



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

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr Andrew Sherrey (from 7.25pm), Cllr Margaret Sherrey and Cllr David Mudie.

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

#### **5204 Apologies for absence**

None

#### **5205 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5211(a)(iii) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

#### **5206 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:

- Hagley Wood Lane – the police have been patrolling this area and BDC enforcement officers have been issuing tickets to people parking on the new yellow lines.
- Cllr May is asking for a maintenance plan for all the WCC owned gulleys/storm drains in the parish.
- Cllr May will follow up the fact that lamppost 2 on Bromsgrove Rd is still unlit despite numerous reports.
- Flytipping enforcement cameras need to be "community led".
- Direct Response Transport will be trialled from Bromsgrove railway station starting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

#### **5207 Minutes**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February 2021 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5208 Correspondence**

(a) From a resident in relation to anti-social behaviour on Adams Hill. It was noted that the parish council's powers were limited in dealing with this issue, but Cllrs Karen May and Margaret Sherrey would continue to raise the problem with the police. The

Chairman reported that he, Cllr Sheppard and the Clerk were due to meet with the National Trust Assistant Director and would also raise this specific issue with them. In the meantime, the message from the parish council is to continue to report incidents to the police and not put personal safety at risk by confronting any groups or individuals.

(b) From a resident asking for permission to run “Buggy Fit” classes in the park for two hours on a Friday morning. It was agreed to grant use of the park on the proviso that the park would remain open to the public and that the organiser provides evidence of their public liability insurance. The Clerk would respond appropriately.

### **5209 Clent Connect Project (Community Hub)**

Potential sites for the new community shop/hub were still being looked at. Bromsgrove DC planners seemed to favour the parish hall as the best site, but at present the parish hall trustees did not support this. It was agreed to invite members of the group to a future meeting to provide an update.

### **5210 Clent Community Broadband Project**

The proposal was being worked on by BT Open Reach and WCC and it was still hoped that residents who wished to take part would not need to pay anything towards the scheme although this could not be guaranteed.

### **5211 Finance**

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

- (i) Clerk salary & expenses £749.59
- (ii) HMRC PAYE March 2021 £3.40
- (iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman £476.00
- (iv) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses (see invoice) £1138.91
- (v) Cllr David Mudie Expenses (broadband leaflets) £21.28
- (vi) Greenfields Gardening Services (AstroTurf) £5414.40
- (vii) Bromsgrove DC (lease of land Mar-May) £60.00
- (viii) Mr N Sugden – Chairman’s Allowance £500.00
- (ix) Mike Yarranton Cricket Club Fence £540.00
- (x) Worcestershire County Council (street lighting 2 years) £3696.14

(b) It was **resolved** to appoint Mr John Benner as the council’s internal auditor for the 2020/21 accounts.

(c) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 28/02/2021 prepared by the Clerk.

(d) It was **resolved** to approve the February 2021 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £83,252.10 as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **5212 General Maintenance and Highway Matters**

The following items were discussed:

(a) Noticeboard at French Hen – three quotes had been received as follows:

- (i) £904 ex VAT includes posts, fixings and delivery – no doors or glass.
- (ii) £1400 ex VAT includes posts but not delivery – includes doors and glass as standard. They do not make boards without doors and glass.
- (iii) £1500 ex VAT includes posts but not delivery - includes doors and glass as standard. They do not make boards without doors and glass.

It was **resolved** to accept quote (i) but with cut out lettering rather than transfers (which may attract a modest cost increase) and the Clerk would order the board and arrange delivery to Cllr Sheppard's address.

(b) It was **resolved** to purchase a new commercial standard strimmer up to a cost of £450 and that Cllr Sheppard and the Clerk would liaise on this.

(c) The work to empty the silt trap and address the problem with the pipe causing the "bog" on the field would be carried out as soon as the ground had dried out sufficiently. Cllr Sheppard referred to some agreements made back in the 1960s/1970s in relation to the drainage generally confirming that WCC were to be responsible for any future issues caused by their drainage work from Belbroughton Road. Cllr Sheppard would meet WCC on site again to discuss longer term solutions to the drainage problems in due course.

### **5213 Field Maintenance and Play Areas**

The following items were discussed:

(a) The Chairman updated the council in relation to the ownership of the properties on Holy Cross Green whose gardens back on to Centenary Field and whether to close off access to Centenary Field now that the ownership has changed. The occupiers of the cottages had been able to maintain a gated access onto the field during their lifetime and now that the properties had changed ownership it was proposed that this agreement is now withdrawn and the stock fence re-instated. It was **resolved** to agree to this and that the Clerk would write to the occupier of Wayside Cottage to advise them of the council's intention.

(b) Cricket club fence. The cricket club thanked Cllr May for her kind donation to purchase new fence posts. However, there was £324 left to pay for the installation of the fence and the Cricket Club asked the parish council if it would consider granting the remainder of this money due to the fact that the club's finances had been hit hard by the pandemic. It was **resolved** to pay the £324 installation cost as a one off grant to the cricket club.

### **5214 Planning**

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

(a) 21/00120/FUL - Proposed first floor side extension and replacement porch - 28 Kings Meadow, Holy Cross. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

(b) An e-mail had been received from an agent representing the owner of a parcel of land which extends to 2 acres at the rear of Lea Cottage and up to the dual carriageway in Church Avenue, asking if the parish council would support an application for affordable/social housing on the site. It was agreed not to respond at this stage and await formal consultation from Bromsgrove DC as and when an application was made.

### **5215 Website Accessibility – Work Required to Website**

It was **resolved** to accept Peter McNougher from Candoo Web Design's quote of £850 for carrying out the necessary work to the website to meet the new public sector website accessibility regulations.

### **5216 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 May edition.

**5217 Councillors' reports and items for the next Agenda**

The annual meetings held in May will be discussed at the next meeting as there is currently no guidance about whether virtual meetings will be able to be held after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 when the current measures in the Coronavirus Act come to an end.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting is the **19<sup>th</sup> April 2021** at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

*The meeting closed at 9.20pm.*

**Signed as a true record:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman:**

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