

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th February 2019.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Legthsman), Ian Gerrard (Parish Groundsman) and 1 member of the public. Mick Simpson (West Mercia Police) attended foe agenda item 6.

015/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Diane Brown and Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk).

016/19 Declarations of Interest

017/19 Requests for Dispensation

None.

018/19 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council had any prior notice regarding any improvements to the A38 following the completion of the M5 works. The Chairman replied that the Council only received the same information as local residents.

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

There were no County and District Councillors present.

019/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

020/19 Smartwater

Mick Simpson from West Mercia Police gave a presentation on the Smartwater project which was part of the 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative and took questions from Councillors. It was pointed out that, in order for the Parish Council to be able to buy the kits at a reduced rate, they would need to be able to purchase enough kits for 70% of the houses in the parish. As part of that number they would be able to ask for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for 25% of those kits. The Parish Council agreed in principle that they should pursue this project.

021/19 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

022/19 Planning Applications

1) 18/01625/FUL – 15 Avon Close, Bromsgrove – First floor rear bedroom extension.

The Parish Council supported this application as a good extension to a family home.

2) 18/01620/FUL – Variation of Condition 2 of 17/00761/FUL (Residential development of 148 dwellings (Amendment to 15/06870) – Alterations to approved layout and removal of two dwellings.

The Parish Council agreed to note the alterations to the approved layout and the removal of two dwellings on the site.

023/19 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – January 2019

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for January 2019

This was noted.

024/19 Re-appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that the Council's current Auditor had offered a one year contract for a fee of £110 or a three year contract for £100 per year. He added that she had provided an excellent service to the Council since she was appointed. It was then unanimously agreed to proceed with the three year contract for internal audit services.

025/19 Renewal of Grounds Maintenance and Parish Lengthsman Contracts

The Clerk reported that, in order for the Council to comply with its Financial Regulations, it would be necessary to advertise for tenders for the Grounds Maintenance and Parish Lengthsman contracts. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that this was the correct course of action. It was also agreed that the contracts should be offered for two years with the option on either side to extend for a further two years.

The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

026/19 Provision of Waste/Dog Bins in the Parish

After the Clerk explained that he had received a number of requests for more waste/dog bins around the parish, a general discussion ensued during which a number of potential sites were identified. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the District Council to see how many bins they would be willing to provide across the parish before the Parish Council committed to purchasing a number of bins themselves.

027/19 Project Updates by Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman reported that the purchase of a bench in memory of Thelma Roll was in hand and approval was being sought from the County Council regarding its location on the junction of Prior Road and Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior.

The Chairman added that he was becoming very angry regarding the poor condition of Weston Hall Road and Shaw Lane as a result of the heavy traffic leaving the Barratt

development. He had raised a number of complaints with the Site Manager. The Clerk added that he would also write to Barratt's Head Office.

028/19 Action Summary

After the Clerk had updated the Council on the progress on items included in the summary, it was agreed to note the summary.

029/19 Diary Commitments

Jill Howe commented that she would be attending the Parish Hall Management Committee on the 21 February 2019.

030/19 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of thanks from the Church for the Parish Council's support of the recent Christmas Tree Event which raised in excess of £1,000.

031/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis asked that Smartwater be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Dean Smith asked Parish Councillors for any suggestions of major projects which the Parish Council might like to undertake for which Section 106 funds could be applied for.

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 4 March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman