

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 11th May 2016.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 1 Member of the Public.

062/16 Election of Chairman

John Ellis, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Peter Williams be elected as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

063/16 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that John Ellis be elected as Vice Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

064/16 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Paul Eden, Dean Smith, D/Cllr Malcolm Glass and C/Cllr Chris Bloore.

065/16 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

The Chairman, Diane Brown and Alyson Jewson all declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7(1).

066/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 April 2016

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

067/16 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

068/16 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment

The Chairman commented that he was aware that there were some concerns regarding the quality of the plaques for the Memorial Garden and suggested that this payment be withheld until he had time to check whether they met the original specification. This was agreed.

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for April 2015

This was noted.

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

The Clerk explained that there was no need to consider the summary at this meeting as he would need to present it again at the next meeting when the Parish Council would be asked to approve the Annual Return. This was noted.

(4) Final Parish Council Budget for 2016/17

After the Clerk had explained the reasons for making the proposed changes to the Council's budget, in particular, the withdrawal of the grant to St Michael's Church Tower Fund due to legal reasons, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the revised budget.

069/16 Grant Application

After several Councillors had expressed their concerns regarding the level of service provided by Citizens Advice in the local area, John Ellis, seconded by Keith Shakespeare moved and it was unanimously agreed that the request for a grant by that organisation be refused.

070/16 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the projects which the Parish Council had completed during 2015/16 and overall was pleased with the way that Council was working. He added that he felt that this fete went well despite the inclement weather.

In response to a comment by Sue Abel, the Chairman agreed that it would be helpful to receive a further update from Barratt Homes on the development of the former Polymer Latex site. The Clerk confirmed that he would contact the company accordingly.

The Clerk reported on the successful working relationship between himself and Chris Cooke, the Parish Lengthsman over the past year. He pointed out that the Lengthsman was free to deal with any minor highways issues in the parish without the need to get authority from the Council first. Any major issues were referred to the Clerk first. The Parish Council recognised the excellent work which had been carried out over the past year and agreed that the current arrangements should continue.

071/16 Project Updates

The Clerk reported that the new flooring at the Shaw Lane Recreation Area was being installed this week.

072/16 Diary Commitments

None.

073/16 Correspondence

None.

074/16 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis asked that the use of Stoke Heath Recreation Area for Tai Chi classes this summer be included on the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

075/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 June 2016 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman