loan of a marquee from the Church.
- IDG Garden Services be asked to supply a suitable Christmas Tree.
- Wider publicity for the event.

### **152/15 Arrangements for Parish Fete 2016**

After comments by Keith Shakespeare regarding the proposed arrangements for the fete, the following actions were unanimously agreed:-

- The date to be fixed as Sunday 1 May 2016.
- Alyson Jewson to look at the possibility of involving Morris Dancers.
- Keith Shakespeare to seek quotes for hiring a large marquee which would help with attracting more stallholders etc.
- Consideration given to providing evening entertainment.

### **153/15 Bulb Planting and Additional Flower Boxes**

It was unanimously agreed that £100 should be made available for the purchase of bulbs and that IDG Garden Services be asked to plant them at agreed points around the parish.

It was also agreed that Councillors should consider where additional flower boxes should be provided and to let the Clerk know before the Council's next meeting on the 2 November.

### **154/15 Project Updates**

The Chairman stated that he had attended a meeting at the Church regarding the raising of funds to meet the cost of the structural repairs required to the church. He added that he had joined the Working Group which had been set up to seek funding for this work.

### **155/15 Diary Commitments**

The Clerk stated that the Worcestershire CALC Annual General Meeting would take place on Wednesday 25 November and asked any Councillors to let him know if they wished to attend.

### **156/15 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that Shaw Lane would be closed between Ryefields Road and Orchard Crescent for approximately 10 days from the 26 October to allow sewer works to be carried out.

### **157/15 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

The following items were raised:-

- Paul Eden pointed out that the hedges belonging to the properties either side of the junction of Greensides with Shaw Lane needed to cutting back to improve safety and visibility. The Clerk agreed to write to the owners of both properties in question.
- Keith Shakespeare reported that he had attended a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. He commented that there were some structural problems with the hall and it was possible that the Committee may approach the Council for some financial help. The work was likely to cost in the region of £3,000.
- The Clerk reported that the Parish Lengthsman had made him aware that the timber bus shelter in Whitford Bridge Road was in a poor state and had suggested that it be removed. In view of this and the fact that the bus service no longer ran along this road, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should seek permission from the County Council to remove the shelter.

### **158/15 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chairman