



Prior to commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman allowed parishioners present to address the Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of Clent Parish Council held on Monday 18th February 2019 at Clent Parish Hall

2019/4898 **APOLOGIES/ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Present – Cllr. Sugden, Cllr. Bates, Cllr. Mrs Howard, Cllr. Sheppard, Cllr. Beaumont and Cllr. Smith

Apologies – Cllr. Price – his reason for apology was accepted by all councillors present

Clerk was not in attendance

The Councillors present signed the Attendance Register.

2019/4899 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the Agenda. All councillors have standing declarations, namely:

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. Sugden member of Clent History Society

Cllr. Mrs Howard Member of Comic Theatre Group

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

Cllr. Sugden – neighbour planning application – land behind Summerfield Road

2019/4900 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st January 2019 be signed as a correct record. The Chairman duly signed and initialled each page.

2019/4901 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council have set up a small working party to commence a project looking into the goal posts, nets, white lines and surface area in the football pitch. They also asked whether smaller monkey bars could be installed in the play area and they are looking at options to be brought back to full council. They would also like another trip to Hindlip and it was agreed for Clerk to contact Cllr. Mrs Sherrey to see if she could arrange. The litter pick poster competition will close on 26th



February 2019. It will be judged by Cllr. Mrs Howard and Cllr. Bates. The winners will be announced during school assembly.

2019/4902 **FINANCE**

1. Cash Flow and Bank Reconciliation – reports circulated to all councillors. Bank Statements scrutinised and initialled by the Chairman.
2. To confirm receipt of £1,000.00 grant from Cllr. Mrs May’s Divisional Fund for the column for the flashing speed sign.
3. To confirm receipt of £528.70 Lengthsman grant from Worcestershire CC.
4. Accounts for payment

Cheque	Payee	Detail	Net Sum
11530	HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	364.49
11532	Ed Sheppard	Materials	104.00
11533	N Sugden	Mileage	20.70

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

2019/4903 **TO RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT**

1. Cllr. Smith will inform residents of the date of the Annual Parish Meeting once this has been agreed.
2. It was agreed to put on next agenda to agree date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

2019/4904 **TRAINING**

Nothing to report

2019/4905 **TO RECEIVE UPDATES/REPORTS**

1. **District Councillors –**

Cllr. Sherrey – Apologies received, no report given.

Cllr. Allan-Jones – No report given.

County Cllr. May – Investments into the County – WCC is proposing to invest millions of pounds into tackling congestion, improving town centres and upgrading railway stations across the county. The capital investments have been announced as part of the council’s proposed budget for the next financial year. Proposals include £2.5m for town centre improvements in Evesham, Redditch, Stourport and Worcester. It is proposed that the council’s programme to relieve congestion will be extended with an additional £5m to be spent over the next three years. Other proposed capital investments include £4m to build a new footbridge across the River Severn in North Worcester and to refurbish Sabrina Bridge in the city to support walking and cycling.



An additional £5m is to be invested into the upgrading of railway stations.

Cllr. Simon Geraghty, Leader of WCC said *“These capital investments are essential for us to continue to support Worcestershire’s growing economy. By investing into the county’s infrastructure we will help to attract more businesses and build more homes which will help us to grow the council’s income. The budget that we are proposing will invest £26m in these schemes over the next three years while at the same time providing significant revenue investments into adult social care and into improving the lives of the county’s children and young people. We plan to spend an additional £23m next year on social care in Worcestershire as demand for these services grow. We have also listened to the feedback during the budget consultation process. So we are deleting proposed savings attributed to highways and our Countryside service. We are reducing the savings proposals for libraries and the archives service as well as proposing a new Communities Fund to help enable the changes that need to happen”.*

The council’s budget – WCC revenue funding is due to go up by more than £6m in the next financial year. However the pace of growth in income is not keeping up with the increase in demand for social care. A set of saving proposals were announced last month including the redesign of the council and a review of all commercial contracts.

Since then councils across Worcestershire have been told that they can expect to receive an additional £4.9m, to help to reduce future demand in social care following a successful bid to the government for a one year 75% business rates pilot. The pilot means that more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire next year will remain in the county.

It is proposed that council tax will be increased by 3.99% with 2.99% to support the general budget and 1% ring-fenced for adult social care. The increase is equivalent to 93p per week extra on a band D property. If the final budget proposals are approved by councillors next month, council tax rates in Worcestershire would continue to be amongst the lowest in the country for county councils.

Next week we mark the second annual Celebrating Social Workers Week here at WCC. Social workers and social care staff from both adults and children’s services are invited to attend workshops and events taking place throughout the week. Working in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we have successfully bid for £1.3m to run the Natural Networks



programme which will help to improve the environment. The scheme is aimed at organisations such as parish councils, small and medium businesses, not for profit organisations and statutory bodies. To find out more go to:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/naturalnetworks

Well done to all those involved in the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge delivered in our libraries. The figures were published this week and show it was a big success. The number of children and young people who completed the challenge in Worcestershire was 2,959 which is 74.2% of those who signed up – the highest percentage in the West Midlands.

The council is now offering people who need domiciliary care but who pay for their care, access to our brokerage service to help find a provider. This service will help people to make informed choices about different options with different providers to meet their care needs and help put those arrangements in place. To access this service people need to contact the Access Centre on 01905 768053.

We have been ranked one of the best councils in the country for the time it takes us to repair potholes. New figures released by the RAC Foundation show that it takes our highways team up to one hour to fix potholes across the county.

WCC is delighted to be sponsoring the Worcestershire Education Awards for the third year running. The awards were officially launched at the University Arena on 17th January. WCC is once again proud to be sponsoring the category teacher/lecturer of the year. Nominations are now being sought by schools, teachers, pupils and members of the public for a teacher or a lecturer who is a worthy winner in 2019.

It was confirmed that the kerb by Clent Nurseries had been repaired and new road signs placed in Summerfield Road

2. **Smartwater** – roll out is continuing slowly.
3. **Beacon** – Cllr. Sheppard confirmed that the beacon will be moved in March from the Clent Hills and sited in Centenary Field. He also confirmed that the oak tree would be planted once the weather breaks.

2019/4906

PLANNING MATTERS

District Council Decisions

Nothing to report

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Nothing to report

Planning Appeals

Nothing to report



Cllr. Sugden brought up the issue regarding activity on land behind Summerfield Road. A temporary order is in place banning all tree cutting. Last week people were in the field doing a topography survey. It was noted that the land is in the green belt and planning permission had previously been sought. It was agreed to make District and County Councillors aware of the situation and ask them to report back any information from BDC.

2019/4907 **GRASS CUTTING/HEDGE MANAGEMENT/CENTENARY FIELD/PLAY AREAS**

1. Toilets – the first fix is in place and work is in progress to complete the installation.
2. **Cricket Club Lease** – The council unanimously **RESOLVED** to extend the cricket club term in the original lease by an additional fifty years to 11th April 2085. The Addendum was signed by Chairman and Clerk, witnessed by Ed Moore.
3. **Party in the Park** – A working party was formed comprising Cllr. Mrs Howard, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Price and members of the community.
4. The broken bench by the pond will be fixed by Nigel Williamson. Cllr. Sheppard to liaise with him.

2019/4908 **HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS**

1. **White gates** – Richard Clewer, Highways is dealing with these
2. **Bee connected** – Contractors are to give 48 hours' notice to bee keepers before using pesticides. The parish council agreed to support this.
3. **30mph speed limited** – this item was deferred.
4. **Installation of bus shelter** – this item was deferred

2019/4909 **HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS/LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

Lengthsman Jobs

1. Clear ditch/drain on Bromsgrove Road from the dual carriageway to the school – **work is in progress, still outstanding**
2. To provide a list of all grids/drains in the parish – **Work is in progress, still outstanding**

2019/4910 **STREET LIGHTING /SIGNS**

Cllr. May has agreed to progress with BDC and Worcestershire CC the following street signs:-

Pool Furlong – **Still outstanding**

Summerfield Road – **Installed**

Welcome to Clent to be situated on the white gates off the A491 – **Still outstanding**



The flashing speed sign should be installed within the next month. It was also agreed to move the Smartwater sign higher up the column.

2019/4911 **OUTSIDE MEETINGS/COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Sugden attended the CALC Executive meeting he confirmed:-

- There is a new CALC Officer
- CALC office is aiming to be available five days a weeks
- Subscription will increase by 7.5%
- CALC is self-financing now
- It aims for all new councillors to be trained and all new clerks to be qualified.
- They are also lobbying government to allow church clocks to come under parish council funding.

2019/4912 **NEW ISSUES AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7.00PM AT CLENT PARISH HALL**

Annual Parish Meeting
Elections

2019/4913 **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Cheques signed as approved under Minute No. 2019/4902

2019/4914 **THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM RELATES TO BUSINESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL/SENSITIVE NATURE DURING WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING AS PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960)**

As discussed Council **RESOLVED** to agree a way forward.

Signed
Chairman of the Council