

Stoke Parish Council

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Issue 2015.2

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER/AUTUMN 2015

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

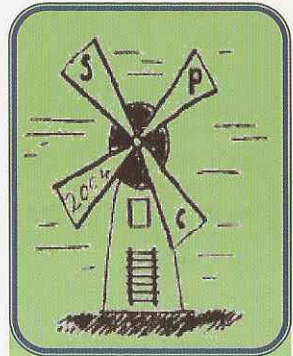
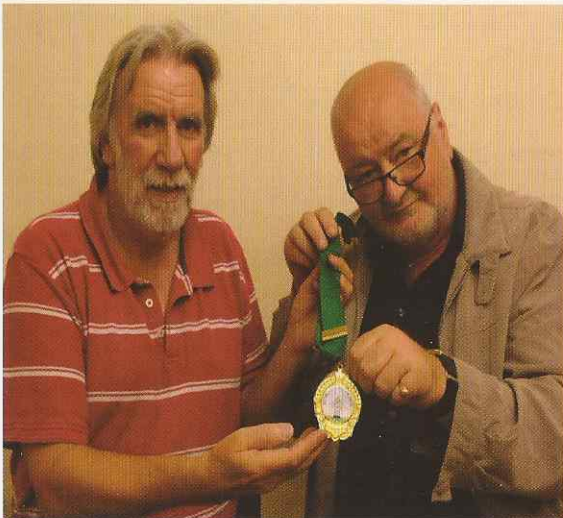
I feel very humbled to be asked to write an outgoing message in this newsletter as I listed my achievements in the previous issue.

I am very proud that our "Tai Chi in the Park" venture has been very successful and will continue throughout the summer and the new outdoor gym has been installed and is already being well used.

I will close by paying my heartfelt and deepest respect to my great friend and mentor, the late, Councillor John Tidmarsh, who guided me through my chairmanship, a true gentleman and a rock within our community, God bless you John, you will be greatly missed by us all.

I now hand over my role as Chairman to the very capable hands of Councillor Peter Williams and will support him and the Parish Council in the future.

John Ellis



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Outgoing Chairman's Message | 1 |
| New Chairman's Message | 2 |
| Development of the former Polymer Latex site, Stoke Works | 3 |
| Outdoor Gym at Stoke Heath | 4 |
| Summer in the Park | 5 |
| Parish Council News & Surgeries | 6 |
| Councillors Surgeries | 6 |
| Dean Smith Parish Councillor | 7 |
| Co-Opted Vacancies & Council Meetings | 7 |
| Contacts | 8 |

NEW CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I would like to introduce myself, I am Peter Williams and I have the honour of being elected the new chairman for Stoke Parish Council following on from John Ellis. John was Chairman from 2010 – 2015 and worked on the Parish Council giving many years of service to the parish and community. I would like to thank him for his dedication and commitment. I am extremely pleased that John has agreed to remain on the council as Vice Chairman and I am sure that his vast experience will continue to be a great asset to me personally and also to the Parish Council.

My wife and I have lived in Stoke Prior for 11 years. I have been involved with the Parish Council for the last 3 years being Chairman of the Parish Planning Committee and a member of the Communications Committee.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months as Chairman, building on the foundations that have already been laid with the help of all of the parish councillors. We are already committed to replacing the play area in Ryefield Road, the new outdoor gym facility at Stoke Heath Recreation Area and the Tai Chi classes held on Saturday mornings also at the same venue. I am very pleased to report that the initial 4 week trial period for the Tai Chi classes has been extended.

Two of the main challenges that we face in the next 12 months will be the proposed new housing development in Weston Hall Road and the speeding traffic that persists throughout the village. We are aware that both of these issues are of concern to the local community and we will do our utmost to try and get the best possible result in terms of developments and safety for the community. Reference to both of these matters is made elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm at Avoncroft Centre and I would like to extend a warm invitation to any members of the public who would like to attend and participate in public question time. If you would like further information then please contact the Parish Clerk, Neil Gulliver on 01527 757 190 or 07927 311 041 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

Thank you.

Cllr Peter Williams

Chairman Stoke Parish Council

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER POLYMER LATEX SITE STOKE WORKS

As many of you will be aware, Barratt Homes in conjunction with the One Property Group, are in the process preparing an application for the development of this site. This site had already been identified for employment use in the Bromsgrove Plan although there had not been any interest from the market to use the site for this purpose.

By way of a bit of history, an outline application for a residential-led, mixed-use development of the site was submitted to Bromsgrove District Council in 2013. This included 157 houses, a care home and some small scale retail development. The District Council subsequently granted permission for this development. Since then the commercial elements of that scheme had been marketed but again there was no interest in these elements of the proposal.

As a result, the current planning proposal was put forward by Barratts and the One Property Group which seeks to redevelop the site for solely residential purposes and would provide 200 new homes. We understand that the District Council have given their support in principle to this proposal. A full planning application has now been submitted to the District Council. If this development goes ahead as planned it is anticipated that the first home would be completed by late summer 2016 with the whole development being completed in mid 2021.

The proposed development will include a range of styles and sizes together with a proportion of affordable homes although the exact details will not be available at this stage.

The Parish Council welcome the development of this site but do have serious concerns about the impact on the local infrastructure. It is proposed that the only access to the site will be via Weston Hall Road which is already facing traffic problems. The development is anticipated to produce an additional 200 vehicles using this road and other local roads and unless the highways authority are prepared to make changes to Weston Hall Road, we believe that, at peak times in particular, there will be serious traffic problems. The Parish Council has yet to see the planning application but will make sure that the planning authority are fully aware of their concerns in this area.

On a more positive note, the proposed development will generate Section 106 funds which will be used towards the provision of the affordable housing referred to earlier as well as making a contribution towards education in the area which should benefit the local school. Further monies would be put towards improving public transport in the area. The Parish Council have also taken the opportunity to put forward some suggestions on how the Section 106 funds might be spent for the benefit of the parish. These suggestions include a multi use games facility on Shaw Lane, Community Centre or similar facility, skate park etc. There may be other suggestions which come forward as the proposed project progressing.

We also recognise that there will be economic benefits resulting from the development in terms of additional jobs and increased income for the existing businesses in the area.

A further benefit from the development would be that it would generate a New Homes Bonus in the region of £1.7m for Bromsgrove District Council and the Parish Council propose to work very hard to try and get some of that money for the benefit of the parish rather than see it used to support schemes etc in other parts of the district.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor this development and keep the parish informed of progress.

GYMNASIUM IN THE PARK

One of the Parish Council's latest ventures has been to introduce an outdoor gym at the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The gym includes ten different pieces of equipment which are designed to help keep you trim and healthy.

The gym includes two pieces of equipment which specially designed for those people designed for those of us in wheelchairs. These are the Tai Chi Spinner and the Combination SCP/PDC. These two items can also be used by able bodied people as well.

The other equipment includes a Double Air Walker, another Combination SCP/PDC, a Bicycle, an Elliptical X Trainer, a seated leg press, a Push-up & Dip Station, a Self Weighted Rower and an Air Skier. All the equipment comes with individual instructions on how to get the best use of them.

The equipment is free to use at any time by any member of the community and is situated in a lovely open healthy environment.

It is a perfect opportunity for Mums and Dads to exercise while their children enjoy themselves on the adjacent children's play area.

Please note that although children are welcome to use this equipment they must be supervised by an adult.



SUMMER IN THE PARK



Your Parish Council has introduced

many features at Stoke Heath Recreation Ground over the past months and will continue to update all of our recreation ground areas in the future



WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

A garden has been constructed in the park to honour our local people who have lost their lives in all conflicts.

The benches were purchased with a donation from the late Councillor John Tidmarsh, who himself was a navigator in Lancaster Bombers during the second world war.



TAI CHI IN THE PARK



Free lessons in the park, everyone welcome, young and old, a superb way to tone up your body and mind without too much exertion.

The lessons start at 10.30 am until 11.30 am every Saturday throughout the summer.



PARISH NEWS

In addition to the issues highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter such as the developments at Stoke Heath Recreation Area, the following items highlight the work currently being undertaken by the Parish Council:-

Ryefields Road Recreation Area — Following a report by ROSPA on the condition of the equipment at this recreation area, the Parish Council agreed to go ahead with a project to replace all the play equipment. The project is costing the Council over £37,000 but we believe that it is important to provide safe and exciting play equipment for the young children in the parish. The order is currently being processed by the suppliers and it is hoped that the new equipment will be installed during September/October. The parish Clerk is also looking at other options for improving the rest of the site including the repainting of the goalposts etc.

Stoke Works Recreation Area — The Parish Council are now looking at the possibility of replacing the matting around the play equipment on this site. The Parish Council is also taking action to ensure that the parking spaces provided at that site for users of the play areas as not used by other residents.

Speeding — The Parish Council are aware of residents' growing concerns about speeding in the parish, particularly along Shaw Lane and the B4091. This problem has been pursued with the local Police and, subject to any major issues arising on the day, Sgt Field will be attending the Parish Council meeting to explain what they are doing to deal with this problem and to hear the views of the Council and local residents. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to let the Parish Clerk know of your concerns.

Dog Fouling — We are aware that the issue of dog fouling is becoming an issue in the area and attempts are being made to try and deal with this problem. First of all we would urge all dog owners to ensure that, not only do they clean up behind their dogs but they ensure that they put the bags in the bins provided. The Parish Council are working with the District Council to educate dog owners but also to try and provide additional bins in parts of the parish. If you feel there is an area which is not well provided for please let the Parish Clerk know. There is also a growing concern that owners are allowing their dogs to mess in the childrens' play areas. **Will all dog owners please take note that dogs should not be allowed in the childrens' play areas at any time.**

Parish Council Meetings — As already mentioned by our Chairman, you are reminded that the Parish Council usually meet on the first Monday of each month in the Hall Annexe at Avoncroft starting at 7.30pm. You are all encouraged to attend these meetings as your contribution to the issues which concern the local community are important to us but we can only do our job if you help us. Know about them.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Many of you may be aware that the venue for the Councillors' surgeries has been moved around over the past few months due to the Parish Council's lease of the Gweneth Foster Room at Avoncroft Arts Society and the demise of the SHAC in Stoke Prior.

For the foreseeable future these surgeries will now take place at the Parish Council Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior (next to Capelli Hair Studio) on the first Saturday of every month between 9.30am and 10.30am.

These surgeries are your opportunity put questions to John Ellis, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and the two District Councillors for the area.

DEAN SMITH— PARISH COUNCILLOR

Dean Smith was born in Leigh in Lancashire, when he was about 4 years old, he moved to Zambia with the rest of his family. They lived next door to a massive ant hill and had their own banana tree in the garden. Four years later they moved to Rhodesia. Two years after that they moved to South Africa. Dean finished his schooling and went off to university where he got an Electrical Engineering Degree. He worked in a R&D lab and was part of a team that produced a remote energy meter. He was conscripted and served in the South African Army for 2 years. He was deployed in South West Africa during the conflict with Angola.

He moved back to the UK in 1996 to start work as a Network Engineer, working his way up to the position of Software Engineer. He bought a house in Stoke Heath about 16 years ago. He works a lot of his time from home. The vast majority of his day is spent in front of a computer, so it is nice to get out and have a run or walk about the local area. He is an active member of the Avoncroft Running Club that meets at the Arts Centre every Saturday morning at 10am.

Being a Parish Councillor allows him to play an active part in the development of this area for the benefit of the people of Stoke.

He is also an Army Reservist which he has been doing for the last 6 years. He has just come back from a shooting and fitness weekend with a bit of teargas for good measure. The Army is a great hobby to have and he would recommend it.

VACANCIES FOR CO-OPTED COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council are still looking to fill vacancies following the elections earlier this year. If you are interested in becoming a co-opted Councillor please contact Neil Gulliver, the Parish Clerk who will be glad to provide you with further information on the role such as the duties required of you and the level of commitment. You can write to the Clerk at 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B601 4NA, email address clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk or telephone 01527 757190.

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates over the next few months:

Monday 7 September 2015

Monday 5 October 2015

Monday 2 November 2015

Monday 7 December 2015

All meetings will take place at Avoncroft Arts Centre at 7.30pm

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Peter Williams (Chairman) | 07970782690 | Planning (Chairman), Communications, Fete Working Group, Forward Planning Working Group, Stoke Heath recreation area |
| John Ellis (Vice-Chairman) | 01527 570287 | Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Stoke Heath recreation area, Worcs CALC representative |
| Diane Brown | 01527 821692 | Planning, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative |
| Jillian Howe | 01527 570274 | Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group |
| Susan Abel | 07808053556 | Planning, Communications (Chairman), Fete Working Group |
| Dean Smith | 07956609500 | Planning, Communications, Fete Working Group, CPRE representative |
| Keith Shakespeare | 01527 575003 | Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group (Lead), Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee |
| Paul Eden | 01527 759573 | Finance & Resources, Fete Working Group, Stoke Works recreation area |
| Jon Miller | 01527 831942 | |
| Vacancy | | |
| Vacancy | | |
| Vacancy | | |

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| Parish Clerk | Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 01527 757190 E-mail: clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk |
| Parish Website | http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk |
| Comments and Articles | clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk |
| District Councillors | Malcolm Glass (Conservative) 07791 187901 Mike Thompson (Labour) 07861 739942 |
| County Councillors | Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710 E-mail christopherbloore@hotmail.co.uk |