

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016.**

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

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) plus two members of the public.

### **Public Question Time:**

At the invitation of the Chairman, a member of the public raised a couple of issues. Firstly he asked if repairs could be carried out to the bridleway which run through the churchyard. Chris Jewson confirmed that he had been to look at the bridleway and explained that most of the damage appeared to have been caused by rainwater running down the slope. He agreed to raise the problem with the County Council to see if they would be willing to take any remedial action. The second issue related to a broken sewerage pipe which was leaking onto the highway at the far end of Shaw Lane. The problem had been reported to Severn Trent but they had not taken any action. The Clerk stated that as it was leaking onto the highway he would report it to the County Council for urgent action.

### **128/16 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Paul Eden and D/Cllr Malcolm Glass.

### **129/16 CCTV Cameras – Stoke Heath Recreation Area**

The Clerk explained that he had met with a representative from AllMark – AllTech to discuss the possibility of installing a CCTV camera at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The most obvious location for a camera would be on the roof of the administration office at Avoncroft Arts Centre. This would be an infra-red camera capable of covering up to a distance of 1,000 feet and for 24 hours a day. The camera would be monitored by the company on the Council's behalf. The cost of the camera would be £2,000 plus fitting.

After a lengthy discussion, it was, by majority, agreed in principle to the installing of a camera subject to the Clerk negotiating an arrangement with the Arts Centre, seeking independent advice on the use of such a camera in a public place and to all legal requirements being met.

Dean Smith asked that his objection to the proposal be recorded in the minutes.

### **130/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

Chris Jewson and Liz Miller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8(1).

### **131/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 September 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **132/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

The Chairman stated that, having notified all Councillors regarding the proposal to put the

contract for a new website out to an external company and the majority of Councillors were in support of the proposal, he confirmed he had agreed, as a matter of urgency, that the Clerk should instruct SMIS to proceed with the development of the Parish Council's new website.

It was noted that the Clerk would provide an update on the development of the new site at the next meeting.

### **133/16 District and County Councillors' Reports**

There were no Councillors in attendance.

### **134/16 Campaign to Remove Stoke Heath from Stoke Parish Council**

Following comments by the Chairman and the Clerk regarding the rumours which around regarding a move to get Stoke Heath removed from the parish, it was agreed to give the matter no further consideration until firm proposals were put forward by local residents.

### **135/16 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 Management Statement for September 2016**

This was noted.

### **136/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

The Chairman commented on the land which had been put up for sale by Harris Brush Works, some of which ran adjacent to the picnic site at Stoke Wharf. He understood that the land would be sold in 3 lots at a total cost in the region of £400,000. Councillors then discussed whether there was any possibility of the Parish Council acquiring part of the land in question particularly the sports ground. It was agreed that the Clerk should firstly establish whether the sale would have any impact on the picnic site and secondly inquire whether the owners would be interested in selling any part of the land to the Parish Council. If the latter was an option, consideration would need to be given to its potential use and whether it would be possible to raise the necessary funds.

### **137/16 Project Updates**

Chris Jewson reported that the drainage work on the footpath at the end of Brickhouse Lane had now been completed and appeared to have solved the problem.

### **138/16 Bulb Planting**

Sue Abel confirmed that she would be looking to purchase another 5 bags of bulbs this year. The Chairman agreed to take responsibility for planting 1 bag and the remaining 4 would be passed to IDG Garden Services to be planted at various locations around the parish.

### **139/16 Diary Commitments**

The Clerk referred to an invitation he had received from Hagley Parish Council to attend a

meeting of all Parish Councils in the Bromsgrove District Council area to discuss the distribution of new housing development across the area rather than be dictated to by the District Council as part of their new District Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend this meeting.

#### **140/16 Correspondence**

None.

#### **141/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

John Ellis asked that Carols in the Park 2016 be included on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime he would check on the availability of the Vicar.

It was agreed that a Christmas tree should be purchased for Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

Jill Howe commented on the growing amount of fly posting and A signs across the parish. The Clerk agreed that this was a problem but the powers to remove such signs rested with the District and County Councils. He would however continue to press both authorities to take more positive action and to see what additional action the Parish Council may take.

Keith Shakespeare reminded the meeting that the roof of the shed at Avoncroft Arts Centre needed repairing urgently. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Chris Jewson regarding the purchase of the correct materials.

The Chairman gave a brief resume of his proposed plans for the old reservoir at the Polymer Latex site to turn it into a community facility.

Sue Abel asked that a letter be sent to the owner of the bungalow at the junction of Foley Gardens and Hanbury Road to cut back the hedge to allow for improved visibility.

Diane Brown asked that the provision of additional flower boxes be included on the agenda for the next meeting. She also asked if something could be done about the litter on the Hanbury side of the village. The Clerk confirmed that he was pursuing this.

It was noted that one of the benches in the churchyard was going rusty. It was agreed that IDG Garden Services should repaint the bench as soon as possible.

#### **142/16 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7 November 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman