



Prior to commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman Mrs Howard allowed parishioners present to address the Council. There were approximately 18 parishioners in attendance.

Minutes of the Meeting of Clent Parish Council held on Monday 16th October 2017 at Clent Parish Hall

Public Open Forum

Prior to commencement of the meeting an open forum was held which mainly concentrated on an update on the Velo Bike Ride which took place September. The following points have been asked to be minuted:-

- 1. Mr Paul Ingram expressed his concern and opposition with regard to the Velo Birmingham Cycle Event. He has an equine business and the event prevented him from tending to his horses.*
- 2. Mr Brian Robinson wrote to WCC on behalf of 20 Belbroughton residents describing their objection to the Velo Birmingham Cycle Event. Cllr. Beaumont invited him to attend the meeting to give his view of the event. He had the opportunity to explain why he remains opposed to the event. His reasons are set out in an email which Cllr. Beaumont has copied to all Councillors.*
- 3. Paul Ingram asked that his name and the nature of his objection be recorded in the minutes. Should Brian Robinson's predication be correct, and only time will tell, we need to have it on record that we were aware of his views and prediction.*

2017/4690 APOLOGIES/ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Present – Cllr. Price, Cllr. Beaumont, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Sugden and Cllr. Bates.

Apologies – Cllr. Mrs Howard, Cllr. Sheppard, Cllr. Mrs May, Cllr. Mrs Sherrey and Cllr. Allen-Jones

Also Present – Ruth Mullett Clerk,

The Councillors present signed the Attendance Register.

2017/4691 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the Agenda.

Other Disclosable Interest – Cllr. Sheppard – Maintenance of Clent Cricket Pitch, Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Sugden – Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Smith – Member of Clent Cricket Club and Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Mrs Howard – Member of Clent Club Social

Cllr. Mrs Howard – Planning Application 17/00676 – neighbour of the applicants.

Cllr. Sugden member of Clent History Society

Cllr, Mrs Howard Member of Comic Theatre Group

2017/4692 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS



It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017 be signed as a correct record. The Chairman duly signed and initialled each page.

2017/4693 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

It was pleasing to note we had a new Youth Councillor join us this month, Hannah Davis. The Youth Council have asked if we can look at the Trim Trail as it needs some repair but we need to look at the extent and ascertain whether it is better to remove than repair/replace. Clerk will ask Cllr. Smith to investigate and report back.

2017/4694 **FINANCE**

1. Cash Flow and Bank Reconciliation – reports circulated. Bank Statements scrutinised by the Chairman.
2. To confirm receipt of £23,500.00 half yearly Precept from Bromsgrove District Council.
3. To confirm receipt of £300.00 from Zurich for damaged bollards on Odnall Lane.
4. To report Unqualified Audit from Grant Thornton and to confirm Notice of Closure has been advertised.
5. Accounts for payment

Cheque	Payee	Detail	Sum
11375	HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	356.29
11376	Phil Dunkley	Lengthsman	230.35
11377	SLCC	Training	126.00
11378	Worcestershire CALC	Training	60.00
11380	Paula Plant	Remembrance Flowers	40.00

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Sugden and Cllr. Bates sign the cheques.

2017/4695 **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT**

1. It was agreed for Cllr. Bates to do an update for the Parish Magazine on the litter pick.
2. Quotation had been received for a replacement notice board outside the Church Hall. Cllr. Smith had agreed to obtain another quotation but couldn't source a cheaper/better quote. This will now be placed on next month's agenda to agree to replace with the existing quotation from Shelley Signs. It was asked that Clerk let the Parish Hall Trustees know we were intending to replace the Noticeboard.

2017/4696 **TRAINING**

Nothing to report.

2017/4697 **TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS**

1. **Police Report/NHW** – Reports circulated to Councillors and placed on website. Updates are also being circulated on the Client Residents Facebook Page if appropriate.



2. **District Councillors –**

Cllr. Sherrey – No report given.

Cllr. Allan-Jones – No report given.

County Cllr. May – No report given.

3. **Smartwater –** nothing to report.

4. **Velo Birmingham Cycle Race –** This was discussed and has been minuted under Public Question Time. It was noted there were also a large number of Councillors and residents who were very much in favour of the Velo Bike Ride. As there were a number of riders participating from Clent Parish it was mentioned that they could all ride and fundraise for a specific cause in the parish, a new speeding sign for example.

5. **Twinning –** Cllr. Smith wrote an update for the parish magazine which he has asked be circulated in the minutes also.

Turn on the news nowadays & one thing is certain Brexit will be on the agenda.

Brexit, Brexit & even more Brexit will be headlining for years to come.

So whichever way you voted is of now little consequence, "cus" it looks like were off. Now does this mean were moving the UK say to the eastern seaboard of the USA or maybe the distance between Dover & Calais will become longer? Of course it doesn't. But what it may mean is our relationship with Europe & its people may not be as easy as it is at present, we just don't know. .So here's the rub ...With all that in mind, we at Clent Parish Council have decided to explore the possibility of Twinning Clent with another European village.

"Twinning"? I hear you say "What does that mean"? Well I have been tasked, with the help

Of a small working party made up of Clent Parishioners in trying to answer some of those questions & to establish the merits, or not, of this proposed initiative

Firstly, I thought what would our beautiful village have in common with any self-respecting European Hamlet & how many boxes would we need to tick to be even considered?

Well we do have our magnificent hills complete with an ancient monument.There's the Tourism & Heritage boxes ticked I thought!

What else? Well what about a fine Norman church.....Culture (Tick) our fine collections of Hostelryes & restaurants' including an excellent Indian.... There's leisure & cultural diversity (tick)

But then I thought, the biggest asset of all...Our Children!

To be able to give our children the opportunity to form relationships with children who speak a strange language or eat different food ,a friendship that could last a lifetime & even span generations to come, should if possible be grasped !

So, you've now heard my ramblings, but if you are of a like mind & would like to get involved in seeing if we can get this initiative off the



ground, then please get in touch & let's see if we can make Brexit work for us & our kids

Email kevinsmith37ks@gmail.com or clent.parish@btconnect.com

6. **Allotments** – Nothing to report.

2017/4698

PLANNING MATTERS

District Council Decisions

Nothing to report

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

17/00998 – Highfield Cottage, Walton Pool – demolition of existing single storey garage building and remove of 2 no existing former windows and the consolidation of existing window openings to form new on-suite. Formation of a single storey garden room to the ground floor. Partial timber cladding of existing double garage building – **No**

objections

Planning Appeals

None

2017/4699

GRASS CUTTING/HEDGE MANAGEMENT/CENTENARY FIELD/PLAY AREAS

Update on toilets – The toilet block was delivered on Wednesday and put in place. Sadly the lorry got stuck but Cllr. Sheppard has asked that we thank Mark Brocklebank for his help in filling in the damage. Clerk reported that the new football nets had been installed.

2017/4700

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

The parking issue outside Clent Nurseries was discussed again and Clerk agreed she would be happy to go and speak with Clent Nurseries and also ask them whether they would be interested in planting our flower tubs.

2017/4701

STREET LIGHTING /SIGNS

Cllr. Sheppard confirmed that he had ordered the cable for the sign and will hopefully be installing it within the next few weeks.

2017/4702

PARISH MAINTENANCE/LENGTHSMAN

After an audit of the Lengthsman's recent timesheet the working party had concerns and asked the Clerk to email him outlining these. The Lengthsman asked that one our email and his response be minuted. The Working Party have arranged to meet with the Lengthsman to discuss further.

Parish Council Email dated 20th October 2017 - *The working party have asked me to contact you with regard to the worksheet dated 9th October 2017.*

Councillor Bates has walked the areas of the parish listed on the worksheet and is not happy with the standard of work.



Specifically the section dated 28th September – Bromsgrove road up to the Bell & Cross, he has advised the other two members of the working party that sections of the pavement has disappeared under the amount of leaves that have not been cleared.

Also Councillor Sheppard along with Councillor Bates has tried to locate the soak away holes on the left hand side of the road heading towards the dual carriageway, without success.

Councillor Beaumont with Councillor Bates has walked Adams Hill, Woodman lane and Mount lane and both agree that the standard of herbicide treatment and clearing of drains (particularly a drain on the right at the start of woodman lane) is not of an acceptable standard. Councillor Sheppard has raised concerns with the standard of work at the Island below Clent nurseries.

The working party are requesting a meeting with you to discuss their concerns and to enable you to show them where the mentioned soak away holes are located.

At least two of the working party are available week beginning Monday 23rd October at a time that will be convenient for you, please can you advise of a suitable time.

Going forward please can you email or text the work that has been completed in a week to me by Friday afternoon, so that one of the councillors can check over the weekend if the work is of an acceptable standard and raise any concerns by the Monday. Please can start the new procedure from Monday 16th October.

Lengthsman's reply dated 21st October 2017 - For everyone's information please find attached a photograph of one of the 'soak holes' referred to.

If you exit from Summerfield Road onto Bromsgrove Road and turn right you'll find the soak holes begin just past the left hand bend, on the left hand side. They are spaced at approximately 8-10 feet intervals and run adjacent to the brook. They're prone to blockages and will eventually lead to flooding on the road if not regularly maintained. I aim to attend to these as often as I realistically can within my allotted five hours and I did so on the stated date in my time sheet.

I'm astounded as the implication seems to be that I have not done this! In autumn it can only take 2-3 days for them to clog up.

Adam's Hill:

I covered both sides of the road from the very top, down its entire length down to the Fountain Pub (using the new herbicide and applicator provided).

I also coated the weeds around the car park and the grass squares/triangles merging onto Mount Lane.

There will always be spots that don't take to the application. I've seen where they are and I have noted them on my 'to-do' schedule.

Again, I can't focus on the same issues every week in only five hours otherwise other issues will have to fall by the wayside.



The Island:

I have plucked thistles, weeds and large unsightly nettles from the retaining wall and treated the entire semi-circle where it meets the tarmac (on the Violet Lane side) with herbicide. Rain is not always forecast but it happens - this will obviously affect the efficacy of the weed killer.

I've pruned down the whips from the stumps of the trees I felled there last summer and cut back to ground level the self-seeders. I've pruned the majority of the branches. The large branches I have removed to tip, what's left (the small branches) I have to return for as I had no space at that time to remove them.

With this in mind I'm sure you'll also agree that commenting on unfinished work is unnecessarily critical.

Woodman Lane:

I blew the drain covers free of debris and the grates were clear when I finished work on the 25th of September.

Bromsgrove Road to The Bell and Cross:

From the feeder road to the hairdressers the pavements were indeed blow free of leaves and debris. I also removed the thistles (with secateurs) from nearby the Parochial School and the drain covers/grates were blown free of debris. This stretch of road always has a high level of foliage debris and will have to be redone very soon, I can guarantee you. The road kerbs and drain covers there I treated with herbicide during the month of August.

With respect, on my meeting with Pete, Drew and Ed, Pete freely admitted that he knows virtually nothing whatsoever of grounds keeping/maintenance which makes these comments all the more indignant. Scrutinizing my work and questioning the standard of it is quite frankly insulting.

Any comments I've received from the villagers regarding my work are always complimentary.

In fact most people are astonished that I am able to accomplish all that I can in only five allotted hours per week.

I suggest that if I have covered everything that was to be addressed on Monday that none of us waste our time by going over these issues again in person.

However, if the meeting is to go ahead, I suggest that all wear their appropriate Hi-Viz jackets as is protocol when surveying the island and highways.

I also expect to receive my cheque on Monday, for my services. Withholding payment is unethical.

I request that my comments within this message to be read out at the next meeting and registered in the minutes.

2017/4703

OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Nothing to report



2017/4704 **CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Nothing to report

2017/4705 **NEW ISSUES AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2017, 7.00PM AT CLENT PARISH HALL**

Nothing to report

2017/4706 **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Cheques signed as approved under Minute No. 2017/4694

Signed
Chairman of the Council