

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

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

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

### **111/17 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Paul Eden and Keith Shakespeare.

### **112/17 Declarations of Interest**

### **113/17 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **114/17 Adjournment of Meeting Public Question Time:**

#### **1) Members of the Public**

- a) A member of the public raised concerns regarding obstruction on the footpath along Ship Hill from the Ewe & Lamb PH. The Clerk replied that he had raised this problem with County Highways previously but they were not prepared to take any action but he would raise it again.
- b) Two members of the public announced that they were looking to hold a music event at the Stoke Prior Country Club on the 7 July 2018 which would attract approximately 4,000 visitors. It would be a fund raising event for charity. The Parish Council noted this and, whilst it had no comments to make at this stage, they asked to be kept informed as the plans for the event progressed.
- c) A member of the public questioned the poor quality of the Parish Council's website and their failure to publish correct notices around the parish.

#### **2) County Councillor Chris Bloore – no report**

#### **3) District Councillor Mike Thompson**

D/Cllr Thompson reported on behalf of C/Cllr Bloore that a legal order was now in place reducing the speed limit along Hanbury Road.

John Ellis commented on the new traffic sign which had been placed next the church lychgate and asked that C/Cllr Bloore be asked to ask for it to be moved. D/Cllr Thompson agreed to pass the request on.

### **115/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 July 2017**

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

### **116/17 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting**

The Chair reported that, having spoken to a number of Councillors, he had purchased a generator at a cost of £239 for use by the Council at any open air events such as the forthcoming Carol Service. The Parish Council endorsed this action.

## **117/17 Finance**

### **(1) Invoices for Payment**

The Clerk asked that an additional invoice for the Tai Chi classes held in August be added to the list of payments. It was then unanimously agreed to approve the list of payments circulated at the meeting.

### **(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2017**

This was noted.

## **118/17 Planning Appeal – Intall Fields Farm, Stoke Prior**

Sue Abel confirmed that she would be happy to present the Parish Council's case at the forthcoming Planning Appeal. The Council agreed that Sue Abel should be officially represent them. John Ellis agreed to offer any assistance that he could.

## **119/17 Progress Reports and Project Updates**

It was reported that Keith Shakespeare had arranged and paid for the stand at the Salt Fest 2017 event on the 9/10 September. Various Councillors agreed to help with manning the stand over the two days.

The Clerk then gave an update on the provision of the defibrillators. He stated that he was going ahead with the one to be sited outside the Parish Office whilst further discussions would be held with Avoncroft Arts Society about the siting of the second one. He would report back to the Council on progress.

In response to a question by Chris Jewson, the Clerk agreed to follow-up the provision of a kissing gate to provide an alternative entrance to the Stoke Heath Recreation Area off the Hanbury Road.

## **120/17 Roller Banners for Parish Councils**

The Chairman stated that he had received an email offering the Parish Council the opportunity to purchase roller banners which could be used to advertise the Council at public events etc at a cost of £45 each. After discussion, John Ellis, seconded by Liz Eden, moved and it was agreed to purchase two roller banners. Dean Smith abstained from the vote. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

## **121/17 Diary Commitments**

It was noted that the Chairman and John Ellis would be attending the next Area CALC meeting on the 13 September. Jill Howe would be attending the Village Hall Management Committee on the 21 September.

John Ellis stated that the Church would know this week whether they would be getting a lottery grant towards the repairs to the church tower. He added that he was organising a concert at Stoke Prior Country Club on the 29 September to raise funds for the tower.

## **122/17 Correspondence**

None.

### **123/17 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Diane Brown commented that she understood that Bromsgrove District Council had put tree preservation orders on the trees adjacent to the Harris Brush Works site.

Following a question by Dean Smith, the Clerk agreed to look at bringing forward the next meeting of the Communications Committee.

The Chairman and Dean Smith both commented on the success of the recent Film Night.

Sue Abel commented on the increasing problems caused by HGVs using Stoke Pound Lane and asked that the County Highways be requested to try and resolve this problem before a serious incident occurs.

Sue Abel stated that she understood that carcasses were being burnt at Happy Bank Farm although this issue was now being dealt with by the relevant authorities. The Clerk agreed to check the current position.

Chris Jewson stated that Dodderhill Parish Council has now appointed a Parish Paths Warden which should help to improve the footpaths in the area. However Finstall Parish Council has just lost their Warden.

Sue Abel asked for Bulb Planting to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **124/17 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman