

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 9th April 2018.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

048/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Keith Shakespeare and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

049/18 Declarations of Interest

050/18 Requests for Dispensation

None.

051/18 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. D/Cllr Mike Thompson did send a note giving an update on the proposed new sports hall in Bromsgrove and the District Council's arrangements for the town market.

052/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 March 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

053/18 Urgent Decisions since the Council's last Meeting

None.

054/18 Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that an outline application had been submitted for a residential development of 14 units on the site of the Brine Pump Cottage in Stoke Prior but this had subsequently been withdrawn. He would keep the Parish Council informed of any further developments.

055/18 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – March 2018

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for March 2018

This was noted.

056/18 Project Updates

The following updates were provided:-

Film Night – After the Chairman had confirmed that the event had been booked for the 14th July, a discussion ensued during which it became clear that this date would clash with a weekend long event also taking place nearby. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss alternative dates with the film provider, possibly early September.

Men in Sheds – After John Ellis had commented on the request for financial support, the Chairman expressed the view that he would rather give them work and pay a contribution towards that work than just provide a financial donation. He suggested that in addition to the work they would be doing at the container they could also be asked to produce some new benches made from railway sleepers. Additional benches were required around the parish. It was agreed to take this approach and for the Clerk to talk to Men in Sheds about this additional work.

Churchyard Information Board – Jill Howe stated that she understood that Parochial Church Council would willing to meet half of the cost of the boards but more details about the likely cost was required. The Clerk agreed to seek quotes and report back.

Ryefields Road Recreation Area – It was noted that the see-saw requiring repairing as did the basketball backboard. The Clerk pointed out that the annual inspection by RoSPA was imminent and would pick up these issues as part of the outcomes from the inspection.

Ship Hill, Stoke Prior – Several Councillors expressed concern about the state of the footpath running down the A4095 from the Ewe and Lamb. The Clerk pointed out that this had been referred to the Highways Officers on several occasions but no action had been taken.

Picnic Site – The Clerk reported that he would be meeting with the new landowners to try and secure the picnic site for future use.

New Signage at Play Areas – John Ellis reminded the Clerk that new safety and dog signs were needed at the play areas. The Clerk agreed to sort this out.

057/18 Diary Commitments

None.

058/18 Correspondence

The Chairman circulated an invitation from the Chairman of the District Council to attend the Civic Charity Dinner Dance on the 20th April 2018.

059/18 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

This item had been dealt with under Minute 056/18 above.

060/18 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 May 2018 commencing at 7.00pm at Stoke Prior Village Hall. This would be followed by the Annual Parish Assembly at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman