

•STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th July 2016.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Keith Shakespeare.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) plus Emma Power and Charlotte Harris from 1st Stoke Prior Guides.

Public Question Time:

No members of the public were in attendance.

It was agreed to deal with Agenda item 6 first.

095/16 Stoke Prior Girl Guides Group

Emma Power and Charlotte Harris gave a presentation on the formation and development of the 1st Stoke Prior Guides. They currently had 12 members but numbers were expected to grow over the next 12 months. They were particularly keen to raise funds to help them purchase essential equipment etc although this was proving difficult as they had to meet other ongoing costs such as the weekly rent of £14 for Stoke Prior Village Hall. Given that the 12 members are charged £2 per week means that very little is left for other expenditure.

After discussion, the Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would cover the rent of the Village Hall for 1 year at a cost of £560. The Chairman asked that they try to negotiate a reduction with the Management Committee as they proposed to pay a year in advance.

The normal agenda sequence was then resumed.

096/16 Apologies

An apology was accepted from Sue Abel.

097/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

None.

098/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 June 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

099/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

100/16 District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no Councillors in attendance.

101/16 Finance

(1)(1) Invoices for Payment

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

(1)(2) Financial Management Statement for June 2016

This was noted.

102/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Chairman reported that a new laptop had been ordered for the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that provisional arrangements had been made for representatives from Barratt Homes to attend the Parish Council's September meeting to give an update on the development of the former Polymer Latex Site.

103/16 New Homes Bonus Scheme

The Clerk reported that the District Council had made £125,000 available under the Scheme of which £7,000 had been allocated to Avoncroft Ward and £1,772 to Rock Hill Ward. Applications had to be submitted by the 29 July and he asked Councillors to put forward possible projects before the closing date.

During discussion, several potential projects were put forward including the Stoke Wharf Picnic Area, the footpath at Stoke Heath Recreation Area or new goalposts at Ryefields Road Recreation Area.

It was agreed that the Clerk should ensure that bids were submitted by the required deadline.

104/16 CCTV Cameras – Stoke Heath Recreation Area

John Ellis stated that he had spoken to an officer from the Safer Bromsgrove Group regarding installing the cameras and he had confirmed that it could be done. After discussion, it was agreed that John Ellis and Paul Eden seek professional advice on the way forward and then put together a proposal and circulate this to all Parish Councillors ahead of the September meeting.

John Ellis suggested that this project might be put forward for a grant via the New Homes Bonus Scheme.

105/16 IT Equipment for the Parish Office

This item had been dealt with earlier.

106/16 Project Updates

None.

107/16 Diary Commitments

Keith Shakespeare reminded the Council that they had been offered a free stand at the Salt Festival on the 10/11 September 2016. John Ellis agreed to make the necessary arrangements for manning the stand and the reprinting of the John Corbett Trail leaflet.

108/16 Correspondence

The Clerk reminded the Council that they had received a cheque for £200 from the former SHAC Committee with a request that the money be used to help maintain the children's play area in the parish. However he now understood that some local residents were not happy with the way that monies from the SHAC had been distributed. In the circumstances, the Council agreed that the money should be returned to the SHAC for them to use as they wish.

The Clerk then stated that he had received an email from Leigh Satchwell, Head of Stoke Prior First School explaining the problems he was facing with getting the defibrillator outside the school and he was seeking confirmation that the Parish Council were still keen for this project to go ahead. The Parish Council agreed to continue to support the project and the Clerk agreed to work with Leigh Satchwell.

109/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis commented that he was sad to hear that the Youth Club had closed due to lack of numbers.

Jill Howe reported that the verge in Shaw Lane had been damaged close to where the recent roadworks had been carried out.

Chris Jewson reported that he was still waiting to hear whether the County Council would agree to carrying out remedial work to the footpath alongside the Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

110/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 September 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman