



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 16th September 2019** at
Clent Parish Hall, 40 Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Mrs Caroline Howard, Cllr Ed Sheppard.

In attendance: Nick Farress (Clerk), members of the public.

5023 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr A Sherrey, Cllr Mrs M Sherrey and County/District Cllr Karen May.

5024 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

5025 Dispensations

There were none.

Open session

The meeting was adjourned for the open session and the following reports/updates were noted.

Mr Tony Hadfield from the Belbroughton Branch of the Royal British Legion spoke about the fall in members and that new members were urgently required to re-gain the status of the branch. The Clerk agreed to post notices on the noticeboards and on the Clent Residents Facebook page to this effect.

Members of the public raised the following issues/concerns:

- Overgrowing vegetation blocking the footways in Odnall Lane and Violet Lane. It was identified that this was the responsibility of the National Trust as the landowner and that the Clerk would write to them to ask them to deal with the matter.

5026 Youth Council

The Youth Council representative provided the following update:

- The football pitch requires 16'x7' size goal posts and Astro Turf around the goal mouths. Cllr Karen May offered to contribute to the costs of the Astro Turf from her

divisional fund which would be gratefully received. The Clerk was asked to gather relevant quotations for the provision of this equipment.

5027 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th August 2019 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5028 Probation Service

The Probation Service provide services to local councils to carry out minor maintenance duties. This is a chargeable service, and the Parish Council have used these services in the past. It was **resolved** to ask the Clerk to contact the Probation Service to engage their services.

5029 Storage of Council Documents

The Parish Council have been offered the use of a storage locker at the Parish Hall at a cost of £30 per year. It was **resolved** to hire the locker and the Clerk would organise this with the Parish Hall.

5030 Insurance

The Clerk had circulated three quotations via the Council's broker Came and Company including a recommendation from them to re-engage Inspire to provide the Council's insurance for 2019/2020. It was resolved to renew with Inspire on a three-year long-term agreement at a premium of £1,392.75 in year one.

5031 Finance

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments and that Cllrs Beaumont and Mrs Howard would sign the cheques:

(a) Bromsgrove DC (Rent of Pool Furlong)	£60.00
(b) Clent Parish Hall (room hire)	£71.25
(c) Came & Company Insurance	£1,392.75
(d) Cllr N Sugden (mileage expenses)	£20.70

(e) The Clerk had not produced an up to date budget monitoring or bank reconciliation report as this had not changed since the last meeting. The Clerk had received some explanation/clarification from the internal auditor in relation to the 2018/19 accounts and is waiting on the sign off from PF Littlejohn.

5032 Lengthsman

The current arrangements were considered unsatisfactory which may be due to the current Lengthsman's availability. It was also noted that the Council had not signed the WCC contract for 2019/20 or had a formal contract with the current Lengthsman. The Clerk clarified that there is no restriction on a Councillor performing duties as a contractor

as long as the relevant disclosable pecuniary interest rules are observed, and internal financial controls are in place. It was therefore **resolved**:

- (a) To appoint Cllr Ed Sheppard as the Temporary Lengthsman and that the Clerk liaise with WCC in relation to the contract and invoicing;
- (b) That the Clerk write to the current Lengthsman to thank him for his work in the parish;
- (c) That a schedule of monthly tasks be drawn up to provide some structure and proactivity;
- (d) That the Lengthsman contract be re-let to take effect from 1st April 2020.

5033 Twinning

The previous Chairman was a member of a Twinning Group, but it was suggested that the concept of twinning was rather outdated and unnecessary given the globalised world we now live in. However, the Clerk would write to the former Chairman to establish if the Group still met and whether there was any progress to report.

5034 Defibrillator

Local resident and former Councillor, Richard Price, still checks the defibrillator and sends reports to the relevant authorities. It was **resolved** to continue with this arrangement as a volunteer, for which the Parish Council is grateful, and that Mr Price would provide the Clerk with his contact details in case of any issue.

5035 “Smartwater” Scheme

Since the rollout of the “Smartwater” scheme in the parish, there were still some kits available which Richard Price has in his possession. Again, it was **resolved** that anyone requiring a kit should contact the Clerk and Mr Price would arrange delivery.

5036 Community Clean Up Grant Funding

Cllr Mrs Sherrey had asked for this to be included on the Agenda, but it was noted that the expiry date for applications seemed to have passed. The Clerk would check with Cllr Mrs Sherrey.

5037 Councillor Updates and Items for Future Agendas

The Chairman provided an update following a recent meeting of the CALC Executive. The following points were discussed:

- Fees are due to increase by 2.5% in April 2020. This is broadly in line with inflation;
- A new Executive Officer, Christopher Wayman, had been appointed and was settling in well;
- A new constitution and terms of reference were to be drawn up for Area Meetings to ensure they remained relevant and useful;
- New housing allocations in Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove Districts via Local Development Plans;
- Bullying and the apparent increase in the local council sector;
- Loneliness and what Parish Councils can do to help tackle the problem;

- CCLA Investment Fund for Parish Council reserves;
- The Parish Conference would be held on the 17th October at County Hall.

Cllr Mrs Howard raised the following:

- Parking outside school gates;
- Council contact details needed to be updated in the parish newsletter (the Clerk would arrange this);
- Anti-social behaviour on Nimmins car park.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **21st October 2019** at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman

Date

Produced by



*Nick Farress
Parish Clerk
Clent Parish Council*