

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3rd April 2017.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

042/17 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Paul Eden and Keith Shakespeare.

043/17 Declarations of Interest

Diane Brown declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8(1).

044/17 Requests for Dispensation

None.

045/17 Public Question Time:

Revd Wyn Beynon spoke to the Parish Council regarding a recent incident whereby someone mowed part of the conservation area presumably to gain access to certain graves in the area. Whilst he was very sympathetic to the needs of visitors to graves in the churchyard it was important that they were aware of certain guidelines etc. He added that he did not want to lay down strict rules but felt he needed the help of the Parish Council and the local community to preserve the churchyard. He therefore asked the Parish Council if they would see how they could help in this area.

The Chairman suggested that this problem should be highlighted on the Parish Council's website and asked Revd Beynon to provide some suitable wording.

Sue Abel suggested that the Parish Council should look at providing a conservation board alongside the John Corbett board to make people more aware of the conservation area.

046/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 March 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

047/17 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

048/17 District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no Councillors in attendance.

049/17 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 March 2017

This was noted.

050/17 Progress Reports by the Chairman and the Clerk

The Chairman put forward a proposal to replace the tree which was vandalised at the Memorial Garden with a suitable fir tree which could also be used as the annual Christmas tree rather than providing a new tree every year. The Parish Council fully supported this proposal and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements

The Chairman reported that Bournville Village Trust had been approached by the Clerk regarding the film night on the 15 July but had received no reply. It was agreed that the event should go ahead and the Clerk to confirm the booking and also to arrange for mobile toilets and first aid facilities to be provided.

051/17 Salt King 200

John Ellis reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the organising committee and confirmed that the Parish Council would have a stand at the event on the 25 June. Arrangements were put in hand to ensure that all the necessary equipment would be available on the day. Sue Abel and Jill Howe would look at putting together some albums of picture which could be viewed on the day.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Wychavon Leisure – 50+ Walking Group to cover the cost of a shuttle bus on the day at a cost of either £135 or £150 dependent on how long the service ran for. Alyson Jewson, seconded by the Chairman moved and it was unanimously agreed to meet the cost of the shuttle bus at £150.

052/17 Verbal Report on the Working Group on Public Communications

The Chairman briefly reported that the Working Group had so far held one meeting and agreed to look at a number of actions to try and improve attendance and interest at Parish Council meetings. These included improved media advertising of meetings, larger notices for the parish notice boards and highlighted items on the website.

053/17 Diary Commitments

John Ellis reported that he had met with C/Cllr Chris Bloore at the Intall Fields Farm site regarding the upcoming planning appeal. C/Cllr Bloore expressed the view that he was unhappy with the approach adopted by Worcestershire Regulatory Services and would be taking the matter up with head of that service.

054/17 Correspondence

None.

055/17 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Jewson pointed out that the footpath along the B4095 between the Village Hall and the Ewe and Lamb Public House and between Foley Gardens and Stoke Pound Lane had become dangerously narrow due to the overgrowing of the vegetation from the verge. The Clerk was asked to report this to the highways authority.

In response to a question from Liz Eden, the Clerk confirmed that the Council were looking at replacing the large sign board at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

The Clerk confirmed that he had asked for more signs asking dog owners to be more responsible with dog waste should be displayed in the Wheatridge Road area.

Several Councillors commented on how good the daffodils looked across the parish and agreed to identify new areas for next year's planting.

Sue Abel commented on the continuing problems caused by HGVs using the B4095 and asked that the Clerk whether any response had been received from the County Council regarding better signage to and from the industrial estates and the motorways. The Clerk reported that no response had been received to date.

056/17 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be its Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3 May 2017 commencing at 7.00pm. This meeting would be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm. Both meetings will take place at the Stoke Prior Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman