

## •STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

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

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 1 Member of the Public.

### **063/16 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.

### **064/16 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.

### **047/16 Apologies**

An apology was accepted from C/Cllr Chris Bloore.

### **048/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **049/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 March 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **050/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

None.

### **052/16 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment**

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

#### **(1) Financial Position Statement**

This was noted.

### **053/16 Grants Policy**

After the Clerk had presented the proposed policy and several Councillors had commented on the need for such a policy, the Chairman, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was resolved by 8 votes to 1 to adopt the Grants Policy.

#### **054/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

The Clerk reported that the picket fence around the children's play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area and one of the pieces of equipment had been vandalised. The best option would be to repair the picket fence but also to install wire netting over the fence to give added protection. He also reminded the Council that he had reported to a previous meeting that part of the perimeter fence needed to be replaced. In addition there were also two further areas of fencing which needed to be replaced as the timbers had rotted away. He suggested that the work should be carried out by IDG Garden Services and that the cost could be met from the budget set aside for the refurbishment of the Stoke Wharf Picnic Site. He was confident that both projects could be completed within the overall budget for the Picnic Site.

The Parish Council agreed that the necessary repair and maintenance work at Stoke Heath Recreation Area should go ahead as soon as possible.

The Chairman reported that he had received representations from parishioners regarding the speed limit on the B4091 which they felt should be reduced to 30mph rather than alternating between 30 and 40 mph. After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that there was a strong case to reduce the speed limit to 30mph and asked the Clerk to write to C/Cllr Chris Bloore, Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police urging them to give this proposal serious consideration.

#### **056/16 Project Updates**

The Clerk reported that the new flooring at the Shaw Lane Recreation Area should be installed in the next few weeks.

#### **058/16 Diary Commitments**

None.

Keith Shakespeare commented that he had been in conversation with Droitwich Town Council who had offered the Parish Council a free stand at the Salt Fest in September to promote the John Corbett Trail. Further details would be sent to the Clerk.

#### **059/16 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Bromsgrove & Redditch Citizens Advice requesting a grant from the Parish Council. It was agreed that this request should be considered at the next meeting on the 11 May 2016.

#### **060/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

The following items were raised:-

- John Ellis stated that the plaques for the Memorial Garden had been delivered but he was unhappy with the quality and style. He was under the impression that they would be engraved. The Clerk was asked to check the details on the quote provided by the company before deciding what action to take.

- John Ellis commented that it had been the Council's practice in the past to give a grant to Age UK but he understood that the Bromsgrove branch had amalgamated with the Kidderminster and Redditch branches. However they had introduced a scheme called 'Men in Sheds' which was a means of getting older people involved with small jobs in their community as part of a local project. He agreed to get more details in time for the Council's next meeting.

#### **061/16 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 June 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman