

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 6th June 2016.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

Public Question Time:

No members of the public were in attendance.

076/16 Apologies

An apology was accepted from Dean Smith.

077/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

The Chairman and Keith Shakespeare declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7(1).

Paul Eden, Alyson Jewson and Keith Shakespeare all declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.

078/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11 May 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

079/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

080/16 District and County Councillors' Reports

D/Cllr Mike Thompson highlighted the following points:-

- He referred to the planning application regarding the large housing development which was being proposed for the Perryfields area and urged everyone to comment on the application.
- The District Council would shortly be discussing the possibility of joining the new West Midlands Combined Authority.
- On the issue of dog fouling, he confirmed that new signs were being put across the parish to try and get the message across.

81/16 Co-Option of Parish Councillors

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Liz Eden and Chris Jewson with immediate effect.

Liz Eden and Chris Jewson were then invited to join the meeting.

082/16 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 May 2016

This was noted.

(3) Annual Return and Summary of Receipts & Payments for 2015/16

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the annual governance statement contained therein.

(4) Chairman's Allowance

John Ellis, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance should remain at £600 for 2016/17/

It was also agreed that the payment should be added to the list of payments referred to in minute (1) above.

083/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

None.

084/16 Grant Application – Men in Sheds

John Ellis explained that this project supports men and women who had experienced life changing events and gave them a place to meet, be productive and get involved in the local community. He felt that this was a much more worthwhile cause than just giving a general donation to Age UK.

After discussion, Paul Eden, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed to provide tools for use on the project to the value of £200. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the project organiser to see what was required.

085/16 Parish Fete 2016 - Finances

After the Chairman had commented that he felt that the fete had gone well despite the weather, it was agreed to note the Clerk's report.

086/16 Speed Limits on Hanbury Road (B4091)

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the County Council indicating that they were arranging for speed surveys to be carried out on the B4091. John Ellis added that he was attending a meeting later in the week with local councillors and officers from the County Council to discuss the speeding issues on this road.

087/16 Provision of Benches to replace Bus Shelter in Whitford Bridge Road

After discussion, it was agreed not to provide a bench in Whitford Bridge Road.

088/16 Tai Chi in the Park

John Ellis reported that the Tai Chi classes would be held again this summer at Stoke Heath Recreation Area and that the charge would remain at £20 per session. It was hoped to start on the 2nd July. John Ellis added that he proposed to issue a press release and display an advertising banner on the site.

The Parish Council agreed to support this event.

089/16 IT Equipment for the Parish Office

After the Chairman had explained the need to replace the Clerk's desk top computer as it was no longer fit for purpose, it was agreed that it should be replaced with a new laptop. Paul Eden was asked to look at the options with a maximum spend of £400.

090/16 Project Updates

Chris Jewson stated that the footpath adjacent to the Stoke Heath recreation Area needed resurfacing and he was unsure whether the County Council would be willing to carry out the work. The cost of hardcore would be in the region of £500. It was agreed that Chris Jewson should liaise with the County Council to see what they were prepared to do to help with the work. The Council also agreed that they would ensure that the work was carried out regardless of the County Council's decision.

091/16 Diary Commitments

It was noted that Diane Brown and John Ellis would be attending the CALC meeting on the 8th June 2016.

092/16 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a cheque for £200 from the SHAC Committee with a request that the money be used to help maintain the children's play area in the parish.

The Parish Council gratefully accepted the cheque and asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Committee.

093/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Keith Shakespeare reported that he had attended a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee and there were no issues to bring to the Council's attention.

Diane Brown asked that the flower box on Harbours Hill be maintained.

Jill Howe reported that she understood that a Girl Guides Group had started up in the parish but she did not know any details. The Chairman asked to follow this up and to report back to the next meeting.

Alyson Jewson reported that the Stoke Youth Club would be closing this summer.

Paul Eden reported that the graffiti had returned to the railway bridge tunnel on Shaw Lane. The Clerk agreed to get it sorted.

John Ellis asked that the use of CCTV equipment at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area be included on the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

094/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 July 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman