



Clent Parish Council

**You are invited to our next Parish Council Meeting
on Monday 17th September in Hagley Free Church.
Parishioners may raise matters with the Council from 7.30pm.
The Formal Meeting starts at 8.00pm.**

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the autumn 2012 Parish Council Newsletter.

All nine councillors have endeavoured to continue to put into action, plans made this year.

Councillors who have specific involvement with our various projects have written sections of this Newsletter.

However, I would like to recognise that we had a successful Diamond Jubilee celebration weekend.

Parish grass-cutting requirements are being re-assessed. Steps to prevent speeding are at present being addressed, the rural rides scheme continues to be supported and skate boarding facilities investigated.

The new CALA planning application continues to be considered in conjunction with Hagley Parish Council. Formation of our new web site and the establishment of a Youth Council are imminent.

Cricket has been played on the pitch and the pavilion is almost finished. New football nets, benches and picnic tables have been installed.

Volunteers continue to work on Centenary Field conservation based projects. We have

representation at Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (CALC), and Councillors attend regular training sessions.

Our clerk, Ruth Mullett, is invaluable in the day to day running of the Council and I would ask that any comments or requests you may have be addressed to Ruth, whose details you will find at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes
Ann Nation

Planning

Between May 2011 and June 2012, the Council has received for comment 25 applications. Of these, 21 have been approved by us and subsequently by Bromsgrove. Two others we approved were rejected by Bromsgrove, and two were not approved by us nor by Bromsgrove. A major application within the Parish has been that for the re-development of the Mount Hotel to which your Council has registered its disapproval. Bromsgrove's decision has not yet been received. However, by far the most important application is from CALA Homes, for 175 houses and some office buildings on green belt land bordering the Parish, at the corner of the A456 and A491. This development is likely to have an effect on all Parishioners, not just those living in the Newfield Rd/Western Rd area, whether hoping to educate our children at Hagley's excellent schools, parking near to shops and amenities or negotiating the congested roads. Your Council is working closely with Hagley Parish Council to develop a response to these outline plans.

Cricket Club

Clent cricket pitch finally opened this year, but due to a wet summer, only four games have been played so far, with Clent winning three. Work on the pavilion has progressed well and it is already looking fantastic. Let's hope this superb Parish facility will achieve its full potential next year. If you would like to play cricket or just want to be involved please contact Mark Brocklebank on 01562 730666

SKATE PARK

We are working on developing the skate park area in Clent. This area is widely used by many young people in our Parish and surrounding parishes.

With a view to commencing work on this project, we have now obtained quotes and designs and are hoping to further the project at our next meeting.

Many thanks to those young people who have raised money for this project over the last few months.

Rural Watch

This scheme, set up in spring 2012 aims to encourage anyone who sees possible suspicious activity, within the area, to contact the police, on 101, or 999 in emergency. Following a spate of crime in our area, this initiative highlights the need to report all incidents to the police enabling them to piece together seemingly unrelated events. In order to maintain police cover in the area it is essential that we demonstrate a need for their services.

Police

Parishioners have expressed concern about levels of policing and public information over recent months, but despite the financial constraints emphasised by Mercia's Chief Constable, your Council remains confident of conscientious activity, and a continuing flow of information from PC Lord and the local Police team. Fortunately Clent is a relatively low crime area.

Centenary Field

Centenary Field now boasts a Jubilee Oak tree and bench overlooking the pond. Following dredging the water appears clearer and pond planting is becoming established. Plug plants of native flowers have been added to the bank by cricket pitch fence and woodland flower seed distributed below the tree canopy. Hopefully spring will bring some flowers. The hedge bordering Holy Cross Green is sprouting and we will be adding more hedge whips in autumn. Wider paths are being maintained for walkers. Supportive local volunteers working under guidance from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and the Tree Officer at Bromsgrove District Council have undertaken much of this work.

YOUTH COUNCIL

We have selected nine young people to represent the youth of our Parish and to form an official Youth Council. This will be in place by September and we will be delighted to welcome the youngsters to their new role.

The vision of a Youth Council is to give the young members of the Parish a voice and to empower them to make decisions and to take a measure of responsibility for what happens in their community.

The Youth Council's aims will be to investigate the needs and views of the younger generation within the Parish and to report these to the full Parish Council.

Grass and Hedge cutting

Following termination of our previous grass-cutting contract in May, we have extended the grass cutting responsibilities to the services of our existing hedge-cutting contractor. He is working hard on catching up with this job, despite the appalling weather and subsequent lush growth. We believe that Parishioners will soon see improvements.

Speeding & Streetlights

The Council is in the process of ordering a speed warning sign that will be put up in various locations, including Newfield Road and Belbroughton Road. This should be in place within the next few months.

A survey of the lamp posts in the Parish has been carried out, and several have been deemed to be in need of replacement or repair.

This work will be carried out in phases over the next few years.

Rural Rides,

This is a well used service, organised by Bromsgrove WRVS, supplying the needs of people unable to get to appointments, of all types. A number of people in Clent enjoy giving their time, on an occasional basis, to supply this valuable service. If you would consider offering your help, please ring 01527 879290 for further information.

Anyone needing this facility, for some, a lifeline, is cordially invited to join the scheme by ringing WRVS, 01527 879290.

Finance

The Council's total income for 2011/12 was £63,500.00. Of this, £56,200.00 came from the Parish precept with the other major elements coming from grants from the County Councillors for our Lengthsman our Worcestershire County Councillor for projects undertaken within the parish. Spending in 2011/12 amounted to £66,008.06 and the table below indicates the main areas of spending. The parish precept has been held at the same level as in the previous year of £56,200.00.

Finance	2010/11 Audited	2011/12 Unaudited	2012/13 Budget
INCOME			
Precept	54000.00	56200.00	56200.00
Bank Interest	222.36	1033.08	100.00
Charities Etc.	550.62	1190.43	0
Grants	0	5283.90	2448.00
TOTAL INCOME	54772.98	63707.41	58748.00
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	23099.01	35186.14	26650.00
Open Spaces	15720.32	17528.67	22100.00
Highways	2013.82	1876.83	6000.00
Public Lighting	10729.33	8591.89	9000.00
Grants	2885.00	2520.45	2850.00
Equipment	478.00	304.08	2700.00
TOTAL SPEND	54925.48	66008.06	69300.00
Surplus/Deficit	-152.50	-2300.65	-10552.00

New Website Same address; -
www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk

We've been working on this for a few months now, and we hope you'll like the entirely new site. It looks better and it has some exciting new features. Not only does it display Agendas, Minutes, and all the usual material associated with the functions of the Parish Council, but there will also be features on Parish events and activities. Local societies and clubs can contribute articles and photographs. Small local businesses can display links and logos, and Parishioners will be able to see this and future Newsletters on the site.

Distributing 1100 Newsletters by hand is quite arduous and costly. So by the end of this year we hope that most of you will opt to see the quarterly newsletter on the website only. If you let us know your E-mail address, we can inform you when a Newsletter is on the website and give you a direct link to it. Please let the Clerk know if you still wish to receive your Newsletter delivered by hand.

Parish Council Contacts

Your Parish Clerk

Ruth Mullett Tel. 01562 710255
 Address for Correspondence
 Clent Parish Council,
 167 Bromsgrove Road,
 Hunnington,
 B62 0JU.

Parish Website

www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish E-mail

clent.parish@btconnect.com

Your Parish Councillors

Ann Nation (Chairman)	Maggie Latham
Roger Danson	Margaret Sherrey
Kevin Smith	Nick Sugden
Neill Robb	Stan Bloxham
Caroline Howard	

Your County Councillor

Ed Moore

Your Bromsgrove District Councillors

Janice Boswell
 Margaret Sherrey