



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 18th November 2019** at  
Clent Parish Hall, 40 Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Ed Sheppard  
Cllr Andrew Sherrey and Cllr Margaret Sherrey

**In attendance:** County/District Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), members of the  
public.

### **5049 Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

### **5050 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 9(b) (Minute 5056(b)) as  
he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the  
cheque.

Cllr A Sherrey declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Item 10 (Minute 5055) as the  
treasurer of the parish magazine. Cllr Sherrey did not vote on this item.

### **5051 Dispensations**

There were none.

### **Open session**

*The meeting was adjourned for the open session and the following reports/updates were noted.*

There were no public questions or comments, however a resident spoke in objection to the  
proposed stopping up order in Church Avenue at item 14(a) at the discretion of the Chairman.

District Councillor Margaret Sherrey reported that the Community Clean Up grant funding would  
be made available again from January 2020.

County and District Councillor Karen May provided the following updates:

- Residents are encouraged to take part in the Bromsgrove Local Plan Review Consultation;
- There had been some significant flooding issues in the county over previous weeks which had pushed some issues back whilst this was being dealt with;

- 2020/2021 budgets at district and county level were being considered. The county budget considerations would particularly focus on adult social care and the role of libraries in local communities.

#### 5052 Youth Council

(a) The Youth Council representative provided the following update:

- The Youth Council elected a Chairman;
- The pond was stagnant and smelly which was of concern to the Youth Council. Cllr Sheppard reported that this would be dealt with by WCC once the repairs to the ruptured pipe and silt trap were completed, likely to be spring 2020;
- Alternatives to the AstroTurf would be investigated. The Clerk would send the quotation received for the supply and installation of the new goals to Cllr May who has kindly offered to fund this;
- The Clerk had advised that the sign for the table tennis table was on order and due imminently;
- The next litter pick would be spring 2020;
- The Youth Council are gathering ideas about how the parish can help tackle climate change.

#### 5053 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### 5054 Casual Vacancy

Following advice received from Bromsgrove DC, it was **resolved** that the Council now fill the casual vacancy by co-option and that the Clerk would advertise the vacancy on the website, the Client residents Facebook page and on noticeboards.

#### 5055 Parish Magazine Grant

It was **resolved** to contribute £272 towards the production of the parish magazine for 2020.

#### 5056 Finance

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments and that Cllrs Bates and Beaumont would sign the cheques:

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|--|---------|
| (a) Clerk salary & expenses                        | £672.73 |
| (b) Mr Ed Sheppard – Lengthsman                    | £309.00 |
| (c) Cllr Ed Sheppard – Expenses (toilet block)     | £245.69 |
| (d) Information Commissioner (annual direct debit) | £35.00  |
- (e) The monthly bank reconciliation report was approved, noting a bank balance of £69,374.24.
- (f) The monthly budget monitoring report was approved.
- (g) It was agreed to spend up to £20 on a Christmas gift to the Council's grass cutting contractor.

- (h) It was agreed to spend up to £80 on a hamper for the Three Roses Home in appreciation of them maintaining the public right of way behind their property.
- (i) It was agreed to approach Steve Bubb in relation to the Christmas Tree and that the Clerk would contact the electrician to install the lights. The overall cost of this was not clear but there was £100 in the 2019/20 budget, of which £40 had already been spent on electricity from 2018.

#### **5057 General Maintenance and Highway Matters**

- (a)
  - (i) The green grit bin. The Clerk would send an email to Cllr May who will then pay for the new bin from her Divisional Fund. WCC will organise the new slabs and will fill the bin with salt.
  - (ii) Footway - Bell and Cross/Belbroughton Road. Cllr May reported that the footway is not deemed to be at intervention level, but officers have agreed to closely monitor this going forward.
  - (iii) Water Leak in Hossil Lane – The WCC engineer and Cllr May have raised this on numerous occasions and this is now being escalated.
  - (iv) Roundabout – Cllr May had offered to pay from her Divisional Fund to clean the island of weeds/moss etc. The WCC engineer has agreed to follow this up again.
  - (v) The footway on Bromsgrove Road between the white gates and the first house needs attention. Cllr May advised that it ideally needs resurfacing but would ask that the footway is swept to try and improve the surface in the short term and that the Probation Service would also have this on their list of work.
- (b) Cllrs Sheppard and Sugden had met with the Probation Service representative and the following tasks had been agreed:
  - (i) To tidy and make good the footpath between the Clent Club and the pool. The Council may need to provide some hardcore/surfacing.
  - (ii) To tidy the pool area of reeds and general vegetation.
  - (iii) To attend to the overgrown footway along the Bromsgrove Road.
  - (iv) To cut back vegetation blocking the footpath opposite Clent Nurseries.
- (c) Cllr Sheppard reported that the feeder cable to the Vehicle Activated Sign had been severed. A box had been ordered to protect the cable from future damage.

#### **5058 Grounds Maintenance and Play Areas**

- (a) Cllr Sheppard reported that the work to repair the collapsed pipe, silt trap and the associated water leak in Hossil Lane was in hand but it would likely be spring 2020 that the work could take place. Cllr May would be making enquiries about the overall capacity for drainage and how a more holistic approach could be adopted by WCC/BDC.
- (b) RoSPA have advised that any rubber chippings surface must be EN1176/77 compliant with a minimum depth of 300mm.
- (c) A second quotation for the Astro turf had been received which was similar to the first. It was therefore agreed to look at cheaper alternatives to the muddy goal mouth problem. Another quotation had also been received for the goals, which again was similar to the first quote, but the company did not install, whereas the first company provided the

whole service. The Clerk would send Cllr May the first quotation that had been received for the goals which was around £1200 supplied and installed.

### **5059 Planning Applications**

(a) The Department for Transport were re-consulting on the proposed stopping up order on land in Church Avenue, due to a procedural error in the initial consultation. The Parish Council had already objected although the DfT refused to accept it as the Council had not provided evidence as to how the change of use to a private garden would negatively impact on users of the wider highway in that area. The Parish Council also wrote in support of the Tree Preservation Order on the land. It was felt that the Parish Council had done all it could and that the district and county councillors should take up the issue as a planning and highways matter, and that the Clerk would send the relevant notices to Cllr May.

(b) Planning application 19/01186/FUL – White Gates, Walton Pool for a single storey side extension was considered. It was **resolved** to raise **no objection**.

Cllr A Sherrey also reported that appeals were ongoing in relation to West Lodge, Four Stones Restaurant and 1 Kings Meadow.

### **5060 Parish Magazine**

It was agreed that the entry for the next parish magazine would include the engagement of the Probation Service, asking residents to clear leaves from drains if they are able to, and plans for 2020. It was **resolved** that Cllr Sugden would write the article.

### **5061 December Meeting**

It was resolved that there would not be a meeting in December (as in previous years).

There were no other updates or items for the next agenda.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **20<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at 7.00pm

*The meeting closed at 8.25pm*

### **Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman**

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**Date**