

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Paul Eden, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Jon Miller, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

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

### **001/16 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from C/Cllr Chris Bloore and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

### **002/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

John Ellis, Alyson Jewson and Keith Shakespeare declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7.

### **003/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 December 2015**

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

### **004/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

None.

### **005/16 District and County Councillors' Reports**

The report submitted by C/Cllr Chris Bloore was noted.

With regard to the report by D/Cllr Mike Thompson, it was agreed that he should be invited to provide further information on the campaign before the Council makes a decision on whether or not it will officially give its support.

### **006/16 Wheatridge Road, Stoke Heath – Floral Improvements**

The Chairman reported that he had received a request from D/Cllr Thompson for the Parish Council to consider installing a number of flower boxes Wheatridge Road to help improve the dour appearance. During discussion, it was noted that one significant issue was the lack of maintenance of fences which were the responsibility of the homeowners. The Council felt that the installation of flower boxes would not have a significant impact on the area and unanimously agreed not to accede to this request.

### **007/16 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 December 2015**

This was noted.

### **008/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that at the last meeting he had reported on a request from the Parochial Church Council for the Parish Council to assist with the cost of the maintenance of the churchyard in the next financial year. He went on to report that the cost of cutting the grass in the churchyard would be £2,500 and he invited the Council to consider whether they wished to support this request and, if so, to what extent.

After discussion during which a number of proposals had been put on the table, the Chairman, seconded by Jon Miller, moved and it was unanimously resolved to support the request and to meet 50% of the cost for the grass cutting subject to the Clerk being satisfied that there was sufficient funds in the budget for 2016/17 which would be considered at the Council's next meeting on the 1 February.

### **009/16 Parish Council Representation on CPRE**

Having noted that Dean Smith was unable to continue as the Council's representative on CPRE, it was agreed that the Chairman would attend the next meeting subject to confirmation of the date. If that was not possible then the Clerk would be asked to set up a rota of Councillors for future meetings.

### **010/16 St Michael's Church, Stoke Prior – Consideration of Possible Donation to Restoration Fund**

Jill Howe reminded the meeting that the Church needed £150,000 to repair the church tower and it was hoped that a significant share of that cost would be met from the Heritage Lottery Fund. However additional funds were still required and any help that the Parish Council could give would be very welcome. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to give a donation of £1,000 subject to the Clerk being satisfied that there was sufficient funds in the budget for 2016/17 which would be considered at the Council's next meeting on the 1 February.

### **011/16 Parish Fete 2016 Update**

Keith Shakespeare circulated a work list for this year's fete and asked all Councillors to let the Clerk know as soon as possible which jobs they were willing to take on. A general discussion then ensued during which the following points were made:-

- Any ideas for new forms of entertainment to be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible.
- Contact to be made with the Headteacher of Stoke Prior First School to see what support or ideas he may have for the childrens' entertainment.
- Possible event could a 5-a-side football tournament.
- Need to look at who will run the tea stall given that John Ellis and his partnet may not be able to do it this year.
- Need to look at the provision of a small marquee for the tea stall. The options being to hire one from a local scout group or make use of Dean Smith's contacts with the Territorials to provide one.
- The Chairman to explore the possibility of a local car dealer bringing a selection of cars and also providing a donation to offset the free advertising.

- The Clerk to send regular reminders to all Councillors regarding ideas and jobs to be undertaken.

### **012/16 Project Updates**

The Clerk reported that he was seeking a grant from the Tesco Community Fund to meet the cost of replacing the flooring at the Shaw Lane Recreation Area.

### **013/16 Diary Commitments**

None.

### **014/16 Correspondence**

None.

### **015/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

The following items were raised:-

- The Chairman thanked Alyson Jewson for her help in making the main hall at Avoncroft available for the 'Carols in the Park'.
- Keith Shakespeare reported that two winners had been selected for the Christmas Lights Competition and he would make the details available to the Clerk.
- The Clerk stated that dog fouling across the parish was becoming an increasing problem and he would seek advice from Bromsgrove District Council regarding what action the Parish Council can take to deal with this problem.
- Diane Brown reported that there were dangerous potholes at the junction of Whitford Bridge Road and Stoke Pound Lane. The Clerk agreed to report these to the County Council.
- The Chairman asked the Clerk to make the District Council aware of the dangerous 'A' signs outside the Metal and Ores site on Hanbury Road which were becoming a hazard restricting the visibility of drivers leaving the site.

### **016/16 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 1 February 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman