



Prior to commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman allowed parishioners present to address the Council. There was four members of the public present.

Ed Berger, School Farm Manager from Sunfield attended the meeting and gave an update on proposed plans for the Sunfield shop.

Minutes of the Meeting of Clent Parish Council held on Monday 21st January 2019 at Clent Parish Hall

2019/4881 **APOLOGIES/ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Present – Cllr. Sugden, Cllr. Bates, Cllr. Mrs Howard, Cllr. Sheppard, Cllr. Beaumont and Cllr. Smith

Apologies – Cllr. Price – his reason for apology was accepted by all councillors present

In attendance – Cllr. Mrs May and Ruth Mullett Clerk,
The Councillors present signed the Attendance Register.

2019/4882 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the Agenda. All councillors have standing declarations, namely:

Other Disclosable Interest – Cllr. Sheppard – Maintenance of Clent Cricket Pitch, Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Sugden – Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Smith – Member of Clent Cricket Club and Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Mrs Howard – Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Sugden member of Clent History Society

Cllr. Mrs Howard Member of Comic Theatre Group

Cllr. Beaumont – Member of Clent Cricket Club and Member of Clent Club Social

2019/4883 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018 be signed as a correct record. The Chairman duly signed and initialled each page.

2019/4884 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council have set up a small working to commence a project looking into the goal posts, nets, white lines and surface area in the football pitch. They also asked whether smaller monkey bars could be installed in the play area and they are looking at options to be brought back to full council. They would also like another trip to Hindlip and it



was agreed for Clerk to contact Cllr. Mrs Sherrey to see if she could arrange. They have agreed to liaise with Clent School to carry out a litter pick poster competition. Sarah Pearson (teacher) was in the audience and agreed this was a wonderful idea and would take back to school. Cllrs. Mrs May agreed to donate two book tokens, one for key stage 1 and one for key stage 2 to be presented to the winners. They would also like a bus shelter for the school children and Clerk was instructed to put this back on the full agenda for discussion. They reported that there was a broken bench by the pond and Cllr. Smith was to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

2019/4885

FINANCE

1. Cash Flow and Bank Reconciliation – reports circulated to all councillors. Bank Statements scrutinised and initialled by the Chairman.
2. To confirm receipt of £1,000.00 grant from Clent Hills Rotary on behalf of Clent Cricket Club towards the installation of the toilets.
3. To confirm receipt of £264.20 Lengthsman grant from Worcestershire CC.
4. **PRECEPT** – it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would Precept upon the District Council the sum of £49,850.00 for the year 2019/20. Any shortfall of expenditure over income will be taken from reserves.
5. To ratify payments paid in December.

Cheque	Payee	Detail	Sum
11516	N Sugden	Three Roses Home Hamper	73.70
11517	HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	364.69
11519	Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement Pads	97.20
11520	Clent Parish Hall	Hire of hall	71.25
11521	AHS Limited	Play bark	223.20
11522	GJH Electrical	Christmas Lights	300.00
11523	BDC	Lease of land	60.00
11524	R Mullett	Contractor gift	18.99

6. Accounts for payment

Cheque	Payee	Detail	Sum
11525	Worcestershire CC	Street Lighting Maintenance Contract	1761.29
11526	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog sleeves	149.70
11527	GJH Electrical	Christmas Lights	123.60
11528	HMRC	Payroll taxes due	364.69

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Bates and Cllr. Smith sign the cheques.



2019/4886 **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT**

1. It was agreed for Cllr. Mrs Howard to do an update in the parish magazine on the proposed Party in the Park and the litter pick.
2. **Operation London Bridge** – all councillors were provided with a report and it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda awaiting more information from NALC/CALC.
3. **Party in the Park** – it was agreed to place this item on the next agenda to agree a date and set up a working party.

2019/4887 **TRAINING**

Clerk confirmed she would be attending elections training at Worcestershire County Hall. The training course is free of charge.

2019/4888 **TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS**

1. **District Councillors –**

Cllr. Sherrey – Apologies received, no report given.

Cllr. Allan-Jones – No report given.

County Cllr. May – Investments into the County – WCC is proposing to invest millions of pounds into tackling congestion, improving town centres and upgrading railway stations across the county. The capital investments have been announced as part of the council's proposed budget for the next financial year. Proposals include £2.5m for town centre improvements in Evesham, Redditch, Stourport and Worcester. It is proposed that the council's programme to relieve congestion will be extended with an additional £5m to be spent over the next three years. Other proposed capital investments include £4m to build a new footbridge across the River Severn in North Worcester and to refurbish Sabrina Bridge in the city to support walking and cycling. An additional £5m is to be invested into the upgrading of railway stations.

Cllr. Simon Geraghty, Leader of WCC said *“These capital investments are essential for us to continue to support Worcestershire's growing economy. By investing into the county's infrastructure we will help to attract more businesses and build more homes which will help us to grow the council's income. The budget that we are proposing will invest £26m in these schemes over the next three years while at the same time providing significant revenue investments into adult social care and into improving the lives of the county's children and young people. We plan to spend an additional £23m next year on social care in Worcestershire as demand for these services grow. We have also listened to the feedback during the budget consultation process. So we are deleting proposed savings attributed to*



highways and our Countryside service. We are reducing the savings proposals for libraries and the archives service as well as proposing a new Communities Fund to help enable the changes that need to happen”.

The council’s budget – WCC revenue funding is due to go up by more than £6m in the next financial year. However the pace of growth in income is not keeping up with the increase in demand for social care. A set of saving proposals were announced last month including the redesign of the council and a review of all commercial contracts.

Since then councils across Worcestershire have been told that they can expect to receive an additional £4.9m, to help to reduce future demand in social care following a successful bid to the government for a one year 75% business rates pilot. The pilot means that more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire next year will remain in the county.

It is proposed that council tax will be increased by 3.99% with 2.99% to support the general budget and 1% ring-fenced for adult social care. The increase is equivalent to 93p per week extra on a band D property. If the final budget proposals are approved by councillors next month, council tax rates in Worcestershire would continue to be amongst the lowest in the country for county councils.

Next week we mark the second annual Celebrating Social Workers Week here at WCC. Social workers and social care staff from both adults and children’s services are invited to attend workshops and events taking place throughout the week. Working in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we have successfully bid for £1.3m to run the Natural Networks programme which will help to improve the environment. The scheme is aimed at organisations such as parish councils, small and medium businesses, not for profit organisations and statutory bodies. To find out more go to:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/naturalnetworks

Well done to all those involved in the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge delivered in our libraries. The figures were published this week and show it was a big success. The number of children and young people who completed the challenge in

Worcestershire was 2,959 which is 74.2% of those who signed up – the highest percentage in the West Midlands.

The council is now offering people who need domiciliary care but who pay for their care, access to our brokerage service to help find a provider. This service will help people to make informed choices about different options with different providers to meet



their care needs and help put those arrangements in place. To access this service people need to contact the Access Centre on 01905 768053.

We have been ranked one of the best councils in the country for the time it takes us to repair potholes. New figures released by the RAC Foundation show that it takes our highways team up to one hour to fix potholes across the county.

WCC is delighted to be sponsoring the Worcestershire Education Awards for the third year running. The awards were officially launched at the University Arena on 17th January. WCC is once again proud to be sponsoring the category teacher/lecturer of the year. Nominations are now being sought by schools, teachers, pupils and members of the public for a teacher or a lecturer who is a worthy winner in 2019.

County Councillor to chase Welcome to Clent sign and outstanding road signs and also to look at the kerb on the island by Clent Nurseries.

2. **Smartwater** – roll out is continuing slowly.
3. **Beacon** – The council unanimously **RESOLVED** to instruct Cllr. Sheppard to have a new socket made so that the beacon can be removed from the top of the Clent hills and sited as agreed with the Chairman on the slope on the foot of the cricket pitch. Cllr. Sheppard confirmed he would remove the beacon the beginning of March. It was also agreed that the Tommy figure would be stored at the church and brought out for the next Remembrance Day.

2019/4889 **PLANNING MATTERS**
District Council Decisions

Nothing to report

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Proposed Section 116 Application at Church Avenue, Clent – **Objection**
18/01595 – 2 The Rocks, Bromsgrove Road – rear extension, side porch and new former window to front elevation **No objection**

Planning Appeals

Nothing to report

2019/4890 **GRASS CUTTING/HEDGE MANAGEMENT/CENTENARY**
FIELD/PLAY AREAS

1. Toilets – the cricket club have cleared out the porta cabin and it is now ready for decorating and installation of the sanitary ware.
2. A request had been received from a parishioner to discuss fencing off the duck pond. After discussion it was agreed that no further action needs to be taken by the parish council.



3. **Cricket Club Lease** – The council unanimously **RESOLVED** to extend the cricket club term in the original lease by an additional fifty years to 11th April 2085. It was agreed for Cllr. Sheppard to draw up relevant Addendum in conjunction with the Cricket Club to be agreed at the next meeting.

2019/4891 **HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS**

1. **White gates** – still awaiting Welcome to Clent signs
2. **Bee connected** – Clerk had looked into this and found it was the contractor/farmer's responsibilities to notify when spraying weeds/gutters. It was agreed to speak to Richard Clewer and ask what Highways' policy was on the matter.
3. **30mph speed limited** – Cllr. Mrs May agreed to talk to Richard Clewer and get some speed surveys of the village done.

2019/4892 **HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS/LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

Lengthsman Jobs

1. Clear ditch/drain on Bromsgrove Road from the dual carriageway to the school – **still outstanding**
2. Clear back ivy on Odnall Lane - **Completed**
3. Clear rubbish under bridge on Church Avenue - **Completed**
4. Tidy Elsie Partington Walk – **Completed**
5. Footpath from Clent Club to pond – **agreed to ask the Probation Service to take a look at this when they next agree to visit the parish.**
6. To provide a list of all grids/drains in the parish – **New item for agenda**

2019/4893 **STREET LIGHTING /SIGNS**

Cllr. May has agreed to progress with BDC and Worcestershire CC the following street signs:-

Pool Furlong

Summerfield Road

Welcome to Clent to be situated on the white gates off the A491

2019/4894 **OUTSIDE MEETINGS/COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Beaumont and Clerk attended a meeting with Hagley Parish Council and surrounding parishes to look at the proposed Community Managed Hagley library and another meeting has been arranged for 27th February 2019.



2019/4895 **NEW ISSUES AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7.00PM AT CLENT PARISH HALL**

Litter pick
Party in the park

2019/4896 **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Cheques signed as approved under Minute No. 2019/4885

2019/4897 **THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM RELATES TO BUSINESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL/SENSITIVE NATURE DURING WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING AS PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960)**

As requested by Chairman – forming of Staffing Working Party and to approve attached Terms of Reference – no minute received by Clerk.

Signed
Chairman of the Council