



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 15th February 2021**
via the online platform "Zoom".

Minutes

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

In attendance: County Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

5192 Apologies for absence

Cllr Drew Beaumont

5193 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5198(a)(iii) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque. Cllr Sheppard also declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5200(a) as he cuts the grass for the Cricket Club. Cllr Sheppard did not take part in the debate or vote on the item relating to the proposed increase in cost.

5194 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 vaccination roll out.
- 2.5% increase in WCC budget including ring fenced funding for adult social care.
- New flytipping cameras in hot spots.
- £22m business grants from central government were being allocated to businesses affected by the lockdown rules.
- The Bromsgrove DC depot was increasing staffing levels.

5195 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2021 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5196 Correspondence

(a) From a resident in relation to dog waste bags and the pool in Centenary Field. The Clerk had arranged for the dog bag dispensers to be filled. The issue may be that people are taking handfuls of bags leaving the dispensers empty. This will be monitored. In relation to the pool, Cllr May will chase up a date for the works due to take place on the drains and pipework around the pond area which had been deferred from last year due to the pandemic. In the meantime, Cllr Sheppard would check the overflow valve was working correctly and rake out the debris if necessary.

5197 Clent Community Broadband Project

Cllr Beaumont provided a written update and wished to thank the following for delivering the leaflets: Cllr Nick Sugden, Cllr Peter Bates, Mr Steve Thomas, Mr Peter Stuart, Mr Richard Price and Mr Jeremy Jordan. A special mention to all the partners who also helped. Nothing could have happened without their support. Special thanks go to Cllr David Mudie who printed the flyers and stuffed some 1500 envelopes in record time to meet 3 separate flyer deliveries.

5198 Finance

(a) It was **resolved** to pay the following for February 2021:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£674.60
(ii) HMRC PAYE Feb 2021	£3.40
(iii) Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£339.40
(iv) Ed Sheppard Expenses (rock salt)	£59.85

(b) A report and recommendation were presented by Cllr Bates proposing a move to online banking which would not involve changing banks. It was **resolved** to stay with cheque payments for the time being.

(c) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/01/2021 prepared by the Clerk.

(d) It was **resolved** to approve the January 2021 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £80,823.54 at 31st January 2021.

5199 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. A meeting with the Regional Director from the NT was being arranged. The Clerk would chase this up.

(b) Noticeboard at French Hen – this had rotted and fallen and is not repairable. The Clerk had received one quote for a replacement so far which was just under £1000. Cllr Sheppard has a header board so this may be able to be recycled. The Clerk would gather more quotes and present them at the next meeting.

(c) Cllr Mudie asked whether a grit bin could be provided at the top of Adams Hill as there had been a number of accidents in the location during the recent icy weather. Cllr May would investigate this with WCC Highways.

5200 Field Maintenance and Play Areas

The following items were discussed:

(a) Grass cutting – As agreed at the last meeting, the Cricket Club would start grass cutting again in the spring. It was proposed by the Chairman that the monthly rate rises from £325 to £350 to take into account the increase in fuel costs etc. It was **resolved** to support this proposal. It was noted that this agreement did not include the land at Walton Pool or Holy Cross Green which was strimmed by the Lengthsman on a regular basis.

(b) Bench maintenance. Cllr Sheppard is due to remove an expired bench, install the new bench purchased last year and lay slabs underneath the memorial bench. Cllr Sheppard now has a generator which will save the PC having to purchase a petrol pressure washer. The PC would be charged for any fuel used.

(c) Trim Trail improvements – it was **resolved** to go ahead with the new surfacing for the trim trail using black recycled rubber chippings which was also used for the play equipment. The agreed cost is a maximum of £3250 (ex VAT). Cllr Sheppard would order the materials and organise the work.

(d) The RoSPA safety inspection was booked for March.

(e) The Clerk would organise the purchase of an extra litter bin for the field as Bromsgrove DC did not have any spare bins available.

5201 Planning

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

(a) 21/00017/PIP - Application for Permission in Principle for a Single Self-Build Live/Work Dwelling - Land Adjacent To, Windover Cottage, Field Lane, Clent. It was **resolved to object** to this application as there was not enough information provided in relation to the impact on the conservation area and highways accessibility.

5202 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.

5203 Councillors' reports and items for the next Agenda

Cllr Sheppard would like the council to consider purchasing a commercial grade strimmer. Costs would be presented at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **15th March 2021** at 7.00pm, via Zoom.
The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Date: