



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 19th October 2020**
via the online platform "Zoom".

Minutes

NB: Due to technical issues, the meeting started 40 minutes later than advertised.

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

In attendance: County Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

5150 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

5151 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5156(a)(ii) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque. Cllr Andrew Sherrey declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 5154(b) as he assists the church with their financial affairs. Cllr Sherrey did not take part in the debate or vote on this item

5152 Dispensations

There were none.

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:

- Redevelopment of Cedar House, Clent – the owner updated the council on their plans to replace the building with a new-build property.
- Litter issues on Walton Hill car park. Cllr May is in close contact with the NT as it is their land.

County & District Councillor Karen May and District Councillor Margaret Sherrey provided an update on the following:

- Roundabout has been swept but it still needs weeding.
- Food waste recycling receptacles may be a possibility for households in the near future.
- Flytipping continues to be a problem in the district.
- Covid-19 – Bromsgrove District has the highest infection rate in the County. Cllr May has been in touch with WM Mayor Andy Street as there was a suggestion that Bromsgrove is moved

into Tier 2 in isolation from the rest of Worcestershire and in line with the West Midlands region which is being resisted by WCC.

- All libraries and household waste sites are now open.
- Care homes are to carry out their own risk assessment in relation to visitors, and WCC can provide PPE through the “Here To Help” contact centre if needed.
- Proposals to improve the junction at the Bell & Cross PH are being worked up and there will be a public consultation on the plans in due course.
- Hedge work needs to be carried out between the Bell & Cross PH and the school as the footway is being narrowed by overgrowth – the Lengthsman will deal with this.
- Speed cables are to be installed either side of the school to monitor traffic speeds after concerns were raised by a resident at the last PC meeting.

5153 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st September 2020 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5154 Correspondence

- (a) Provision of litter bins – covered in public section above.
- (b) Request for funding from the PCC towards the upkeep of the church clock – following advice from CALC/NALC, it was **resolved** to offer £500 to the church this financial year towards the clock and to build this in to future budgets. The clock is a benefit to all parishioners, the relevant legislation being The Parish Councils Act 1957 (s2).

5155 Covid-19 Community Support Group Legacy Proposals

The results of the resident’s survey were shared by the Clent Connect group. The majority of residents supported the concept of a “community hub” including a café and a shop. Work will continue in locating a suitable site. The parish council continue to offer their support to the project.

5156 Finance

(a) It was **resolved** to pay the following for October 2020:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£688.26
(ii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£490.00
(iii) Clent Cricket Club (grass cutting September)	£325.00
(iv) PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fees)	£360.00
(v) M-Pass Electrical & Heating (toilets & speed sign)	£600.00
(vi) Worcestershire CALC Training	£30.00
(vii) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses (dog bags and fixings)	£70.20

(b) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 19/10/2020 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **resolved** to approve the September bank reconciliation noting a balance of £64,237.32 at 30th September 2020.

(d) The 2019/2020 Conclusion of Audit notice from the external auditor was noted.

5157 General Maintenance and Highway Matters

The following items were discussed:

- (a) Wooden bollards at St Leonard's Square - It was **resolved** to allocate £350 to replace the low wooden verge bollards in the parish, starting with those in St Leonard's Square. Cllr Sheppard would procure the items and carry out the work.
- (b) Bell & Cross junction parking - Cllr May reported that proposals to improve the junction at the Bell & Cross PH are being worked up and there will be a public consultation on the plans in due course.
- (c) Lengthsman – it was **resolved** to wait until a post-Covid period later in 2021/22 before advertising the Lengthsman position. In the meantime, Cllr Sheppard is happy to continue in the role.

5158 Field Maintenance and Play Areas

The following items were discussed:

- (a) New playground surfacing – the completion of this work was in hand with Cllr Sheppard.
- (b) Artificial grass installation – there would be a site meeting with the contractor in mid-November.
- (c) Litter bin installation – Cllr Margaret Sherrey would see if a single bin could be procured by BDC.
- (d) Dead elder tree between Holy Cross and the cricket outfield – Cllr Sheppard would attempt to deal with this now that there are fewer leaves, and the extent of the decay can be judged. If necessary, tree surgeons may need to be appointed but this would come back to the next meeting.
- (e) Dog waste bags – The Clerk with Cllrs Sugden and Sheppard had decided to purchase dog waste bags from a new supplier suggested by Cllr Sheppard. This was a significant saving on the previous supplier. It was **resolved** to ratify this decision.

5159 Planning

The following applications were considered by the council in its role as consultee:

- (a) 20/01030/FUL - Proposed wall and access gates to frontage - Westing, Bromsgrove Road. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.
- (b) Cedar House – the council will await the formal consultation document from the planning authority before commenting any further.
- (c) 20/01224/LBC - School House, Odnall Lane – various alterations to Listed Building. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

5160 Parish Magazine

It was agreed that Cllr Beaumont would write an article about the potential roll out of superfast fibre broadband in Clent (see Minute 5161 below).

5161 Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda

Cllr Beaumont reported on an opportunity for Clent to be upgraded to superfast fibre broadband in the near future. This would require sign ups from enough properties in Clent and the parish council were identified as the potential community lead on the project. It was agreed to support this initiative and use parish council communication outlets to gauge

support for the scheme. Cllr Beaumont would work with the Clerk on populating a database of potential properties to receive the upgrade. Initially, all addresses in Clent would be included but it may need editing as the project progresses due to cost and network capacity.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **16th November 2020** at 7.00pm, via Zoom. Councillors are reminded that an informal budget meeting will follow.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman

Date_____