

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllrs Malcolm Glass and Mike Thompson and 5 Members of the Public.

093/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Paul Eden and Dean Smith.

094/17 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9.

095/17 Requests for Dispensation

None.

096/17 Development of Former Polymer Latex Site – 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 site had now been purchased by Barratts, the Canal and River Trust had now obtained DEFRA approval for the storm water outfall into the canal and a financial contribution had been agreed. In addition a licence had been secured from Natural England for the relocation of the Great Crested Newts from the existing water storage tanks on the site to new ponds and habitat areas.

He confirmed that the construction of the houses would start in November 2017 with the first occupations in the third quarter of 2018.

Whilst responding to questions from Councillors, he confirmed that arrangements were being made for deliveries to the site to be made outside of peak times for local traffic. He was aware of the traffic issues in Weston Hall Road and all contractors vehicles would be parked on site. He was aware of concerns regarding the contamination on the site and this would be monitored by the local Environmental Health Officers.

Questions were raised about the policy of making homes available to local people and Richard Miller agreed to check what the likely arrangements were and respond to the Clerk.

097/17 Public Question Time:

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the use of footpath SP-518 including dogs being allowed to roam off the lead, alleged drainage problems at the end of Brickhouse Lane leading to the field gate and the collapsing bank between the River Salwarpe and the footpath. Chris Jewson, the Council's Footpath Officer agreed to look into these issues.

098/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 June 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

099/17 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

100/17 District and County Councillors' Reports for Information

Malcolm Glass reported that the issues with Intall Fields Farm were still ongoing and he had had numerous meetings with various bodies to try to stop the use of the biomass boilers working during the summer without any success. The public inquiry in September will bring the matter to a head.

The Chairman then commented that the letter sent to all three Councillors by the Clerk at the Parish Council's request expressing their concern regarding their lack of attendance was not a matter of public debate. He was more than happy to meet any Councillor in private to discuss the matter.

Mike Thompson then aired his displeasure at receiving the letter and stated that he had no duty to attend Parish Council meetings. He added that he had no issues to report to the Parish Council.

101/17 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 June 2017

This was noted.

102/17 Provision of Bench in Whitford Bridge Road

Following comments by Diane Brown, it was unanimously agreed that a suitable bench should be purchased and installed on the site of the former bus shelter in Whitford Bridge Road. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

103/17 Membership of Committees

Following comments by Alyson Jewson, it was agreed that a full election process would be used at the next Annual General Meeting to select Councillors to serve on Committees etc.

104/17 Film Night 15 July 2017

The Chairman confirmed that the arrangements for the film night were well underway and all the leaflets were being distributed. John Ellis stated that he had organised a second caterer for the evening.

The Chairman added that he would need help with car parking on the night and would ask Liz and Paul Eden to help with this. Alyson and Chris Jewson also confirmed that they

would be available to help on the evening.

105/17 Grant Request from Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau

After the Clerk had reminded the Parish Council that they had not given a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau last year, Keith Shakespeare, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that a grant of £200 should be given to the Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau. It was also agreed that the CAB should publicise the support from the Parish Council.

106/17 Progress Reports and Project Updates

The Chairman explained that he was keen to see a new community hall being built on the Ryefields Road Recreation Area. The land currently had a covenant on it preventing any building but he felt that this could be amended as his proposal would be for the benefit of the community. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek legal advice and the likely costs before progressing any further. He added that any such building could be used to house a John Corbett museum.

Keith Shakespeare confirmed that he was still working on the arrangements for the Salt Fest.

The Chairman reported that the new notice board was now in place at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

107/17 Diary Commitments

None.

108/17 Correspondence

None.

109/17 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Diane Brown asked for the provision of a bench on the site of the former bus shelter in Whitford Bridge Road be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Sue Abel asked what the position was regarding the enforcement issues relating to the former Sugarbrook Nurseries site. The Clerk confirmed that he was waiting for a response from the Enforcement Officer.

John Ellis commented that the overgrown hedge at the junction of Foley Gardens and Hanbury Road was causing a hazard for pedestrians. The recent changes made to this junction by the County Council had now made it more difficult in terms of visibility when pulling out of the junction. He confirmed that he had spoken to C/Cllr Chris Bloore about the problem.

The Chairman commented that he was considering asking the Parish Council to agree to the appointment of an Assistant Clerk to help with the workload. He stressed that this was only an idea at this stage and he would have further discussions with the Clerk.

Jill Howe reported that she had attended the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee and everything appeared to be progressing very well.

110/17 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4th September 2017 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman