

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Annual General Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at Stoke Prior Village Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Jean Jackson, Liz Miller, Penny Power and Keith Shakespeare.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk), Ian Gerard (Parish Council Contractor) and 1 member of the public.

### **062/18 Election of Chairman**

John Ellis, seconded by Penny Power, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Peter Williams be elected as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

### **063/18 Election of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, moved and it was unanimously agreed that John Ellis be elected as Vice Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

### **064/19 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Jill Howe and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **065/19 Declarations of Interest**

### **066/19 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **067/19 Adjournment of Meeting to hear from Members of the Public**

A member of the public suggested that the Parish Council's Constitution should be amended to include words to the effect that the Council served all residents not just those who supported its work. He also asked that the financial accounts be posted on the website together with a link to the District Council's declaration of interests register.

### **068/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 April 2019**

It was noted that apologies from Penny Power had been omitted from the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 April 2019 as amended were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **069/19 Membership of Advisory Groups**

The Clerk reminded the Council that they had adopted the Advisory Group approach at last year's Annual General Meeting and suggested that the system should be retained. He reminded the Council that, in the case of the planning issues, most applications were now being dealt with at the Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council then unanimously agreed to continue with the Advisory Group approach. It was also agreed that Penny Power should join the Communications Advisory Group.

### **070/19 Planning Application**

#### **1) 19/00500/FUL – 1 Waggoners Close, Bromsgrove – Proposed Two Storey Rear Extension.**

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

### **071/19 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment – April 2019**

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

#### **(2) Financial Management Statement for April 2019**

This was noted.

#### **(3) Chairman's Allowance for 2019/20**

[The Vice Chair took the chair for this item.]

It was suggested that the allowance should remain as the same as the three previous years, namely £600.

John Ellis, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2019/20 should remain at £600.

#### **(4) Final Budget for 2019/20**

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the revised budget.

#### **(5) Summary of Receipts and Payments for 2018/19**

The Parish Council approved the summary of receipts and payments for 2018/19 and agreed that they could be signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

### **072/19 Renewal of Parish Council's Insurance Arrangements**

The Clerk reported that he had received 2 quotes for the Parish Council's insurance as follows:-

Zurich Insurance      1 year term - £1,493.38 or 3 year long term agreement - £1,359.45  
Came & Co      1 year term - £1,291.84 or 3 year long term agreement - £1,229.75

After discussion, John Ellis, seconded by Keith Shakespeare, proposed and it was agreed that the Parish Council accept the 3 year long term agreement proposed by Zurich Insurance.

The Clerk added that he would contact Zurich Insurance to see if they were prepared to reduce the premium given the Council's decision to opt for a 3 year agreement.

### **073/19 Smartwater**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and they were prepared to support the scheme by funding the cost of 25% of the required number of kits and to cover the cost of the signage. He added that he had calculated that

there were 1,848 homes in the parish and the Parish Council would need to be able to coverage a minimum of 70% giving a total of 1,294. The total cost of the Smartwater kits would be £11,513.04 less £2,878.26 from the Police and Crime Commissioner and a grant of £1,500 from Cty Cllr Chris Bloore leaving a balance for the Parish Council of £7,134.78.

The Chairman, seconded by John Ellis, moved and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the Smartwater scheme as soon as possible and to agree to the expenditure of £7,134.78.

It was agreed that arrangements would be made to hold an open day at Stoke Heath Recreation Area to distribute the kits and to also have a stand at the Film Night on the 31 August.

#### **074/19 Project Updates by Chairman and Clerk**

The Clerk reported that he was drafting an agreement for the Stoke Wharf Picnic Site, he was writing to Barratt Homes regarding the continued closure of the towpath adjacent to the Henbrook Gardens site and he had authorised repairs to the Outdoor Gym equipment at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

#### **075/19 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported two items of correspondence:-

- 1) CALC Councillors Training – CALC had published their programme of training for new and existing Councillors. The Clerk stated that he would circulate details to all Councillors.
- 2) He had received a letter from Savills (agents for Bournville Village Trust) stating that they had carried out a rent review in accordance with the current lease agreement and as a result the annual rent for Stoke Heath Recreation Area had been increased from £1,203.00 to £1,346.00 per annum with effect from the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

#### **076/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

John Ellis confirmed that the Tia Chi classes would recommence on Saturday 22 June at Stoke Heath Recreation Area starting at 10.30am. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to fund these classes. He was also negotiating to get a keep fit class started on the same site.

John Ellis asked that the Parish Council's condolences to Sue Abel be formally recorded in the minutes. This was unanimously agreed.

Sue Abel suggested that the Parish Council look at installing more flower boxes possibly along the B4095 between Shaw Lane and the Ewe and Lamb. It was noted that the Clerk would need to check with County Highways whether this would be possible.

Sue Abel raised the issue of the dog bin near the Avoncroft Cricket Ground which appeared to be too small to cope with the level of use it received. The Clerk agreed to take this up with the District Council.

**Date of Next Meeting** – The Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3 June 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman