

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3rd June 2019.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 4 members of the public.

077/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Penny Power, Keith Shakespeare and D/Cllr Malcolm Glass.

078/19 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8(1).

079/19 Requests for Dispensation

None.

080/19 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

Chris Cooke reported on the ongoing problems with a number of blocked gullies in the parish. Regular reports were submitted to the County Highways but no action. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should look again at hiring a gully sucker and carry out the work themselves. It was also agreed that the Clerk should raise the issue again with County Highways and with Cty Cllr Chris Bloore.

Chris Cooke added that it was proposed to repaint the bus shelter in Shaw Lane opposite Orchard Gardens. There was also a need for a new height restriction sign on the B4095 which was unlikely to be funded by the County Council. The Chairman agreed to look at the possibility of the Parish Council funding it.

2) County Councillor Chris Bloore and District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County and District Councillors present.

081/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15 May 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 May 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

082/19 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chairman reported that Sue Abel had been able to acquire a load of road chippings free of charge, which had been laid in the car park to the Shaw Lane Recreation Area and the approach to Wyche Cottages.

083/19 Planning Applications

1) 19/00459/FUL – Lokrum, Copyholt Lane, Redditch – Change of Use from Dwelling to new Independent School for Pupils with Autism.

The Parish Council strongly supported this application. They believed that the change of use of these premises to a new independent school would bring huge benefits to the local area as well

as providing good educational provision to young people who needed this special support. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council would be very keen to work with the school to help the staff and pupils to integrate with the local community.

2) 19/00561/FUL – 2 Cornfield Avenue, Bromsgrove – Demolition of Existing Garden Wall fronting the highway and Erection of New Boundary Wall fronting the highway.

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

3) 19/00535/FUL – Wayside, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior – Near Rear Orangery and Extension to create additional Bedroom in Roof Space of Existing Single Storey Utility.

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

084/19 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – May 2019

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for May 2019

This was noted.

085/19 Approval of the Annual Return and the Governance Statement

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the Annual Governance Statement contained therein.

086/19 Review of Risk Management Arrangements

Having considered the Clerk's comments, the Parish Council unanimously approved the Parish Council's Risk Management Register.

087/19 Smartwater Update

The Clerk reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office had confirmed that they had agreed to fund 25% of the required number of kits and to cover the cost of the signage. The grant of £1,500 from Cty Cllr Chris Bloore was still awaited.

It was confirmed 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.

The Clerk added that he would liaise with Smartwater regarding the supply of the kits etc.

088/19 Film Night – 31 August 2019

The Chairman confirmed that arrangements were continuing to be made to hold the film night on Saturday 31st August 2019. It was agreed that the preferred film would be Bohemian Rhapsody. The Chairman added that he would arrange to get the banners and flyers to be printed. He asked Councillors to help with the leaflet drop around the parish.

089/19 Project Updates by Chairman and Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that there was nothing further to report.

090/19 Diary Commitments

The Clerk confirmed that the next meeting of CALC would be on the 12 June 2019.

091/19 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Stoke Associates requesting financial support from the Parish Council towards the reinstatement of the gates on the lychgate. During the subsequent discussion, Councillors were concerned whether they would be able legally to provide financial support to this project despite it being argued that the lychgate formed part of the John Corbett trail. The Clerk was asked to investigate the matter further and to report back to the next meeting.

092/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe asked why the grass round the flower boxes was not being strimmed. The Clerk replied that this was due to District Council no longer having the workmen to do this work. He would ask Ian Gerard to do this work.

Jill Howe commented on the car business currently operating in Woodgate Road which was now parking vehicles for sale opposite the entrance to the business. The Clerk agreed to take this up with Planning Enforcement.

John Ellis confirmed that the Tia Chi classes would recommence on Saturday 22 June at Stoke Heath Recreation Area starting at 10.30am.

John Ellis asked that a single goal post be installed at Stoke Heath recreation Area.

John Ellis expressed his concern regarding the Hanbury Turn PH site. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners, Punch Taverns. If that proved to be unsuccessful in getting the site cleaned up then he should take the matter up with District Council's Environmental Health Team.

Following comments by Chris Jewson, it was agreed that the Parish Paths should be published in the Community Link magazine as well as the Parish Council Newsletter.

Alan Bayliss asked for the following item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting – Review of Stoke Heath's relationship with Stoke Parish.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 1 July 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman