

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th June 2018.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and Ian Gerrard (Parish Contractor).

077/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Dean Smith and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

078/18 Declarations of Interest

John Ellis and Alyson Jewson declared an interest in Agenda item 11(1).

079/18 Requests for Dispensation

None.

080/18 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

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

There were no County or District Councillors present.

081/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16 May 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

082/18 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chairman stated that it had been decided to lease a photocopier for the Parish Office rather than purchase one. The monthly cost would be £19.95 plus VAT. The only additional cost would be the replacement ink cartridges.

083/18 Planning Applications

1) 18/00119/OUT – Brine Pump Cottage, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior – Residential development comprising 14 units providing a mixture of 2-4 bed homes

The Parish Council were strongly of the view that this application should be refused. The site was of historical interest even though the Pump House had been demolished. The brine pumps were still on site and should be retained. The application was yet again increasing the number of larger family homes when the strong need was for more affordable homes for

young couples and families. In terms of the local area, this further development alongside the existing Barratt development would put even more strain on the local roads particularly Westonhall Road.

2) 18/00462/FUL – Land adjacent 15 Orchard Crescent, Stoke Prior – Construction of one 1 bedroom 2 person affordable bungalow together with external works, car parking & landscaping.

The Parish Council felt that this would be a useful addition to the local housing stock.

3) 18/00540/FUL – Severn Trent Water plc, Sugarbrook Pumping Station, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Prior – Installation of seven GRP kiosks.

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

084/18 Changes to Parish Council Planning Consultation Timeframe

The changes to the consultation timeframe were noted.

085/18 Planning Training for Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that the District Council were looking to provide planning training for Parish Council during June. Several Councillors indicated that they would be interested in attending and that the 21 June seemed to be the best option. The Clerk agreed to check the arrangements with the District Council and email Councillors with more information.

086/18 Road Verge Management & Biodiversity in Worcestershire

It was agreed that Chris Jewson would liaise with Chris Cooke and Ian Gerrard regarding possible sites around the parish as roadside verge nature reserves.

087/18 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – May 2018

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for May 2018

This was noted.

088/18 Project Updates

The following updates were provided:-

Film Night – The Chairman confirmed that arrangements had been made to hold the film night on Saturday 1st September 2018. A decision needed to be made as to which film would be shown.

Salt Fest 2018 – Following comments by Keith Shakespeare, it was agreed that the Parish Council would have a stand at the Salt Fest on the 8/9th September 2018. The Chairman asked Keith Shakespeare if he would make the booking.

Ageing Well – John Ellis reported that he had invited an officer from Age Concern to the next Parish Council meeting to talk about a project aimed at reaching out to older people in

rural communities.

.089/18 Diary Commitments

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the next meeting of CALC would be held on the 14 June 2018.

090/18 Correspondence

None.

091/18 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

It was reported that a new shed containing electrical supply equipment had appeared in the wooded area alongside the former Harris Brushworks site. The Clerk agreed to look into this and if necessary to raise it with the local Planning Officers.

Jill Howe reported on the Village Hall Management Committee's recent AGM. The hall appeared to be running well and being well used. The building still required important maintenance work to be carried out.

Sue Abel asked the Clerk to report the need for the gully in Foley Gardens to be cleared to allow rain water to drain away.

Sue Abel reported that she had received complaints about unpleasant smells coming from the Stoke Pound Lane area, possibly from Happy Bank Farm. It was agreed that the Clerk should report it to the Environmental Health Officers.

Diane Brown asked if consideration could be given to installing a bench at the site of the former bus shelter in Whitford Bridge Road.

092/18 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2nd July 2018 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman