

STOKE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 3rd May 2016.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman of the Parish Council), John Ellis (Vice Chairman of the Council), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Jill Howe, Chris Jewson, Alyson Jewson, Liz Miller, Keith Shakespeare and Dean Smith.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman), Emma Hancock (Stoke Prior Girl Guides) and 1 Member of the Public.

Peter Williams took the chair for the meeting.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from D/Cllr Malcolm Glass.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2016 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman of the Parish Council's Report

In presenting his report, the Chairman highlighted the following points:-

- 2016/17 had been a quiet year in terms of the projects the Parish Council had undertaken compared with the previous year.
- The annual fete had again been reasonably successful but it was now time to give that event a rest. It was proposed to hold an outdoor film night on the 15 July at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.
- The Christmas lights competition went very well with a number of local residents producing good displays.
- There were no major problems currently ongoing or planned for this year.
- The Parish Council were aware that the development of the former Polymer Latex site later in the year would cause traffic problems and they would do everything they could to help alleviate those problems.

4. Reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillors for the Parish of Stoke

It was noted that none of the Councillors were in attendance at the meeting although a written report had been received from D/Cllr Malcolm Glass which was circulated and noted.

The Parish Council expressed their concern about the continuing failure of County Councillor Chris Bloore to have any contact with them either in the way of written communication or attendance at their meetings. It was noted that the last time he had attended a meeting had been December 2014. At the request of the meeting, the Clerk agreed to write to Cllr Bloore to raise this issue with him.

5. Reports from Representatives of Local Organisations

Stoke Prior Girl Guides

Emma Hancock spoke on behalf of the Stoke Prior Girl Guides and thanked the Parish Council for their financial support. The troop had started with 9 girls but this had now increased to 29 and included a number of girls from within the parish. They were being very active with a number of events going on and were about to undertake their first camp later in the month.

The Chairman thanked Emma Hancock and added that if any further help was required to ask the Parish Council.

Footpaths

A written report from Chris Jewson & Mark Tovey, the Parish Footpaths Wardens was circulated at the meeting.

Chris Jewson referred to his report and highlighted the main issues relating to footpaths in the parish.

Parish Lengthsman

Chris Cooke commented that he was now in his third year as the Lengthsman and briefly explained his role and how work was progressing. He was receiving good support from other agencies in dealing with ditches but was also facing major problems with the County Council in getting gullies and drains cleared.

6. Public Session

There were no issues to be considered.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Chairman