

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 13th May 2015.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

075/15 Election of Chairman

John Ellis, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Peter Williams be elected as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

076/15 Election of Vice Chairman

Keith Shakespeare, seconded by the Chairman, moved and it was unanimously agreed that John Ellis be elected as Vice Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

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

077/15 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Sue Abel and Jon Miller.

078/15 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

John Ellis and Keith Shakespeare declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10.

079/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 April 2015

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

080/15 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

081/15 Appointment of Committees and Working Parties and the Appointment of Representatives to serve on Local Organisations

The following appointments were unanimously agreed:-

Planning Committee – Sue Abel, Diane Brown, John Ellis, Jill Howe, Dean Smith and Peter Williams

Communications Committee – Sue Abel, John Ellis, Jill Howe, Dean Smith and Peter Williams

Bank Account Signatories – Diane Brown, John Ellis and Peter Williams plus the Clerk.

Finance and Resources Committee – Diane Brown, Paul Eden, John Ellis, Jill Howe and Keith Shakespeare.

Fete Working Party – Keith Shakespeare as the lead Councillor supported by all other available Councillors.

Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee – Keith Shakespeare.

Worcestershire Council for the Protection of Rural England – Dean Smith.

Worcestershire Association of Local Councils – Diane Brown and John Ellis plus the Clerk. The Chairman undertook to also attend when possible.

Public Areas – Diane Brown (Picnic Site), Paul Eden (Shaw Lane Recreation Area), John Ellis (Stoke Heath Recreation Area) and the Clerk (Ryefields Road Recreation Area).

082/15 Arrangements for the Co-Option of Parish Councillors

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk and Councillors should approach any suitable candidates who may be interested in being co-opted to the Parish Council with a view to submitting a formal application for consideration at the July meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk would also arrange for suitable notices to be displayed on the Parish Notice Boards.

It was noted that, given the current membership of the Council that preference should be given to potential applicants from the Stoke Heath area.

083/15 District and County Councillors' Reports

In the absence of any District or County Councillors, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

084/15 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 April/May 2015

This was noted.

085/15 Parish Council's Insurance Arrangements

Having considered the Clerk's report and the additional comments by the Clerk, Paul Eden, seconded by John Ellis, moved and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Came & Co for a 1 year agreement. It was also agreed to review the insurance arrangements again in twelve months' time.

086/15 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Clerk reported that the new Notice Board for Shaw Lane had arrived and he would shortly arrange installation.

087/15 Project Updates

Diane Brown asked what could be done about the ongoing problem of dog fouling. The Clerk replied that he was following up an initiative by Bromsgrove District Council which was helping other Parish Councils and he would report back.

John Ellis reported that the lady who would be running the Tai Chi classes at Stoke Heath Recreation Area would charge £20 per session and hoped to start in late June. He confirmed that she already had CRB clearance but the Clerk was asked to check whether it was appropriate in this case. He was also asked to check whether the lady had or required public liability insurance. John Ellis added that he proposed to issue a press release and display an advertising banner on the site.

088/15 Diary Commitments

John Ellis put forward the suggestion that the Parish Council should consider moving its meetings to the Stoke Prior Village Hall rather than continuing to meet at the Avoncroft arts Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk should talk to Thelma Roll on behalf of the Village hall Management Committee to see what the options were and to report back.

089/15 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Head of Stoke Prior First School for the Parish Council to fund the cost of a cabinet to house a community public access defibrillator outside the school at a cost of £600. The school would provide the defibrillator via a charity and would be responsible for maintaining the equipment. John Ellis, seconded by Paul Eden, moved and it was unanimously agreed to purchase the cabinet as described.

090/15 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

The following reports/items were noted:-

- Dean Smith suggested that a serious look needed to be given to the Parish Council's website. Paul Eden added that they should also decide whether they proposed to use Facebook in the future. It was agreed that both issues should be referred to the Communications Committee.
- Dean Smith suggested that the Parish Council should issue a press release promoting the War Memorial Garden and arrange for it to be officially opened. It was agreed that this should be done as soon as the new benches and pathway were in place.
- John Ellis commented that it would be helpful to set up a Working Party to sort out the displaying on the John Corbett pictures etc at the Parish Office and also to review the Trail leaflet. It was agreed that the Working Party should include Sue Abel and John Ellis together with Chris Jewson, the Parish Footpaths Officer and co-opt someone with IT skills to help develop the leaflet etc.

091/15 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 1st June 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman