

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held in The Hall Annexe at Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 2nd March 2020.

Present: Councillors John Ellis (Vice Chairman)(In the Chair), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Liz Eden, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

In attendance: Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman), PC Paul Downs and 3 members of the public.

032/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Diane Brown, Rory Shannon and Peter Williams and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

033/20 Declarations of Interest

034/20 Requests for Dispensation

None.

035/20 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

- i) PC Paul Downs introduced himself and explained how he would be supporting the Parish Council in distributing the Smartwater kits starting with the Easter Model Collectors Show over the Easter weekend. He stressed that it was important to have a clear plan in place to distribute the kits across the parish.

The Chairman commented that he understood that the residents on the new Henbrook Gardens development were keen to get involved with NeighbourhoodWatch and suggested that a social event be organised to promote this and to also distribute the Smartwater kits at the same time.

The Clerk stated that he would be looking for volunteers to help with the distribution of the kits at the Collectors Show.

- ii) A member of the public then commented on the proposals for the improvements to the A38 being put forward by the County Council with would mean that the road travelling north would become a dual carriageway while the road travelling south would remain single lane. Alterations were also proposed at the Hanbury Turn for traffic leaving the A38 onto the Hanbury Road.

The Parish Council expressed concern about the safety aspects of the proposed alterations particularly regarding access to the recreation area. It was agreed that the County Council should be made aware of their concerns.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report which was noted.

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no D/Councillors present at the meeting.

036/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3 February 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 February 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

037/20 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

038/20 Planning Applications

19/01345/FUL – Sharpway Gate Farm, Sharpway Gate, Harbours Hill, Bromsgrove – Proposed second floor rear extension and front porch

The Parish Council supported this application.

039/20 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment – February 2020

The new payments totalling £5,779.59 were agreed unanimously as follows:-

Direct Debits

Cartridge World	S/O	£23.79
Talk Talk	S/O	£32.34

Cheques to be signed at Parish Council Meeting

Clerk's net February salary	chq 1110	£XXXX
Asst Clerk's net February salary	chq 1111	£XXXX
HMRC	chq 1112	£545.42
Clerk's expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure	chq 1113	£198.02
Community Heartbeat Trust Ltd	chq 1114	£162.00
Bromsgrove District Council	chq 1115	£2151.65
Glasdon UK Ltd	chq 1116	£313.08
Parish Lengthsman	chq 1117	£604.98
IDG Garden Services	chq 1118	£498.00

(2) Financial Management Statement for February 2020

This was noted.

039/20 Action Summary

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

040/20 Diary Commitments

It was noted that the next Area CALC meeting would be held on the 11 March 2020.

041/20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received an update from the District Council Planners regarding the Extension of a Waste Transfer Station at the Metal & Ores Site. The landowner had been asked to voluntarily cease any further activity on the site until planning permission was in place. At this stage the District Council had not received a validated planning application and in the absence of such, may decide to take further action.

A discussion then ensued during which Councillors expressed their concerns about the level of activity on this site and other sites in the parish and the apparent lack of action by the

District Council Planners. It was agreed that the Planners should be invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss those concerns.

042/20 Councillors' Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

The Chair stated that Chris Jewson had now carried out a survey of the John Corbett Trail to see how many of the existing stiles needed to be replaced with kissing gates to make the Trail more user friendly for people with physical disabilities. Chris Jewson added that a number of sites had been identified but it was now a question of getting the landowners permission to make the changes and to get the support of the County Council in supplying and hopefully fitting the kissing gates. It might be necessary to enlist the help of the Parish Lengthsman to install some of the gates.

The Chair reported that it would be necessary to get more leaflet for the John Corbett Trail printed and he would obtain the original file from the previous printers so that the Clerk can obtain quotes for the work.

Jill Howe reported that the manhole cover on the corner of Shaw Lane opposite The Mill House was overflowing with sewerage during the recent wet weather. The Clerk agreed to report this to Severn Trent.

Chris Cooke confirmed that the drainage problem in Brickhouse Lane had been reported to the County Council.

Jill Howe reported that Jane Taylor from the Worcestershire Association of Carers was doing a presentation at Upton Warren in June but hoped that an opportunity could be found to do another event in the area before then.

Sue Abel and Jean Jackson both reported speeding issues along Hanbury Road and Wheatridge Road respectively.

Chris Jewson asked what the current position was with the identity badges for Councillors. The Clerk agreed he would discuss this with the Assistant Clerk.

Chris Jewson reported that he had met with D/Cllr Malcolm Glass and representatives from Avoncroft Cricket Club to discuss the issue of the footpath which ran across their cricket field and the more difficult problem of getting dog owners to clean behind their animals. It might be possible to divert the footpath but this could take up to 3 years and cost in the region of £3,000. The Club were looking at putting up new signs to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities and had asked the Council for help regarding possible suppliers etc. Sue Abel suggested that an item could be put in the Parish Council Magazine to highlight the problem and the need for dog owners to behave responsibly.

Alyson Jewson thanked the Clerk for finally getting the waste bin located in the correct spot in Austin Road and asked if another bin could be provided at the junction of Austin Road and Wheatridge Road.

Date of Next Meeting – The Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 April 2020 commencing at 7.30pm at the Hall Annexe, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman