



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF CLENT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT CLENT PARISH HALL**

016/21      **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all residents, Parish Councillors, the Clerk, District Cllr. Mrs Sherrey 11 parishioners.

016/22      **APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Hess, District Cllr. Allen-Jones and County Cllr. Mrs Jenkins.

016/23      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Clerk read out the minutes from the previous meeting and these were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Sugden.

016/24      **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

*Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.*

*Firstly I wish to thank my fellow Councillors on your behalf for all the hard work they have undertaken on Parish matters and for their supporting during the last 12 months.*

*Thanks also to Ruth our Clerk for her hard work and dedication in carrying out the running of the Parish and for her wise counsel to the Parish Council on matters of procedure. We are well served in having an excellent qualified clerk.*

*Secondly we are very lucky to have a Youth Parish Council, whose enthusiasm is demonstrated by a number of initiatives undertaken throughout the year and their commitment shown by their attendance at their meeting which precede our own. They regularly update the Council and parishioners at the Parish Council Meeting.*

*Our annual newsletter was recently distributed to our parishioners and I hope you found the information useful and informative. Although covered in the Newsletter it is worth repeating some of them today.*

*In celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Parish Council is planning a Picnic in the Park on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June in Centenary Field. All parishioners, their families and friends are welcome and there will be no admission charge. Please look out for further information on our notice boards and website.*

*We have over the last 12 months made improvements to the young children's play equipment, removing one item that no longer met health and safety requirements and adding some new items. Our equipment is now fit for purpose and should provide many years of enjoyment. It is noticeable how many children are now using the new equipment and with their parents the picnic tables.*



*We have been asked to consider installing a boules pitch frame. We are currently investigating a suitability location and cost of installation so that a decision can be made at a Parish Council Meeting whether or not to proceed. There will be more information provided in our council meeting which follows this meeting.*

*I reported last year that your parish council had reached agreement with Worcestershire County Council to take over the maintenance of our street lights under contract. This year we have replaced our mercury lights with LED lighting which not only provide a more focused lighting area but are considerably cheaper to run in terms of energy usage. We have also updated the lamps in our heritage street lights. These are the green lamp posts which are located around Clent. They have also been repainted.*

*We are fortunate to live in a very beautiful rural part of Worcestershire and your Parish Council strives to maintain a tidy parish. However litter and dog fouling continue to create problems around Clent. We do our best to keep Clent tidy and have in recent times increased the number of litter bins and have organised litter picks. This was referred to in our newsletter and I hope that Clent residents will help us keep Clent tidy.*

*Our Parish Council Meetings continue to be well attended and the points that are raised at our meetings allow your councillors to be aware of the issues which affect you.*

*We continue to allow issues to be raised during the meeting and relevant to the Agenda and although at times this can be difficult to control, I believe it has added to the conduct of our business and engagement with you our parishioners.*

*The issue that continued to dominate our monthly meeting through the year has been the proposed boundary change. Bromsgrove District Council undertook a Community Governance Review during 2014/15. 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 the parishioners in Clent.*

*Finally I would like to thank those of you who have attended our meetings and corresponded with our Clerk Ruth Mullett. Your comments and observations have been very helpful.*



*Thank you for listening.*

*Cllr. Nick Sugden  
Chairman*

016/25 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR RACHEL JENKINS' REPORT**

*No report given*

016/26 **DISTRICT COUNCIL MARGARET SHERREY**

*Visit to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government – myself and colleges met with Greg Clarke MP on 19<sup>th</sup> May in Westminster over the funding settlement to Bromsgrove. We were pleased with his receptive manner and he agreed to look into our queries on the assumptions in the settlement in his department. We will have to await the result but he promised to get back to us shortly.*

*Centre Manager – a Centre Manager has been appointed to work with businesses throughout the District to retain those currently here and also to encourage new business. She will work with the Portfolio Holder and the Economic Development Team.*

*Sainsbury's Site – the site on the Birmingham Road occupied by the Co-op and others has been sold by Sainsbury's to IM Properties. I and colleagues met with them on a pre-app visit last week. They intend to redevelop the site into several retail units and intimated that they were in negotiation with some leading names.*

*Forward plan – we are currently revising our forward plan for the next three years*

016/27 **OPEN FORUM**

*The Chairman invited questions from residents.*

Signed

**Chairman of the Council**