

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th November 2019.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Jean Jackson and Liz Miller.

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

142/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Bayliss, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Rory Shannon and D/Cllrs Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke.

143/19 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7(1).

144/19 Requests for Dispensation

None.

145/19 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

A member of the public congratulated the Parish Council of the excellent condition of the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. It was a credit to the Council. In turn the Council acknowledged the work of Chris Cooke and Ian Gerard in maintaining the site.

A member of the public questioned whether the Parish Council felt that it would be appropriate to site a memorial bench in the Stoke Heath in memory of the late George Verney. The Chairman agreed that this would be looked at.

Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) then made the following comments:-

1. The wild flower seeds had now been distributed across the parish.
2. A number of blocked gullies had been reported to the County Council supported by photographs but the response had been less than helpful. It was agreed that a robust letter should be sent to the County Council expressing their displeasure with the lack of support received to date.
3. He was in discussions with South Bromsgrove School regarding a possible art project to paint the bus shelters in Shaw Lane opposite Orchard Crescent and further along near the Old Police House. It was hoped that this work could be carried out during the Summer Term 2020. He proposed to bring further details back to the next meeting.

2) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

The District Councillors were unable to be present due to other commitments.

146/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

147/19 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

148/19 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – October 2019

The new payments totalling £7,729.86 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

Cartridge World	S/O	£23.79
Talk Talk	S/O	£32.34
Clerk's net October salary	chq 1065	£XXXX
Asst Clerk's net October salary	chq 1066	£XXXX
HMRC	chq 1067	£532.41
Clerk's expenses & other Parish		
Council Expenditure	chq 1068	£160.24
Bromsgrove DC	chq 1069	£117.00
Parish Office Rent	chq 1070	£1500.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	chq 1071	£360.00
Chairman's Expenses	chq 1072	£73.04
Parish Lengthsman	chq 1073	£717.26
IDG Garden Services	chq 1074	£2978.00

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2019

This was noted.

149/19 Smartwater Update

The Chairman stated that he was looking to hold some public events during weekdays particularly in Stoke Prior outside the Parish Office and he would be looking for help from those Councillors who did not have work commitments to help. He added that the Clerk was liaising with Smartwater regarding a simple way of registering new kits to make the process quicker. The Clerk would keep Councillors informed on this approach.

150/19 Carols in the Park 2019

The Chairman confirmed that all the necessary equipment will be available for the event on Saturday 7 December commencing at 5.00pm.

John Ellis confirmed that he had the refreshments in hand.

151/19 Film Night - 2020

The Clerk reported that he had provisionally booked the film night for 2020 for Saturday 5 September 2020. The Parish Council agreed this date and that thought be given to a suitable film for next year's event.

152/19 Remembrance Sunday – Donation to British Legion

It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £75 to the British Legion in recognition of Remembrance Day.

It was confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 10 November at Wychbold Church. John Ellis and Sue Abel confirmed that they would be attending.

153/19 Diary Commitments

154/19 Correspondence

None.

155/19 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

John Ellis suggested that it might be a good idea to make the John Corbett Trail more accessible to people with physical disabilities. It was agreed that he should discuss this with Chris Jewson and possibly looking at a possible lottery fund bid to meet the cost of any work required.

The Chairman pointed out that Chris Jewson had raised the question of the Parish Council meeting the cost of waymarkers for the public footpaths in the area. The Clerk was asked to confirm the likely cost which could be confirmed at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2nd December 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman