



Annual Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Ed Sheppard (from 7.10pm), Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Drew Beaumont.

**In attendance:** County Cllr Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

### 5376 Apologies for absence

There were none

### 5377 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5381(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

### 5378 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 following issues were raised by members of the public:

- Footway between Bell & Cross and the entrance to the cricket pitch along Belbroughton Rd needs attention as debris is narrowing the footway. The Lengthsman would look at this.
- PC website is not working. The Clerk explained that the website host is changing servers and would be back online soon.

Updates from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Margaret Sherrey provided updates on the following:

- There are currently 5 prosecutions ongoing for flytipping.
- £14.5m levelling up funding for Bromsgrove district from the Government.

County Councillor Karen May provided updates on the following:

- Holy Cross – silt from pond now removed. Work on the fractured drain pipes in Holy Cross Lane and on the playing field have been programmed into the WCC work schedule but a firm date is not yet available.

- Overgrown hedge along Church Avenue – ownership of the hedge needs to be established. In the meantime the Lengthsman will cut back as much as he can.

### 5379 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

### 5380 Correspondence

(a) The Clent branch of the RBL contacted the Chairman to say that the procession would be from Clent this Remembrance Sunday. The Chairman advised that they should write to the PC for a grant to cover any expenses.

(b) The “20s Plenty” campaign wrote to the Clerk to encourage the PC to support 20mph limits though all Worcestershire villages. It was agreed not to support this for Clent.

### 5381 Finance

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following for June 2022:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£705.98
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£2.00
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£244.00
(iv) Cllr Nick Sugden Expenses	£54.40
(v) Clent Parish Hall	£78.75
(vi) Bromsgrove DC Lease of Land	£60.00
(vii) Vision ICT (.gov domain renewal)	£108.00
(viii) Cllr Ed Sheppard expenses	£294.50

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/05/2022 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the May 2022 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £108,709.20 as at 31/05/22.

### 5382 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Weed spraying

(i) Correspondence had been received from the Lengthsman Scheme manager at WCC that Lengthsman should not be spraying weeds on the highway. In 2018, Cllr Sheppard carried out training with WCC which allowed him to continue to weed spray on the highway, so this response from WCC was confusing. Cllr May would go back to the Lengthsman scheme manager to clarify.

(ii) It was proposed that if WCC allowed the Lengthsman to continue to weed spray that the PC work with WCC and BDC to look at more environmentally friendly methods of weed control. This was agreed in principle.

### 5383 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) New pathway around cricket pitch - it was proposed that the PC investigate the possibility of a new pathway around cricket pitch from the boules pitch to Holy Cross. It was agreed that Cllr Sheppard obtain some quotes for the work.

(b) Path alongside allotments - it was proposed that improvements to the footpath from Clent Club to the pond via the allotments should be included in the quote for the new walkway. This was agreed.

(c) Jubilee beacon - it was proposed that the beacon now located in Centenary Field be painted and a plaque fitted to explain why it was there. This was agreed in principle subject to quotes and wording.

(d) Tree work around Centenary Field and the pond – three quotes had been requested but only two received. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £5000 from Nigel Blacker Morgan from Tree Tops subject to the following:

(i) Cllr Sheppard would show councillors around the field to explain in detail the work that is necessary before the work starts in the autumn.

(ii) Work in the trim trail area would not take place if BDC had not agreed a new lease on the land with the PC.

#### **5385 Blue Phone Box – Adams Hill**

The local police officer had written to the PC to propose that the blue phone box on Adams Hill be used as an “information hub” for the police and parish council. However, it was understood that WMP were in the process of transferring ownership of the box to the PC and that it would be used for a new defibrillator which the PC have ready to install. After clarification, the local police officer is happy with the proposal to use the box for a defibrillator.

#### **5384 Planning**

(a) 22/00653/FUL - Extension to existing garage - Meadowcroft, Bromsgrove Road – no comments.

(b) 22/00540/FUL - Two storey side extension to No.12 and new detached dwelling - 12 Kings Meadow, Holy Cross – no comments.

#### **5385 Parish Magazine**

Cllr Bates would write the entry for the August magazine which would include how parishioners can report highways and other county council service issues themselves online.

#### **5386 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

(a) August Meeting – it will be proposed that, as usual, there would be no meeting in August.

(b) The Chairman wished to record how successful the village Platinum Jubilee events were and thanked all those involved in organising events over the extended bank holiday weekend.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the **18<sup>th</sup> July 2022** at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm*

#### **Signed as a true record:**

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

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