

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 23rd October 2017.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Chris Jewson, Alyson Jewson and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

125/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

126/17 Declarations of Interest

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

127/17 Requests for Dispensation

None.

128/17 Adjournment of Meeting Public Question Time:

1) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

2) County Councillor Chris Bloore and District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Mike Thompson

The Councillors were not present at the meeting.

129/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 September 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council noted the brief notes relating to the adjourned meeting held on the 2 October 2017.

130/17 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

The Chairman reported the following:-

- 1) He had arranged with Alyson Jewson to assist the Clerk in loading the material onto the website.
- 2) Carols in the Park would take place on Saturday 9 December starting at 5pm. He would arrange for the PA system and the publicity banners. He asked for all Councillors to help with the event. The Clerk was asked to check whether the main hall at Avoncroft would be available in the event of inclement weather.

131/17 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment

It was unanimously agreed to approve the list of payments circulated at the meeting.

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2017

This was noted.

(3) Half Yearly Budget Update

This was noted.

132/17 Planning Application – 17/00521/OUT – Great Western House, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior – Outline application for the erection of a terrace of 4 x 2 bed houses with all matters reserved except for details of access and layout.

The Parish Council agreed that they had no objections to this application.

133/17 Progress Reports and Project Updates

John Ellis commented that he understood that the County Council were considering reducing the local bus service or at least reducing the level of subsidy. The Chairman asked him and the Clerk to try to find out more about this proposal.

134/17 Fly Tipping

The Chairman reported that he was working with Chris Cooke, the Parish Lengthsman, to curb the amount of fly tipping which occurs in the parish. It was becoming an increasing problem and he intended to highlight the fact in his report in the next Parish Newsletter.

135/17 Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2017

The Chairman, John Ellis and Sue Abel all confirmed that they would hopefully be able to attend the Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church on the 12 November. Sue Abel had organised the poppy wreath.

At the Chairman's suggestion, it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £75 to the British Legion.

The Clerk then stated that he had been approached by a member of the public to commemorate the First World War and, in particular, the Battle of Ypres in 1917 at which a number of local men lost their lives. The Parish Council agreed that a plaque should be placed at the memorial garden and asked the Clerk to liaise with the British Legion on the log or wording to be used.

136/17 Bulb Planting

After discussion, it was agreed that bulb planting would be deferred this year. This would give the Clerk and Ian Gerard the chance to log where the existing bulbs were and the areas which would require planting next year.

Sue Abel suggested that it might be a good idea to plant primroses on the bank opposite the church on the Hanbury Road.

137/17 Diary Commitments

It was noted that the CALC Annual General Meeting would be held on the 15th November in Worcester. The next Area CALC meeting would be held on the 13 December.

John Ellis stated that, due to health and other commitments, he would no longer be able to continue to attend the Area CALC meetings.

138/17 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, confirming that the audit had been completed and the certified Annual Return had been issued. There were no issues raised by the Auditors.

The Chairman read out an email he had received from Paul Eden tendering his resignation as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that notice of a potential bye-election would be posted in Stoke Prior. If a bye-election did not take place then the Parish Council would need to look to fill the vacancy by co-option.

The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from Bromsgrove District Council regarding the naming of the streets at the new Barratt development. The letter confirmed that all the agreed names were in line with the Parish Council's suggestions.

139/17 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel asked that the issue of providing an information board at St Michael's Church be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The board would be intended to remind visitors that the churchyard was a site of special scientific interest.

Sue Abel informed the Parish Council that Barbara Middleman's book on the salt industry was available again but there was only a limited supply.

Sue Abel stated that the Johnson Fownes Charity would be meeting soon and asked if anyone knew of any widows in the parish could they please her or Diane Brown know.

It was noted that the grass needed cutting in the play area at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

140/17 Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman pointed out that the next scheduled meeting would be on the 6th November but, unless there was any urgent business to be considered, it was proposed to cancel that meeting. The Parish Council supported that approach. It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would then be held on Monday 2nd October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman