



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 18th January 2021**  
via the online platform "Zoom".

## Minutes

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

**In attendance:** County Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk) and 2 member of the public.

### 5178 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

### 5179 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5187(a)(iii) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

### 5180 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:

- Covid-19 staff shortages affecting the BDC bulky waste service.
- 100 offers of buildings that could be used as vaccination centres across the County.
- The vaccination roll out is proceeding well with the 70+ age bracket next to be vaccinated in the 16 current vaccination sites across the County.
- The WCC Here2Help website is available for support and information.
- 14.8% of children were in school over the proceeding week across the County.
- Libraries are open for essential computer use and household waste sites are open.
- WCC 2.5% overall annual increase in council tax in 2021/22 which includes the 1% increase permitted in legislation for adult social care.
- BDC will make a £5 per annum increase in their share of the council tax in 2021/22.

## 5181 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2020 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

## 5182 Correspondence

(a) From a farm owner on the Clent Hills in relation to parking issues from visitors to the hills, damage to verges and the potential installation of bollards. See 5188(a) below.

## 5183 Covid-19 Community Support Group Legacy Proposals

Cllr Sugden informed the council that due the new COVID-19 lockdown, the group had requested the final £1000 of the allocated £5000 to support those in need. It was **resolved** to pay the £1000 to the group (section 137 of the LGA 1972).

A member of the Clent Connect group was present and presented the options for the site of the proposed community “hub”. The three options being investigated are land next to the school, land next to the Cricket Club and land next to the Clent Club. It was noted that Centenary Field has Field in Trust status which prevents development on the field, and it would need some permanent car parking facilities, so the Cricket Club site would not be a preferred option. This would be taken back to the Clent Connect group.

## 5184 Hagley Library

Hagley Parish Council had written to the parish council asking for a historical contribution towards the running costs of Hagley Library covering the last 4 financial years. The calculation was based on the number of registered users of the library with Clent addresses over an unspecified time period which was 55. It was **resolved** to refuse this request on the basis that this was an historical cost for which there was no budget provision. The Clerk would write to HPC accordingly.

## 5185 Clent Community Broadband Project

Cllr Beaumont provided an update on the project. Openreach have now provided provisional costs which would be covered by WCC and therefore there would be no cost to householders or businesses, but the scheme would need to be “sold” to householders and businesses in Clent. A leaflet drop was being organised and all councillors pledged their support in delivering these leaflets and/or promoting the scheme locally. Cllr Karen May said she would contribute £50 towards the leaflet printing which was much appreciated.

## 5186 Cricket Field Toilet Block

It was **resolved** to invoice the Clent Cricket Club for £2610.81 for their contribution to the new toilet block on the cricket field.

## 5187 Finance

(a) It was **resolved** to pay the following for December 2020 & January 2021:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£1158.82
(ii) HMRC PAYE Dec 2020/Jan 2021	£285.63
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£507.00

(iv) Clent Parish Hall	£23.75
(v) Bromsgrove District Council Lease of Land	£60.00
(vi) GJH Electrical Services Christmas Lights	£408.00
(vii) Nick Sugden Expenses (hamper/stationery/Zoom)	£120.21
(viii) Clent Parish Hall (COVID-19 Support Group)	£1000.00
(ix) Bromsgrove District Council Bin Emptying 2020/21	£2700.00

(b) It was **resolved** to demand a precept of £49,850 from Bromsgrove DC for the 2021/22 financial year. This calculates as an annual charge of £91.38 for a Band D property which is slightly less than last year due to tax base adjustments.

(c) Online banking. It was agreed that Cllr Bates and the Clerk work up a recommendation to switch to online banking for the February meeting.

(d) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/12/2020 prepared by the Clerk.

(e) It was **resolved** to approve the December 2020 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £87,092.95 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### 5188 General Maintenance and Highway Matters

The following items were discussed:

(a) Ongoing traffic and parking issues around the Clent Hills and damage to verges from anti-social behaviour in vehicles. Cllr Sheppard would advise Cllr May of the affected areas in order to identify land ownership as not all the areas are public highway. This would be with a view to installing bollards to prevent vehicular access to these open spaces. In the meantime, the parish council would fund the installation of wooden bollards around the High Harcourt Farm area in Hagley Wood Lane up to a value of £200. Cllr Sheppard would arrange this.

It was noted that the new yellow lines along Hagley Wood Lane seem to be working and has resulted in less hedgerow/verge litter. Could they be extended to the whole area around the Nimmings car park? Cllr May commented that any yellow lines that had faded were to be renewed as soon as possible.

Cllr Sheppard reported that the Clerk had received a complaint from a vehicle owner as he had taken a photo of their vehicle outside Nimmings car park as its tyres had a similar tread to the marks left by a vehicle which had damaged an open space in the parish quite significantly. The Clerk had yet to respond to the complaint.

It was agreed that the local National Trust representative should be invited to re-establish the Clent Hills Advisory Committee or to set up a new Working Group. Cllrs Bates, Sheppard, Margaret Sherrey and County Councillor Karen May would be happy to join any new group.

(b) Other highway issues included:

(i) There was a suggestion that leaflets could be delivered locally about anti-social and dangerous parking in the parish encouraging residents to think more carefully about where they park.

(ii) Cllr Sheppard is dealing with the missing "godfather" for a public footpath sign.

(iii) Cllr Sheppard has done a lot of work on Bromsgrove Road to clear leaves and widen the footway, particularly around the school. Other areas of Bromsgrove Road would be dealt with in due course.

### 5189 Field Maintenance and Play Areas

The following items were discussed:

- (a) Update on the installation of artificial grass on the playing field goal mouth areas. The work had been started and ground prepared but the laying of the grass itself would be delayed until the ground had dried out.
- (b) Update on litter bin installation. Cllr Sherrey would take this up again as the Clerk had not heard back from BDC about providing a new bin for the playing field.
- (c) Update on bench cleaning/refurbishment. Cllr Sheppard had started the cleaning of the benches, but a petrol driven pressure washer was needed to make a real impact. Cllr Bates offered to investigate the costs of a contractor to carry out the work versus the cost of the council purchasing its own pressure washer which could then be used for other tasks.
- (d) Repairs to the Trim Trail were considered. It was proposed to clear out the debris and overgrowth and lay rubber chippings similar to the material used recently on the play areas. The costs would be around £4000 but Cllr Sheppard would provide actual costs at the next meeting.
- (e) Trees in the Trim Trail area have been trimmed by Cllr Sheppard.
- (f) Grass cutting. It was unclear whether the existing contractor was returning to work following his accident, so it was **resolved** to engage the Cricket Club again on a temporary rolling monthly basis for grass cutting at a cost of £325 per month, starting in the spring.
- (g) It was **resolved** to ratify the actions taken by the Chairman and the Clerk to close the outdoor gym in line with the new COVID-19 restrictions which came into force on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### 5190 Planning

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

- (a) 20/01537/CPL - Clent Hall, Walton Pool Lane – Listed Building consent required - Propose to replace existing window. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.
- (b)

### 5191 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 March edition.

### Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **15<sup>th</sup> February 2021** at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

*The meeting closed at 8.50pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

  

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Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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