

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 9th January 2017.

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, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

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

Public Question Time:

A member of the public raised his ongoing concerns regarding the increasing use of Stoke Pound Lane as a 'rat-run' by cars and large commercial vehicles and he felt that it was only a matter of time before a serious accident occurred. The Clerk explained that he had raised this issue with the County Council but they were not prepared to take any action. He added that this was an issue which should be referred to the local County Councillor.

001/17 Development of the Former Polymer Latex Site – Update by Barratt Homes

Richard Miller from Barratt Homes West Midlands gave an update on the proposed development of the site to provide approximately 200 new homes. He pointed out that the final purchase of the site had been held up due to protracted negotiations with the Canal and River Trust regarding storm water outfall into the canal and also the need to relocate Great Crested Newts from the existing water storage tanks on the site to new ponds and habitat areas.

He now hoped that the first houses would start to be built in August 2017 with the first occupations in the second quarter of 2018.

Whilst responding to questions from Councillors, he pointed out that he would welcome any ideas from the Parish Council to celebrate John Corbett such as an information board and also any suggestions for road names etc. The Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with Richard Miller.

002/17 Apologies

None.

003/17 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Sue Abel, Diane Brown and John Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7(1).

004/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 December 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

005/17 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

006/17 District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no Councillors in attendance.

007/17 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment

Paul Eden pointed out that the list of invoices for payment should have included a payment of £25.00 to the South Birmingham Radio Society for the use of their generator at the 'Carols in the Park' event.

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for December 2016

This was noted.

(3) Draft 2017/18 Budget

The Clerk stated that the draft budget for 2017/18 had been circulated for information at this stage. The Council would be required to approve the budget at their next meeting and to agree the precept for 2017/18. He added that his advice would be for the Council to not seek an increase on the precept above that claimed for 2016/17. The Council accepted this advice.

008/17 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Chairman reported that the 'Carols in the Park' event had been a success despite the inclement weather with approximately 35-40 people attending. John Ellis added that £50 had also been collected for the Church Tower Appeal Fund.

009/17 Project Updates

The Chairman stated that he had been in contact with the circus organisers who had indicated that they would need to be on site for at least 4 days and he was unsure whether that would be acceptable to the local community or to the Bournville Village Trust. The second option for a parish event would be an open air film night in late August. This was likely to cost approximately £1250 but the organisers would provide all the necessary equipment etc. He stressed that a decision would need to be made at the Council's next meeting and asked for it to be included on the agenda.

010/17 Review of Risk Management Arrangements

Having considered the Clerk's comments, the Parish Council unanimously approved the Parish Council's Risk Management Register.

011/17 Neighbourhood/Parish Plan for Stoke Parish Council

The Chairman commented that he had attended the CALC meeting in December where it was clear that there was a need for all parish councils to put a Neighbourhood Plan in place. John Ellis added that there was a meeting on Friday 13 January with Sajid Javed to discuss the importance of these plans and he hoped to attend that meeting. The meeting would take place at the offices of Hagley Parish Council.

012/17 Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee – Parish Council's Representative

It was unanimously agreed that Jill Howe would represent the Council on the Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee.

013/17 Recording/Broadcasting Parish Council Meetings

Dean Smith confirmed that it was his intention to record the Parish Council's next meeting and to broadcast it via Facebook. The Clerk confirmed that under The Openness of Local discussion on the matter, all remaining Councillors made their feelings known that they were strongly opposed to this course of action and Dean Smith was repeatedly asked not to continue with his proposal but he refused. All Councillors confirmed that if he chose to go ahead with his proposal at the next meeting then they would leave the meeting which would mean that that meeting would then become inquorate.

014/17 Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) – Payment of Clerk's Subscription

After the Clerk had explained the support he received from SLCC which was of assistance both in his role as Clerk but in providing advice and support to the Council, it was unanimously agreed that the Council would pay the Clerk's monthly subscription to this organisation.

015/17 Salt King 200 Event 2017

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would attend the event on the 25 June 2017 and a number of Councillors indicated their willingness to help on the day. The Council would provide a display relating to Stoke Works as well as providing leaflets for the John Corbett Trail. The Clerk confirmed that he would notify the organisers accordingly.

016/17 Diary Commitments

None.

017/17 Correspondence

None.

018/17 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Following comments by John Ellis regarding the possible options for siting of a defibrillator within the Parish, the Chairman suggested that an ideal position within Stoke Prior would be outside the Parish Office. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the landlord to see if they would be agreeable to this. He added that he would like to see a second defibrillator installed to serve Stoke Heath with the Avoncroft site being a sensible option. It was agreed that the Clerk would talk to the Trustees of the Avoncroft Arts Society.

In response to a question by Sue Abel, the Clerk confirmed that he was liaising with the agents selling the woodland regarding the future of the picnic site at Stoke Wharf.

019/17 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 February 2017 commencing at 7.30pm at the Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman