

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 1st April 2019.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Dean Smith.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Stan Petrovic (Assistant Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

048/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jill Howe and Keith Shakespeare.

049/19 Declarations of Interest

050/19 Requests for Dispensation

None.

051/19 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for their support regarding a recent planning application for the proposed barn in Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior.

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

There were no County and District Councillors present.

052/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

053/19 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

054/19 Planning Applications

1) 19/00261/FUL – 28 Granary Road, Bromsgrove – Resubmission of 18/00296/FUL – Single storey side extension, rear conservatory and bay window to existing house.

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

2) 19/00212/FUL – 6A Buntsford Hill Business Park, Buntsford Park Road, Bromsgrove – Installation of mechanical ventilation unit on north east elevation involving 2no. louvres.

The Parish Council raised no objections to this application. They did however express some concern about the possible impact of increased noise on the neighbouring property.

3) 19/00175/CUPRIO – Brickhouse Farm, 32 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior –

Conversion of steel framed dutch barn into a two bed dwelling.

The Parish Council noted this application.

055/19 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – March 2019

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

(2) Financial Management Statement for March 2019

This was noted.

056/19 Smartwater

John Ellis confirmed that Cty Cllr Chris Bloore had agreed to give a grant of £1,500 towards the project but that the Stoke Heath Neighbourhood Watch Group were not prepared to provide any funding. The Clerk added that he had been in touch with the Police and Crime Commissioner who would be prepared to fund up to 25% of the total cost of providing the smartwater kits.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with this project and asked for further discussion at the next meeting of the Council when it was hoped that further information regarding funding would be available.

057/19 Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk presented his report on the three tenders which he had received for the contract and also commented on the excellent work done by IDG Garden Services grounds maintenance work over the past three years. The Chairman also commented that, although the contract submitted by IDG Garden Services was not the lowest, the Council should take into account the quality and range of work which had been carried out over the previous three years. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to award the grounds maintenance contract to IDG Garden Services for 2019 to 2021.

058/19 Project Updates by Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman reminded the meeting that at the last meeting he had agreed to look at possible options for repairing or replacing the mound in the children's play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. He added that to replace the mound with a new piece of equipment such as a slide would be too expensive. The alternative would be to put two sets of steps in made from timber and gravel at a cost of £495.00 plus VAT and then to re-grass the mound. The Parish Council agreed to go ahead with his proposal.

059/19 Diary Commitments

None.

060/19 Correspondence

The Clerk referred to an email he had received from Bromsgrove District Council confirming that the next consultation stage of the Bromsgrove Plan review was scheduled to take place in Autumn 2019.

061/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis reported that the IGO bus services had gone into administration and there were concerns about the current services continuing.

John Ellis also reported that the residents of Redditch Road had written to Cty Cllr Alan Amos, the Portfolio Holder for Highways at the County Council about the speeding issues along that road.

Chris Jewson confirmed that there was still a serious litter problem on the new Henbrook Gardens site and the surrounding area. The Chairman and the Clerk agreed to raise this with the developer as an urgent matter.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's Annual General Meeting would be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 commencing at 7.00pm at Stoke Village Hall followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman