



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 20th January 2020** at  
Clent Parish Hall, 40 Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

### **Minutes**

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

**In attendance:** Nick Farress (Clerk), members of the public.

#### **5062 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Drew Beaumont (illness) and County Councillor Karen May.

#### **5063 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 10(h) (Minute 5070(h)) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the subsequent cheque.

#### **5064 Dispensations**

There were none.

#### **5065 VE Day Anniversary**

Sue Hindle addressed the Council on the VE Day 75 celebrations on the 8th May 2020. It was confirmed that the Hall, band and bar had been booked for the event, and people would be asked to bring a picnic. Tickets would be £5 each and there would also be a raffle. Sue would put a piece together for the parish newsletter that would utilise the parish council's space asking for volunteers to help set up and to advertise the event generally. It was **resolved** to allocate £250 to the event (s.137 LGA) which would include the cost of the hall hire which the parish council had previously agreed to pay for (Minute 4984).

#### **Open session**

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

#### Public comments/questions

Members of the public raised the following issues of concern:

- Date of next litter pick. This will be in the early spring.
- Lack of road sweeping by BDC. Cllr Margaret Sherrey will provide the rota to the Clerk for uploading onto the Clent resident's social media page.

- Boggy area behind goals on the playing field. Could some netting be put around this until the leak is fixed? Cllr Sheppard would look into this.

District Councillor Margaret Sherrey reported that the Community Clean Up grant funding would be made available again from January 2020 and that the parish council was encouraged to consider an application.

County and District Councillor Karen May provided the following updates in her absence:

- The missing grit bin has not yet been installed. The Clerk will resend the parish council's request in writing to have the bin installed and filled as soon as possible.
- Cllr May continues to monitor the footway along the road by the Bell & Cross. The pub has cut back their hedge which has improved the situation.
- Cllr May is happy to pay for the supply and installation of the new goal posts to the tune of £1143.00. The parish council are very grateful for Cllr May's support in this matter.

#### **5066 Youth Council**

There was no Youth Council meeting this evening

#### **5067 Minutes**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5068 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received and considered by the Council:

- (a) From a resident in relation to access to Walton Pool for large vehicles. This had been passed to Cllr May as it is a highways matter;
- (b) From a resident in relation to the poor state of the pavement on Belbroughton Rd along from the Bell & Cross. This was in hand with Cllr May and the highways department;
- (c) From Severn Trent inviting applications to their Community Fund. The council felt that improvements to the pond would be ideal for this grant funding and would follow this up in the spring once the leaking pipe and silt trap issues had been dealt with by WCC;
- (d) From BDC inviting applications to their Community Clean-Up Fund (deadline 10th February). This was noted and could also tie into the pond improvements project.

#### **5069 New "We Don't Buy Crime" Signage**

West Mercia Police had asked the parish council to consider some updated signage to replace the current "Smartwater" signs around the parish, the cost of which would be funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was **resolved** to respond in the positive.

#### **5070 Finance**

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments and that Cllr A Sherrey and Cllr M Sherrey would sign the cheques:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| (a) Clerk salary & expenses (Dec and Jan) | £1,247.50 |
|---|-----------|

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| (b) HMRC PAYE                                     | £149.00 |
| (c) GJH Electrical Services Ltd                   | £423.60 |
| (d) Cllr Nick Sugden expenses                     | £63.00  |
| (e) Bromsgrove DC (Pool Furlong rent)             | £60.00  |
| (f) Signtech Midlands Ltd (sign for table tennis) | £10.20  |
| (g) Clent Parish Hall (room hire)                 | £71.25  |
| (h) Mr Ed Sheppard (Lengthsman)                   | £187.00 |
- (i) The monthly bank reconciliation report was approved, noting a bank balance of £66,594.01
- (j) The monthly budget monitoring report was approved.

The Clerk was asked to check whether an invoice was on its way from BDC in relation to bin emptying and when WCC would send the invoice for the street lighting contract.

#### **5071 Budget 2020/2021**

It was **resolved** to set the Council's 2020/2021 budget requirement at £52,893.00 and request a precept of £49,850.00 from Bromsgrove District Council as the billing authority. The Chairman and Clerk signed the relevant paperwork, and this would be submitted to BDC before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The agreed budget is included at "Appendix A" of these Minutes (page 1144).

#### **5072 General Maintenance and Highway Matters**

- (a) The Probation Service had cleared the footway between the "feeder road" and Clent Grange which has improved the situation. They also filled potholes and levelled the footpath through the allotments. Councillors were asked to consider any new work that the Probation Service could look at attending to.
- (b) Inconsiderate parking was causing a problem by the Indian restaurant. The Clerk was asked to produce a small leaflet that could be used to highlight the problems of inconsiderate parking that could be placed under windscreens.
- (c) An article in the April newsletter would remind landowners to look after their trees and ensure that overhanging branches were not likely to cause a danger to road users. Cllr A Sherrey would put this together and send to the Clerk.
- (d) A broken tree branch was causing a potential danger to pedestrians outside the school. The Clerk would report this to WCC and make Cllr May aware.
- (e) The DfT had re-opened the consultation on the proposed stopping up of the highway in Church Avenue. The Clerk would re-submit the council's objection focussing on the fact that the land is currently accessible as public open space and should remain so.

#### **5073 Grounds Maintenance and Play Areas**

- (a) Cllr Sheppard presented a quotation to replace all the existing bark with cheaper and harder wearing recycled rubber. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation of £3187 from Eco Rubber Chippings to supply 11250kg of chippings which would be laid at a depth of 150mm as advised by both companies who quoted. The surface had been tested in accordance with BS EN 1176 and gave a "critical fall height" of over 3 metres at 150mm

depth. Cllr Sheppard would liaise with the company and arrange delivery. The Clerk would write to RoSPA to delay the annual inspection until after the surface had been replaced.

(b) It was **resolved** to go ahead with the quotation from Sutcliffe Play to supply and fit a pair of new goal posts on the football field at a cost of £1143.00. This was funded by Cllr Karen May for which the parish council are very grateful. The Clerk would place the order and liaise with the company to arrange delivery.

#### **5074 Planning Applications**

Planning application 19/01594/CPL - The Brinks, St Kenelms Pass had been withdrawn by the applicant.

#### **5075 Parish Magazine**

The next article would focus on the VE Day anniversary celebrations as above.

#### **5076 Annual Parish Meeting**

It was **resolved** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the same evening.

#### **5077 Casual Vacancy**

Following an expression of interest, it was **resolved** to co-opt David Mudie residing in the parish of Clent onto the parish council. Cllr Mudie signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and would return his Register of Interests form to the Clerk in due course.

#### **5078 Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda**

(a) It was agreed to add the appointment of an internal auditor for the 2019/20 accounts to the next agenda.

(b) The roundabout still needs attention, despite highways saying that the works have been completed. An update would be requested from Cllr May.

(c) The problem of parking around Clent nurseries persists – an update would be requested from Cllr May.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **17<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at 7.00pm

*The meeting closed at 8.20pm*

**Signed as a true record:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX A (see Minute 5071 above)

ITEM	Agreed 2020/2021 Budget
Salary	£9,000.00
PAYE/NI	£500.00
Pension	£0.00
Clerk Mileage	£280.00
Clerk Essential Car User	£0.00
Lengthsman	£4,500.00
Chairman Allowance	£500.00
Councillor Mileage	£50.00
Home Office	£120.00
Training	£500.00
Meetings & Refreshments	£350.00
Subscriptions	£750.00
Insurance	£1,400.00
Auditor fees	£590.00
General Admin	£400.00
Elections	£1,400.00
Grants	£500.00
Newsletters/Printing	£350.00
Website	£1,000.00
Parish Events/Youth Council	£500.00
Cricket Club Toilets	£0.00
Lease of Land	£240.00
Litter/Dog Bags	£3,000.00
Grass Cutting	£5,400.00
Hedges/Trees	£750.00
Play Area Maintenance	£9,000.00
Christmas Tree	£400.00
Grounds Maintenance	£1,000.00
Electricity	£300.00
Street Lighting	£6,000.00
Legal Fees	£0.00
Reserve - Cricket Club Grant (Rotary)	£1,000.00
Reserves (pool, playing field)	£3,113.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£52,893.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Precept	£49,850.00
Bank Interest	£0.00
Cricket Club Rent	£400.00
Lengthsman	£2,518.00
Wayleaves	£125.00
WCC Grant	£0.00
Rotary Club (Toilets)	£0.00
Cricket Club Grant (Toilets)	£0.00
Misc	£0.00
VAT	£0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£52,893.00</b>