

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th September 2016.

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

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

Public Question Time:

At the invitation of the Chairman, a member of the public expressed his concern regarding an exchange of letters in the local press regarding the workings of the Council. He added that he wanted to make a complaint and the Clerk agreed to send him a copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure.

111/16 Apologies

None.

112/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Alyson Jewson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7(1).

113/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 July 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

114/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

115/16 District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no Councillors in attendance.

116/16 Co-Option of New Parish Councillor

The Clerk informed the meeting that originally there had been two candidates for this position but one had had to withdraw for personal reasons shortly before the meeting.

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council then unanimously agreed to co-opt Liz Miller with immediate effect.

Liz Miller was then invited to join the meeting.

117/16 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 August 2016

This was noted.

118/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

Following introductory comments by the Chairman, Keith Shakespeare explained the arrangements for the Council's attendance at the Droitwich Salt Fest on the 10 & 11 September. John Ellis added that he hoped to have the new leaflets available for the event.

The Chairman agreed to take the gazebo to Droitwich on Sunday and ensure that it was set up and taken down again at the end of the day.

119/16 B4091 Hanbury Road – Proposed 30mph Speed Limit

The Clerk introduced the proposal by Worcestershire County Council to reduce the speed limit on a section of the B4091 from 40mph to 30 mph. The Parish Council warmly welcomed the proposal given that they had previously opposed the increase in the speed limit in 2012.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the County Council accordingly.

120/16 CCTV Cameras – Stoke Heath Recreation Area

John Ellis reported that he had been in contact with a local specialist company who would be able to install and monitor CCTV equipment at Stoke Heath. He suggested that they be invited to the Parish Council's October meeting to explain how the system works. This was agreed.

It was noted that it had originally been intended that representatives from Barratt Homes would attend that meeting to explain the position regarding the development of the former Polymer Latex site. It was agreed that this should be deferred until the November meeting.

121/16 Local Councils Award Scheme

The Clerk explained that he felt it would be worth the Council working towards achieving this award and would look into further details. This was agreed.

122/16 Use of Morrisons as Meeting Venue

John Ellis explained that the new Manager at Morrisons had offered the Parish Council the use of its staff café for meetings at no cost. The Parish Council welcomed the offer but agreed that it would not be a suitable venue for public meetings.

123/16 Project Updates

The Clerk reported that he attended the NHB Community Grants Panel on the 17th August to put the Parish Council's case for a grant of £5,500 towards the renovation of the Stoke Wharf Picnic Site. He subsequently heard that the Council had been recommended for a grant of £2,259, subject to the balance being funded by the Parish Council. He added that he felt this was achievable given that the sum of £2,000 was already in the budget for this work. Confirmation of the grant would be received during the week commencing 12 September.

Chris Jewson referred to the footpath at the end of Brickhouse Lane which became very boggy during wet weather due to poor drainage. However he would be able to rectify the

problem by installing a drainage pipe and laying gravel across the problem area. The cost of materials would be in the region of £60. The Parish Council agreed to this small project going ahead and thanked Chris Jewson for volunteering to carry out the work.

Sue Abel commented that Bromsgrove Library has expressed an interest in putting a display about the John Corbett Trail and to having the new leaflet available for circulation. She added that she was willing to make the necessary arrangements with the library.

124/16 Diary Commitments

The Clerk reminded the Council that the next meeting of CALC was scheduled for Wednesday 14 September. Diane Brown and John Ellis asked for their apologies to be submitted.

The Chairman added that the Clerk was looking at dates for training for the new Councillors.

125/16 Correspondence

The Clerk raised the following items:-

1. A number of people had raised concerns about the signs for the Priory Vintage Café appearing on a flower box, a tree and telegraph pole at Hanbury Turn. The Clerk had been in contact with the owner of the café and asked him to remove them. The owner had replied to say that the Parish Council should be helping local businesses rather than taking this action. The Parish Council agreed with the Clerk's action and endorsed the removal of the signs as a matter of urgency. The Clerk added that he had also received a second request from a local shop owner to also display advertising boards on the flower boxes. The Parish Council agreed to also refuse this request.
2. A request had been received from the Chairman of Upton Warren Parish Council for a meeting of adjoining Parish Councils to discuss matters of mutual concern etc. The Parish Council agreed that this was a good idea and asked the Clerk to reply to the Chairman of Upton Warren Parish Council.

126/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Paul Eden commented that the low bridge sign on Shaw lane had become obscured by the hedge and asked if this could be dealt with.

Jill Howe stated that the footpath sign in Shaw Lane appeared to have fallen down. Chris Jewson agreed to check what the problem was.

The Chairman reported that one of the clamps on the netting at the Shaw Lane Recreation Area had broken.

Diane Brown reported that litter remained a problem along Hanbury Road and Weston Hall Road.

Chris Jewson commented that he was aware that the gate at the end of the footpath at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had not been put back after the resurfacing work. He would check the position with the County Council.

John Ellis stated that the Clerk had been with the Parish Council for two years and he was very pleased with the way that things were going under his clerkship.

It was noted that the hedge along Fish House Lane near the church needed attention.

Jill Howe reported that the flower box on the John Corbett grave needed refreshing.

Sue Abel asked that the planting of bulbs be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chris Jewson reported that the fly tipping at the back of Morrisons had still not been dealt with.

127/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3 October 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman