

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th November 2018.

Present: Councillors John Ellis (Vice Chairman)(In the Chair), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller, Penny Power and Dean Smith.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 2 Members of the Public.

148/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Keith Shakespeare, Peter Williams and D/Cllr Mike Thompson.

149/18 Declarations of Interest

Alyson Jewson declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8(1).

150/18 Requests for Dispensation

None.

151/18 Presentation on Bromsgrove District Council Plan Review

Mike Dunphy, the Strategic Planning Manager at Bromsgrove District Council gave a short presentation on the review of the Bromsgrove District Plan which was aimed at providing a long term vision and strategy to meet the future needs across the District. He pointed out that this was the first part of the review which ran until the 19 November, 2018. This would be followed by further more detailed consultations over the coming months.

152/18 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

A member of the public commented on the long standing problem of speeding traffic along the Redditch Road and his anger that the County Council were not prepared to take any action despite the impact this problem was having on the lives of those living along that road.

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

There were no County and District Councillors present.

153/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 October 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

154/18 Planning Applications

1) 18/01045/FUL – Sharpway House, Sharpway Gate, Harbours Hill, Bromsgrove – Two storey side extension

The Clerk stated that, due to an administrative error on his part, the deadline for comments on this application had passed.

155/18 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – October 2018

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2018

This was noted.

156/18 Christmas Lights Competition 2018

It was agreed to hold the competition again this year and to provide prizes of a £30 meal voucher for the winners from Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath. Arrangements for choosing the winners would be agreed at the Council's next meeting.

157/18 Stoke Heath Recreation Area – Replacement of Fence and Gate

The Clerk reported that a section of the fence and the gate adjacent to the Bromsgrove School drive was in poor condition and needed replacing as soon as possible. He added that funds had been allocated in this year's budget for this work. It was agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and get the necessary work done. It was also agreed that the existing gate should be offered to Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings.

Chris Jewson added that the County Council were willing to provide a new gate for the footpath entrance further along the same fence. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

158/18 Action Summary

After the Clerk had updated the Council on the progress on items included in the summary, it was agreed that it be noted.

159/18 Diary Commitments

It was confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 11 November at Hanbury Church starting at 10.45am. The Chairman, Jill Howe and Sue Abel confirmed that they would be attending.

Jill Howe would be attending the Village Hall Management Committee on the 29 November.

160/18 Correspondence

The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from a local resident requesting a bench be installed at the bus stop along Hanbury Road. The Clerk pointed out that this would require permission from the County Council and it was unclear whether there was sufficient room to install a bench.

The Chairman also commented that the County Council had been carrying out a review of rural bus services and stressed the importance of retaining such services.

At this juncture, Chris Cooke gave a report on his work as Parish Lengthsman:-

- The VAS on the Redditch Road was recording 3,000 northbound vehicles and 4,000 southbound vehicles per day exceeding the 30mph limit.
- During litter picking work, he was coming across bags of used cat litter on a regular basis. Any information where this was coming from would be helpful.
- Blocked gullies remained an issue.
- The County Council were now dealing with the overgrown hedge on Buntsford Hill which had been an ongoing problem.

161/18 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe stated that the Church had now received 14 entries for the Christmas Tree Festival including one from the Parish Council. Peter Williams had agreed to provide the tree and she and Liz Miller would organise the decorations.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Carols in the Park was taking place on the 8 December and volunteers would be needed to help on the night.

Dean Smith welcomed the development of the website asked that the Council's policies such as the Grants Policy be included on the site. He also asked that the various links to outside organisations be sorted out.

162/18 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3rd December 2018 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman