



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 21st October 2019** at  
Clent Parish Hall, 40 Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Ed Sheppard and Cllr A Sherrey.

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

### 5038 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Sherrey and County/District Cllr Karen May.

### 5039 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 9(d) (Minute 5043(d)) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

### 5040 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. Mr Hadfield advised that the Remembrance Day parade would be at Fairfield this year and the Chairman confirmed that he would lay the wreath on behalf of Clent Parish Council.

There were no public questions or comments.

There were no District or County Councillor reports.

### 5041 Youth Council

(a) The Youth Council representative provided the following update:

- A quotation had been received to install new goals and Astroturf to the two goal mouths. The quoted sum was around £10,000 so some further investigation would be carried out into more affordable options.

- A location for a zip wire would be investigated, including the health and safety implications. It was noted that Hagley had a zip wire so it may be possible to obtain some information from Hagley PC.
  - The table tennis table needs a sign to advise people that the bats and balls are in Clent Club as it was apparent that not many young people knew about this arrangement.
  - A new Chairman of the Youth Council would be elected at the November meeting.
- (b) It was **resolved** that Cllr M Sherrey would take on the role of looking after the Youth Council following the resignation of Mrs Howard.

#### 5042 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### 5043 Finance

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

(a) Clerk salary & expenses	£1,353.96
(b) Parish Magazine Advertising 2020/2021	£75.00
(c) PKF Littlejohn (Audit fee)	£360.00
(d) Mr Ed Sheppard – Lengthsman	£359.00

(e) The monthly budget monitoring report was approved. A query was raised about the £6000 in the budget for street lighting. It was clarified that this was an annual maintenance contract charge that would be made by WCC which also included the cost of power.

(f) The monthly bank reconciliation report was approved, noting a bank balance of £46,046.66.

(g) It was **resolved** to change the address with the bank to that of the Clerk's address.

(h) The audited accounts and conclusion of audit report returned from PKF Littlejohn for the financial year 2018/2019 were received and noted. There were no qualifications.

(i) The Clerk presented summaries of the CCLA deposit and investment funds. The deposit fund currently yields under 1% interest, whilst the property investment fund both promoted by NALC yielded over 4%. However, funds would not be protected by the FSA compensation scheme and concern was raised about the security of the Council's reserves. It was agreed not to progress at this stage but would be discussed again at a future meeting.

(j) An informal 2020/2021 budget meeting would be held after the November Parish Council meeting at the Parish Hall.

- 5044** (a) The Clerk would follow up the water leak in Hossil Lane, the footway on Belbroughton Rd by the Bell and Cross and the missing grit bin with County Councillor Karen May. A resident had written to the Council about the pineapple plants obscuring the Clent village gateway signs. Cllr Sheppard would remove these. The same resident asked that the bus stop by the French Hen is cleared of vegetation. Cllr Sheppard would deal with this in his role as parish Lengthsman.

Concerns were raised about the poor state of the roundabout by Clent Nurseries and some temporary signage that has been left by WCC contractors. The Clerk would write to Cllr May in relation to these issues.

A question was raised about whether the grass cutting contractor had a list of regular jobs he needed to carry out. The Clerk was not aware of a list, but Cllr Sheppard had seen a list in the past which may be in the boxes of files handed over from the previous Clerk. The contractor would be asked to attend to some overgrown vegetation in Holy Cross Green which is impacting on a resident's garden.

(b) The Clerk had contacted the Probation Service and a site meeting was to be arranged for the 1<sup>st</sup> November for Cllrs Sheppard and Sugden to outline the work required. The initial tasks were:

- Footway clearance on Bromsgrove Road;
- Tidying of Allotment approach;
- Footway clearance between Violet Lane and Clent Nurseries.

(c) Cllr Sheppard has the Vehicle Activated Sign in hand and will liaise with the electrician to complete the work as soon as possible.

#### **5045 Grounds Maintenance and Play Areas**

(a) Cllr Sheppard met with WCC on the site of the collapsed drainage pipe behind the goal mouth on the playing field. WCC have agreed to carry out this work at their expense when the ground is fit enough. The associated collapsed manhole in Hossil Lane will also be repaired. The pool would also be de-silted next Spring as this is causing blockages.

(b) Cllr Sheppard is awaiting quotations for using recycled rubber chippings as an alternative to bark for the play area. A rubber surface would last longer than bark but would be more expensive. The Clerk would check with RoSPA to make sure that a rubber chippings surface would be acceptable.

(c) It was **resolved** to open the cricket outer pitch for dog walkers during the winter.

(d) A quotation had been received for the replacement of the goals and nets, and to surface the goal mouths with synthetic grass. The quote was in excess of £10,000 so alternatives would be considered. It may be that the goals and nets could be replaced first (£650 for a pair plus installation) and the surface dealt with at a later date.

#### **5046 Planning Applications**

(a) The BDC Tree Officer and a local resident had asked the Parish Council to consider supporting the temporary TPO on trees in Church Lane which are on land subject to a Stopping Up Order. It was **resolved** to support the TPOs and that the Clerk write to the Tree Officer accordingly.

(b) An application had been made to the Department for Transport to "stop up" a section of grass verge in Church Avenue in relation to planning application 19/00233/FUL. It was **resolved** to object to this stopping up order and that the Clerk writes to the Department of Transport to raise this objection. It was further **resolved** to write to WCC to propose that the Parish Council take on responsibility for this area of land and the trees upon it. The Clerk would write to WCC and Cllr Karen May.

(c) **19/01347/FUL** – Castle View, Mount Lane – Proposed two storey rear extension and associated internal alterations. It was **resolved** to raise **no objections** to this application.

**5047 Parish Magazine**

It was resolved that Cllr Sugden write the article for the next edition of the Parish Magazine. From next month, a subject for the article would be agreed before nominating a Member to write the piece.

**5048 Councillor Updates and Items for Future Agendas**

It was agreed that there would not be a meeting in December (as in previous years). There were no other updates or items for the next agenda.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **18<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at 7.00pm

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm*

**Signed as a true record:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Produced by \_\_\_\_\_



*Nick Farress  
Parish Clerk  
Clent Parish Council*