



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 19th April 2021**
via the online platform "Zoom".

Minutes

Present: Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), 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 3 members of the public.

5218 Apologies for absence

Cllr Peter Bates - Holiday

5219 Declarations of interest

Cllr Sheppard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5225(a)(iii) as he is the temporary parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

5220 Dispensations

There were none.

Open session

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

Public comments/questions

The owners of Cedar House asked the parish council for their support for their planning application to replace the house with a new building. This would be discussed at 5228(b) below.

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

- Bulky waste service has now resumed.
- Covert cameras to tackle flytipping are being installed at hot spots around the district.
- Demand led bus service trial to begin in Bromsgrove by end of April.
- Roll out of electric vehicle charging points across the district is ongoing.
- Green belt review is still going ahead as the district only has a 3.16 year housing land supply and it needs to have a 5 year housing land supply, so finding suitable housing sites is a priority to meet housing need.
- Awaiting the outcome of High Court decision on virtual council meetings which also affects the parish council.
- There was no WCC update due to the pre-election period.

5221 Minutes

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

5222 Correspondence

(a) From a resident in relation to concerns around “aggressive car driving”. The resident had been advised to contact the police by the Clerk but the parish council would also raise this concern with the local police SNT. The ultimate solution would be a court injunction banning car cruising in the area as has been implemented in parts of the Black Country. Cllr May would work with the PCC on this.

(b) From a resident in relation to anti-social behaviour on Adams Hill. This would be raised again with the local police SNT although it is noted that police patrols have been increased.

(c) From West Mercia Police asking for the parish council’s “top 3 working priorities” relevant to community safety. The parish council’s top 3 were anti social behaviour including drug dealing, illegal parking and car cruising. The Clerk would write to the SNT to convey these priorities.

(d) From a resident in relation to the National Trust Nimmings car park. The parish council, county and district councillors were in conversation with the NT management in relation to this issue, although the NT have said that increasing the size of the car parks would not be possible in the short term. The parish council were due to meet with the NT again in the summer once any effect of lockdown easing was evident and usage had reverted to “normal” levels.

5223 Clent Connect Project (Community Hub)

There was no update other than to reiterate that the preferred location for the new Hub is at the parish hall, but this does not currently have the support of the parish hall trustees.

5224 Clent Community Broadband Project

The DCMS have not yet approved the funding for the project via WCC and Cllr Karen May has written to the Secretary of State in relation to this.

5225 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£682.52
(ii) HMRC PAYE March 2021	£3.40
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£520.00
(iv) Cllr N Sugden Expenses	£115.13
(v) Broxap (litter bin)	£200.34
(vi) Play Safety Ltd (Annual Inspections)	£355.80
(vii) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses (benches)	£126.45

(b) It was **resolved** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/03/2021 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **resolved** to approve the March 2021 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £70,985.78 as at 31st March 2021.

5226 General Maintenance and Highway Matters

The following items were discussed:

(a) It was **resolved** to continue to participate in the WCC Lengthsman scheme for 2021/22 and instruct the Clerk to sign the annual agreement.

5227 Field Maintenance and Play Areas

The following items were discussed:

(a) Update on manhole and drainage trap in Belbroughton Rd and drainage into & out of the pond – Cllr Sheppard and Cllr May are working on this to get WCC to start the work as soon as the ground is firm enough for machinery.

(b) Pond maintenance and cleaning – Cllr Bates offered to be part of any working party to tidy the pond should this be proposed. It was agreed that any extensive work to tidy up the pond should wait until after the drainage works have been carried out. Several complaints had been received by the Clerk over the previous few days from residents about the poor state of the pond, so the Clerk would draft an update to go in the parish newsletter and on the village Facebook page to update residents on the ongoing drainage issues.

(c) To consider a response from the owner of Wayside Cottage in relation to withdrawing access to Centenary Field. The owner looks as if they will resist the re-establishment of the stock fencing so the Clerk and the Chairman would seek out the original agreement with the previous occupiers before responding.

(d) Damage to cricket pitch hedge caused by motorist reversing through the hedge and into the fence. The damage is easily repairable so it was **resolved** not to take any further action against the motorist.

(e) The annual safety inspection report from RoSPA was received and considered. Cllr Sheppard was working through the items listed by the inspector which were of a minor nature. The cost of the repairs was likely to be in the region of £200 and Cllr Sheppard would claim back any expenses incurred. One issue identified was a tripping hazard between the grass and the new artificial surface in the goal mouths. The Clerk would write to Greenfields to ask them to return and correct this.

(f) Trim trail – before committing funds to repairing the trim trail, Cllr May and Cllr Margaret Sherrey would find out when the lease with BDC expired and whether BDC are likely to agree to a new lease.

(g) It was proposed to install some permanent “take your litter home” signs for the field. Cllr Sheppard would look into costs for this.

(h) Wild flower area adjacent to cricket pitch. There had been a problem with cricket club cars parking on the wild flower area. The cricket club would re-instate the rope fencing to prevent this in the future.

5228 Planning

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

(a) 21/00423/FUL - Proposed gateway to entrance - Odnall Cottage, Odnall Lane. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

(b) 21/00522/FUL - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. Cedar House, Church Avenue, Holy Cross. It was **resolved** to raise no objection and write to BDC in support of this application.

(c) 21/00448/FUL - Internal reconfiguration to existing residential and commercial space. New porch addition with extension and alterations to existing balcony above. The Old Stores Bromsgrove Road. It was **resolved** to raise no objection.

5229 Parish Magazine

The Clerk would write an update in relation to the pond for the next newsletter as well as placing it on the Clent Village Residents Facebook page.

5230 Councillors' reports and items for the next Agenda

It was resolved to hold the next parish council meeting (the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) on Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm via Zoom. It was deemed too early to resume face to face meetings despite government advice that this should be the case from 6th May, but the council must consider the welfare of its staff, councillors and the public.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is the **13th May 2021** at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Date:
