

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

**Present:** Councillors John Ellis (Vice Chairman)(In the Chair), Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Alyson Jewson, Liz Miller, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllr Malcolm Glass plus two members of the public.

### **Public Question Time:**

A member of the public raised the following issues:-

- Parking on the pavement in Shaw Lane to such an extent that pedestrians had to walk on the highway to get past them. It was agreed that the Clerk should raise this problem with the highways authority and the Police.
- Why had gates been erected in the field along Shaw Lane? The Clerk responded by saying that he had already raised this matter with the District Council and was awaiting a reply.

### **143/16 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Sue Abel, Jill Howe, Chris Jewson and Peter Williams.

### **144/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation**

Alyson Jewson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6(1).

### **145/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3 October 2016**

Dean Smith objected to the fact that his objection to the decision regarding the possible provision of CCTV at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had not been recorded. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended accordingly and submitted to the Council's next meeting for approval.

### **146/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

None.

### **147/16 District and County Councillors' Reports**

D/Cllr Malcolm Glass commented on the following issues affecting the parish:-

- He was concerned about the impact the serving of an Enforcement Notice would have on the future of the Sports and Social Club. He was aware that the previous manager had abused the rules regarding the siting of too many caravans on the site but he felt that new restrictions could lead to problems for the Club.
- With regard to the planning issues relating to Intall Fields Farm, he confirmed that Enforcement Notices had been served on the owners of the site which they would have to comply with. To date he was not aware of any appeals being submitted.

## **148/16 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 October 2016**

This was noted.

## **149/16 Parish Council Website**

The Clerk reminded the meeting that he had sent a link to all Councillors for the new website which was now under construction. He added that work would continue to populate the site as quickly as possible. This was noted.

## **150/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk**

None.

## **151/16 Project Updates**

The Clerk reported that the fence at the Ryefields Road Recreation Area was becoming badly damaged due to people climbing the fence as part of a short cut to other parts of the village. It had now reached a point where there was a strong possibility that someone could get injured as a result of the state of the fence. He went on to explain that in order to stop this practice, it would be necessary to raise the height of the fence as well as repairing the existing fence. The cost of this work would be in the region of £1,500.

After discussion, Paul Eden, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the necessary work to the fence should be carried out immediately with a maximum budget of £2,000.

## **152/16 Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 2016 and Donation to the British Legion**

The Clerk reported that Sue Abel had agreed to liaise with Royal British Legion regarding a wreath for Remembrance Sunday and that she would be at the service to represent the Parish Council. John Ellis also confirmed that he would be in attendance.

With regard to a donation to the Royal British Legion, Keith Shakespeare, seconded by Dean Smith, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should make a donation of £50.

## **153/16 Arrangements for Carols in the Park 2016**

John Ellis confirmed that this event would take place at Stoke Heath Recreation Area on Saturday 10 December commencing at 5.00pm.

The Council then considered the arrangements for the event and unanimously agreed the following:-

- A budget of £100 should be made available to cover the cost of refreshments for the event.

- Keith Shakespeare to provide a PA system and lighting.
- John Ellis to organise the catering.
- A donation of £25 to the Hand Radio Club for the use of their generator.
- The Parish Council's gazebos to be used.
- The Clerk to contact Avoncroft Arts Society regarding the possible use of the main hall if the weather was too inclement.
- IDG Garden Services be asked to supply a suitable Christmas Tree at a cost of approximately £100.
- The Clerk to check whether the existing Christmas tree lights were still fit for purpose and if not to purchase two new sets.
- Wide publicity for the event.

#### **154/16 Dates of Meetings 2017/18**

The programme of meetings for 2017/18 were approved.

#### **155/16 Location of New Flower Boxes**

Diane Brown stated that she would like to see new flower boxes sited at Woodgate Parish Notice Board, Buntsford Hill Notice Board and at the junction of Stoke Pound Lane and Whitford Bridge Road. This request was agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council's budget for the supply and maintenance of the flower boxes across the parish should be increased to £1700.

The Clerk then put forward the suggestion that a small plaque should be attached to each flower box stating that it had been supplied and maintained by the Parish Council to help local residents become aware of the work that the Council did on their behalf. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **156/16 Diary Commitments**

None.

#### **157/16 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had two items of correspondence to draw to the Council's attention. Firstly he had received a letter of thanks from Age UK for the tools that had been provided for the Men in Sheds project. Secondly he had received a complaint from a resident of Stoke Pound lane regarding the increased use of that road by HGVs. He added that he would make the County Council aware of this issue.

#### **158/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Diane Brown commented on the problems being caused by an overgrown hedge in Moorgate Road and asked the Clerk to try and ascertain the owner and ask that the hedge be cut back as soon as possible.

Alyson Jewson asked if the Clerk could look into the possibility of the Parish Council introducing its own by-laws to try and combat the growing problem of dog fouling in the parish.

Paul Eden commented that the resurfacing work which had been done in Greenside was very welcome but it still left the problem of the unadopted area which remained in a very

poor condition. The Clerk agreed to raise the issue again with the District Council.

Keith Shakespeare asked that efforts be made to move the concrete blocks from the former George Verney Meadow to the Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

**159/16 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 December 2016 commencing at 7.00pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman