



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 16th November 2020**  
via the online platform "Zoom".

## 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 Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

### 5162 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

### 5163 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5171(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 5170 as he assists the church with their financial affairs. Cllr Sherrey did not take part in the debate or vote on this item.

Cllr Sugden declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 5174(b) as he knows the applicant. Cllr Sugden did not take part in the debate or vote on this item.

### 5164 Dispensations

There were none.

### Open session

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

Public comments/questions

There were no public questions.

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

- Brown garden waste bin service to be extended to a full year from April 2021.
- Covid-19 cases are higher than the county average in Bromsgrove district.
- Testing centre in Bromsgrove is operational but booking a test is still necessary.
- CCTV being considered to combat flytipping in district hotspots.
- BDC is recruiting a Town Centre Manager and Business Support Officer to help the local economy to recover from Covid-19.
- Yellow lines to be painted along Hagley Wood Lane next week.

- Call for sites is being undertaken as part of the Local Plan Review. Green Belt sites may be put forward at this stage, but this does not mean that these sites are destined for development, despite some assertions to the contrary.

**5165 Minutes**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2020 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

**5166 Correspondence**

(a) From a resident in relation to hedges on Violet Lane, public rights of way, drainage and the Clent Hills – Cllr May will investigate the drainage issues and a representative from the NT will be invited to a meeting in the new year to update the council on its management of the Hills. Cllr Sheppard would look at the PROW along “Post Office field”.

(b) From a resident in relation to a public right of way in the Walton Pool area – despite visits to the area by councillors, it was not obvious where this gate and stile was located. The Clerk will contact the resident for clarification.

**5167 Covid-19 Community Support Group Legacy Proposals**

There was no update at present. The Clerk will forward the Group’s latest e-mail referring to a conversation with Bromsgrove planning department to Cllr May for her information.

**5168 Changes to Diocese**

The Chairman reported that some changes were being proposed by the Diocese which could link Clent with Hagley. However, it was understood that the Belbroughton with Fairfield and Clent group would continue to produce the joint newsletter to which the parish council contribute each year.

**5169 Clent Community Broadband Project**

Cllr Beaumont provided an update on the project. The data entry had been completed, but the data needed to be split between the Hagley and Belbroughton exchanges. Cllr Beaumont had completed the Belbroughton exchange, and the Clerk would populate the Hagley data as soon as Openreach had enabled the second account. It was agreed that the Clerk would claim overtime for this work. The next phase would be to promote the scheme to the community via the parish newsletter, Facebook pages, website and via direct mail shot through every door in the parish. The ultimate cost of the upgrade to householders would depend on funding from WCC and on the number of properties signing up to the scheme.

**5170 Parish Magazine Grant**

It was **resolved** to grant £272 to the parish magazine for 2021 on the basis that Clent is still included in the circulation following any changes to the Diocese.

**5171 Finance**

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

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| (i) Clerk salary & expenses    | £793.25 |
| (ii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman | £361.00 |

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| (iii) Clent PCC – parish newsletter | £272.00 |
| (iv) Community Heartbeat Trust      | £223.20 |
| (v) Ed Sheppard Expenses (bollards) | £291.00 |
| (vi) HMRC Employer's NI             | £5.66   |

(b) It was **resolved** to purchase the annual gift hamper for the Three Roses Home in lieu of maintaining the public footpath adjacent to their property, up to a maximum of £100.

(c) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/10/2020 prepared by the Clerk.

(d) It was **resolved** to approve the October bank reconciliation noting a balance of £88,574.86 at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

#### **5172 General Maintenance and Highway Matters**

The following items were discussed:

(a) Bell & Cross junction parking - Cllr May presented a draft plan which would place yellow lines on the junctions around the Bell and Cross to maintain visibility splays. The implementation of any scheme would be subject to a public consultation.

(b) It was resolved to purchase the Christmas tree for Church Avenue and engage the electrician to put the lights on it. The Clerk will liaise with the tree supplier and electricians.

#### **5173 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 – Cllr Sheppard was in touch with the contractor in relation to the final specification and installation.

(c) Litter bin installation – Cllr Margaret Sherrey would see if a single bin could be procured by BDC – the relevant officer at BDC would be put in touch with the Clerk.

#### **5174 Planning**

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

(a) 20/01222/FUL - Conversion of existing outbuilding into a gym/games room - The Old School, Walton Pool Lane. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

(b) 20/01189/FUL - Proposed first floor side extension and single storey rear extension 9 Summerfield Road, Holy Cross. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

#### **5175 Parish Magazine**

It was agreed that Cllr Beaumont would write another article about the potential roll out of superfast fibre broadband in Clent for the January edition.

#### **5176 December Parish Council Meeting**

It was **resolved** not to hold an ordinary meeting in December, with the next ordinary meeting of the parish council being Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

#### **5177 Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda**

Cllr A Sherrey advised that the previously agreed locations on the village white gates for the new Neighbourhood Watch signs need to be reconsidered, as the whole village is not included in the scheme. New locations would be identified in King's Meadow and Pool Furlong.

Cllr Sugden advised that the Trim Trail area needs some upgrading/repairing and this would be on the next Agenda.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **18<sup>th</sup> January 2021** at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

*The meeting closed at 8.20pm. An informal budget meeting followed and ended at 9.15pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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

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