

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

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

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and D/Cllrs Malcolm Glass and Mike Thompson plus 1 member of the public.

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

### **108/15 Apologies**

An apology was accepted from Sue Abel.

### **109/15 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

Diane Brown, John Ellis and Keith Shakespeare declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.

### **110/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 June 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **111/15 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

None.

### **112/15 District and County Councillors' Reports**

D/Cllr Mike Thompson commented on the District Council's current policy for the use of the New Homes Bonus, the idea of a Town Council for Bromsgrove which did not appear to have any great support amongst his colleagues within the Labour Group and the constitutional changes which the Labour Group had wanted to introduce at the District Council.

D/Cllr Malcolm Glass stated that he was particularly concerned about the unadopted road at Greenside which was causing long term problems for residents. He was trying to seek answers from the owners of the land. He also commented on the fencing alongside the railway track in the village but was reassured by Keith Shakespeare that Network Rail appeared to be renewing the fence over a period of time.

### **113/15 Co-Option of Councillors**

In the absence of the applicant, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

## **114/15 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.

## **115/15 Parish Council Policies & Procedures**

After discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to adopt the following policies and procedures:-

- Operating Framework
- Grievance Procedure
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Complaints Procedure
- Health & Safety Policy

John Ellis thanked the Clerk for the work he had put in to produce these important documents.

## **116/15 Future of the George Verney Meadow, Stoke Heath**

After the Clerk had reminded Councillors of the background to the lease of this piece of land and the subsequent decision of the Youth Club Leader that it was no longer required, Dean Smith, seconded by Paul Eden, moved and it was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council should notify the Bournville Village Trust that they do not wish to continue the lease beyond the break clause which comes into effect in October 2016.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Land Agents acting for the Trust and the Youth Club Management Committee accordingly.

## **117/15 Refurbishment of Ryefields Road Recreation Area**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that, following the report by ROSPA on the condition of the equipment at the Recreation Area, they had agreed to seek quotes for its replacement. The report before them set out the details of two quotes received. After considering the merits of both quotes, Jill Howe, seconded by Paul Eden, moved and it was agreed by majority to accept the quote from HAGS in the sum of £37,125.00 plus VAT. Dean Smith abstained from the vote.

The Clerk stated that he would try to seek a reduction on the current price if possible.

## **118/15 Proposed Development of the Former Polmerlatex Site, Stoke Works**

Having considered the Clerk's report, it was agreed to support the list of suggested projects to be funded from the Section 106 funds for submission to Barratt Homes with the addition of a Youth Pod.

Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any additional suggestions as soon as possible.

### **119/15 Chairman's Allowance**

After a brief discussion, Jon Miller proposed, seconded by Paul Eden and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2015/16 should be £600.

The Chairman then returned to the meeting and assumed the chair.

### **120/15 Parking Arrangements at the Shaw Lane Recreation Area**

After comments by Paul Eden and Keith Shakespeare, it was unanimously agreed that signage should be installed clearly stating that the parking bays adjacent to the recreation area were for the use of families using that area and not for local residents' parking. The Clerk was asked to organise the supply and installation of the sign.

The Clerk was also requested to look into the removal of the road planings from the site.

### **121/15 Maintenance of John Corbett Grave**

After the Clerk had reported on his discussions with Rev Wyn Beynon, it was agreed that the Parish Council should take over responsibility for the maintenance of the John Corbett Grave subject to successful negotiations with the Parochial Church Council regarding the payment to the Council of the annual grant provided by the Thomas Corbett Trust for that purpose.

The Clerk was also asked to liaise with the Parish Lengthsman regarding the likely cost of renovating the site and future maintenance.

### **122/15 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

The Clerk reported that, with regard to the residential development at Buntsford Hill, the developer had now agreed to fund the design/specification and erection of lighting at this site. The Parish Council would be responsible for the maintenance and electricity supply.

### **123/15 Project Updates**

John Ellis reported that the Tai Chi classes were proving to be very successful with good attendance. Following questions by Keith Shakespeare, it was agreed that the Clerk and/or John Ellis should speak to the organiser of the classes regarding a risk assessment for the classes.

### **124/15 Diary Commitments**

None.

### **125/15 Correspondence**

None.

### **126/15 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

The following reports/items were noted:-

- Paul Eden reminded the meeting that it was agreed to review the grass cutting contract after three months. It was agreed to include this on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Paul Eden commented that there appeared to be 2 Facebook sites for the Parish Council. It was agreed that the whole issue of Facebook should be discussed at the Communications Committee
- Dean Smith commented that he thought that the introduction of a graffiti wall would be a useful addition to the parish. It was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **127/15 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman