



## **CLENT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2016**

Dear Clent Resident

**You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to be held  
On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in Clent Parish Hall.  
The Parish Council Annual Meeting will follow at 7.30pm.**

Welcome to our Annual Newsletter. We distribute one newsletter per year by hand but you can catch up on all Parish Council news on our website.

You will find elsewhere in this Newsletter information about plans to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 11th June. Let's hope for some nice warm sunny weather on the day.

Following the change of boundary, as outlined below this will be the first occasion when all of our focus will be on Clent and I hope that you will be able to attend our meeting.

The issue that continued to dominate our monthly meeting throughout the year has been the proposed boundary change. Bromsgrove District Council undertook a Community Governance Review during 2014/2015. Your Parish Council was a reluctant participant in the review and made our views known to both parishioners and the District Council that there should be no change. However, and following consultation with all parishioners the District Council approved the change of Boundary.

As a result from the beginning of April this year the area of Hagley which was part of our Parish has moved to Hagley Parish Council. The new Parish Council for Clent will be a single ward with 7 Councillors. Until the next Parish Council elections the 7 Councillors will continue in their roles representing the interests of parishioners in Clent.

The Parish Council precept, the amount of money we have to spend each year, will be considerably reduced following the change. However having completed a major overhaul of our street lights and switching to LED lights where possible there will be savings in the amounts we pay each year for energy costs and renewal of lights. On the other hand as a rural parish we have large areas of grass, hedgerows and verges to maintain and in recent times we have been asked to spend more money from the precept on such areas. We have therefore set the precept for the 2016/17

accordingly and the good news is that this has resulted in a small reduction that each household is paying towards the precept.

We have over the last year completed a number of projects some of which are referred to later in this Newsletter. In the next 12 months and beyond we have more projects in the pipeline.

It is your Parish and the Council members should not be the only source of ideas. We need your help. If you have ideas on how we can improve our Parish or there are additions or improvements that can be made to our environment or infrastructure, then please let us know. We cannot promise to do them all but we will certainly consider them.

Finally may I on behalf of the Parish Council thank those of you who have attended our meetings and corresponded with our Clerk Ruth Mullett. Your comments and observations have been very helpful. Parish Council monthly meetings start at 7.0pm and all meetings will be held at Clent Parish Hall .The dates for each meeting are on our website and displayed on our notice boards.

I hope you will find our Newsletter of interest.

Best wishes

Nick Sugden, Chairman

## **THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

National celebrations are planned to take place on the 11th June 2016. The Parish Council has decided to organise a "Picnic in The Park" event on this day at Clent Cricket Club in Centenary Field, Belbroughton Road .You are invited to bring a picnic, family and friends to enjoy the celebrations.

We plan to play games as well as picnic on the day. If you belong to a group or society and wish to put a team together please let us know.

Our hope is that this event will bring our community together for a fun day and further information will be available on our website and on our notice boards.

We began our celebrations in March by taking part in a Government led initiative "CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN'. We joined forces with many parishioners young and old to collect litter from around our Parish.

Thanks must go out to everyone that gave up their Saturday to help, it was a fantastic turnout with over 30 full bin liners of rubbish collected.

We plan to do a similar litter pick twice yearly and future dates will be notified on our website and notice boards. We hope you are able to join in.

Work has begun on the Island by Clent Nurseries to tidy it up and replant to mark the Queens birthday.

## Parish Council Website

Some months ago The Parish Council decided that our website was in need of a review and updating. Richard Price and Caroline Howard working with Ruth Mullett our Clerk, agreed to undertake a full review. They have been working with our provider on improving the Parish Council website and you will be able to see the results in our revised website shortly.

We will continue to present all the essential information on the business of the Parish Council, but we're aiming to offer this in a friendlier, more easily accessible way. The new version should go live at some point during May and will still be found at [clentparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://clentparishcouncil.gov.uk)

On the website, you will be able to access Council and Youth Council news, agendas and minutes of meetings and key information on budgets and policies. The site will also act as a hub for the broader community, with links to clubs, societies and local businesses.

We hope you'll find it a useful way to access information about both the Council and the wider Parish, but please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see on there or if you feel it can be improved in any other way."



## Clent Youth Council

Clent Parish Council continues to have a thriving and enthusiastic Youth Council. We meet every 3rd Monday of the month at 6.30pm before our full council meeting.

Over the last year we have been involved in replacing and updating the young children's play area, and refurbishing the skate park area. In addition we have created a new basketball area and have installed flower boxes by the Clent signs at the entrance to the village. These have been planted with seasonal flowers kindly donated by Clent Nurseries. We also joined in with the "Clean for the Queen" litter pick.

We are looking forward to representing Clent upon our visit to the House of Commons in July to meet our MP Sajid Javid whom we will update on our work in the Youth Council.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our Youth Council we are now recruiting new members. Please contact our Clerk, Ruth Mullett for details.



## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Clent Parish has a strong neighbourhood watch representation with co-ordinators doing an excellent job to deter criminals from our area. We work closely with the local policing team and they value our efforts, giving priority to Co-ordinators that report an incident.

We are investigating purchasing 'Smart Water' to offer further protection of your valuables in your home.

Currently we are looking for Co-ordinators in Church Avenue, Belbroughton Road/Holy Cross Road, Summerfield Road, Woodman Lane, Walton Pool and the Clatterbach area of Clent.

If you are interested please contact our Clerk, Ruth Mullett, for further information.

## **Centenary Field.**

During spring last year the Parish Council put through its plans to plant a wild flower meadow at the top of Centenary Field. The process involved spraying and killing off the old turf to give a clear seed bed, unfortunately due to poor weather we had to repeat the process but following on from the display last summer as the plants mature the work will have been well worthwhile.

This year we are turning our attention to the winter flooding which occurs at the bottom of the field near to the pond and gate. Although we are not certain at this stage we believe that one of the causes for this is the water which runs down the path through the allotments. When it reaches the bottom of the slope the water has little means of escape so creates boggy paths. We are seeking guidance on a solution to reduce this problem for next winter.

## **A plea to our dog owners**

Centenary Field and the Trim Trail are used by dog owners to exercise their dogs and are very welcome to do so. Most are responsible dog owners and always pick up any mess created. Sadly there are a few who continue to allow their dogs to foul the area but do not pick up any mess created. This is despite the Parish Council providing bins and bags for this purpose. So our message to them is simple. Please do not spoil our fields for the enjoyment of everyone. Act responsibly and always clean up afterwards.

## Finance

The Council's total income for 2015/16 up till end of February 2016 was £82,140.18. Of this, £78,500.00 came from the Parish precept with the other major elements coming from a Bromsgrove District Council Tax Support Grant of £1,409.00 and a Lengthsman Grant of £1577.65. Spending to the end of February 2016 amounted to £83,374.58. This increase on last year was due to renovation/upgrading of the children's play area and retarmacing of the car parking area by the children's play area entrance. The table below indicates the main areas of spending.

<b>Finance</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>February 2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17 Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Precept	78550.00	78500.00	45000.00
Bank Interest/Charity Income/Rent etc./VAT	656.37	653.53	6600.00
Grants	1155.00	2986.65	1198.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>80361.37</b>	<b>82140.18</b>	<b>52798.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration	29028.63	28449.37	29750.00
Open Spaces	11697.64	27618.67	36590.00
Highways	187.15	17729.26	3250.00
Public Lighting	15192.83	7738.78	1700.00
Grants	1020.00	2038.50	1000.00
Equipment	800.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>76717.54</b>	<b>83574.58</b>	<b>72290.00</b>

The excess of £19,492.00 will be taken from our reserves.

Ruth Mullett Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

## Parish Council Contacts

### Parish Clerk

Ruth Mullett

Clent Parish Council,  
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Hunnington,  
B62 0JU

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### Current Parish Councillors

Nick Sugden (Chairman)  
Alan Hess  
Kevin Smith  
Peter Bates

Caroline Howard (Vice Chairman)  
Ed Sheppard  
Richard Price

### District Councillors

Margaret Sherrey, Chris Allen-Jones

### Worcestershire County Councillor

Rachel Jenkins