

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at the Chairman's House on the 2nd September 2019 due to the Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre being unavailable.

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: Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

108/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

109/19 Declarations of Interest

None.

110/19 Requests for Dispensation

None.

111/19 Update on the Henbrook Gardens, Stoke Prior Development

Richard Miller from Barratt Homes explained the progress made to date on the developments and answered questions on various related topics. In summary:–

1. The canal towpath had now been reopened, the delays being due to more work than expected being needed on the arched bridge and to satisfy the Canal and River Trust and the Bromsgrove District Council's Heritage Officer.
2. The Chairman advised that two of the gulleys cleaned out by Barratts were still blocked – Richard Miller agreed to have them cleaned out again. The Chairman agreed to ask the Parish Lengthsman to send details of the relevant gulleys to Richard Miller.
3. Richard Miller provided details of building and sales progress on the development. 113 houses should be completed by the end of the year with 57 of the 67 in Phase 1 and the 18 affordable houses in Phase 2 now sold. 28 other houses in Phase 2 were under construction. Richard Miller also advised that the affordable houses would be filled from the BDHT waiting list.
4. Sue Abel asked whether the fencing etc incorporated hedgehog routes. Richard Miller agreed to look into this.
5. John Ellis asked about the safety of the reservoir and was advised that this would be fenced off and drained down to a depth of 1 metre.
6. Richard Miller explained that the great crested newts on the site had been rehomed in pools in the green space area and this area would include a trail for children.
7. John Ellis asked how many of the proposed 5 apprentices had been taken on by Barratts and their sub-contractors. Richard Miller confirmed there had been 2 taken on, one of which left quite early on due to travel problems.
8. The Chairman asked what had happened to the medallion and photo album that had been shown to Councillors previously. Richard Miller agreed to look into where they were.
9. Sue Abel asked if an information board could be put up on the development that detailed the site history. Richard Miller thought that this could be done if the Council provided the necessary pictures and wording.

112/19 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

A parishioner gave a report on the speeding of vehicles along Stoke Pound Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council agreed that it should lobby the County Council for the 30mph speed limit that was due to be introduced at the junction of Stoke Pound Lane and Hanbury Road to be extended all the way through to the Queen's Head public house. The Chairman asked the parishioner if he could write up what he had reported and provide to the Council.

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

There were no County or District Councillors present.

113/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 July 2019

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

114/19 Co-Option of Parish Councillors

This item was deferred to the Parish Council's October 2019 meeting.

115/19 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

No urgent decisions had been taken since the last Council meeting.

116/19 Planning Applications

- 1) 19/01015/FUL – Pipers Hill Farm, Moorgate Road, Harbours Hill, Bromsgrove – Change of Use of “Barn B” from agricultural to private equestrian use with associated building works, erection of horse walker and change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use.**
- 2) 19/01103/FUL – 54 Tollhouse Road, Bromsgrove – Ground floor side and rear extension with internal alterations.**

The Council agreed to support these applications.

- 3) TPO19/126 – 28 High Meadows, Bromsgrove – Line of Yew Trees. Lift canopy of the line of Yew Trees to 2 metres to allow more light onto the garden and prevent low branches obstructing garden access**

The Council had no objection to this application.

117/19 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – July and August 2019

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for September 2019

This was noted.

118/19 Smartwater Update

It was reported that approximately 50 smartwater kits were given out at the Film Night. Councillors were reminded that there would be a second open day at Stoke Heath Recreation Area to distribute kits from 11am to 4pm on Sunday 15th September.

The Assistant Clerk to asked to add clarification on the Council Website Home Page clarifying that the SmartWater kits were only available to residents of Stoke Parish and that they needed to bring proof of their name and address in order to claim their kit.

119/19 Salt Fest 2019

It was confirmed that a stand had been booked for the Salt Fest on the 7th and 8th September. Tracy Shakespeare and Liz Eden had kindly agreed to man the stand on the Saturday. The Chairman, John Ellis and Sue Abel agreed to man the stall on the Sunday. Jill Howe advised the Council that the same display would be at Stoke Prior Church on the following Saturday.

120/19 Memorial Bench for Cllr Keith Shakespeare

The proposal for a memorial bench for Keith Shakespeare was unanimously agreed by the Council. The location would be agreed with Liz Eden and Tracy Shakespeare following which the Clerk would procure the bench and arrange for the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to install it

121/19 Churchyard Conservation Board

It was reported that since Jill Howe had created the original design for the proposed board and the Clerk had obtained quotations for the work, the Parochial Church Council had decided to completely redesign the board. After discussion, the Chairman, seconded by Sue Abel, moved and it was unanimously agreed that, as the £500 grant from the Parish Council had been agreed based on the original design aimed at promoting the John Corbett Trail and the legal restrictions governing the payment of grants towards churchyard maintenance by Parish Councils, the Parish Council can no longer support the new conservation board.

122/19 Grant Application from Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau

John Ellis, seconded by Alan Bayliss, moved and it was unanimously agreed that, given that the Bureau was sponsored by Bromsgrove District Council, the Parish Council should not make a grant to Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau.

123/19 Diary Commitments

Jill Howe advised the meeting that there is a Village Hall Committee Meeting on 19th September.

124/19 Correspondence

The Assistant Clerk reported that the following items of correspondence had been received:-

1. BDHT had confirmed that the memorial bench for Thelma Roll could be sited on the corner of Ryefields Road and Prior Road.
2. The Parochial Church Council had thanked the Council for its grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard. It was agreed that further consideration needed to be given the issue of whether the Council could legally give such grants in the future.
3. The County Council had advised the Council that a 30mph speed limit would be introduced in Stoke Pound Lane for 160 metres from its Hanbury Road junction. The Clerk had replied asking that the speed limit be imposed for the whole length of the lane.

125/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis advised that Tai Chi classes at Stoke Heath Recreation Area would end on 14th September and that the church raised £360 at the Film Night for the Tower Restoration Fund.

Liz Miller asked that the basketball back board and net be replaced in the Ryefield Road Recreation Area. It was agreed that the Clerk should deal with this.

The Chairman reported that it was estimated that the Film Night had attracted around 500 attendees and that there was hardly any rubbish left behind.

John Ellis advised that the Stoke Heath Recreation Area 'No Dogs' signs were fading and needed replacing. The Clerk would be asked to procure new signage.

Sue Abel advised that 2 gulleys in Foley Gardens were still blocked and needed cleaning out.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7th October 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman