

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council  
held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**695 Attendance**

Present: M Newman (Chairman); W Bradley; R Henry; N Parkinson; B Yarnold  
Apologies: County Councillor K Pollock; R. Wilks (Lengthsman)  
In Attendance: District Councillor C Palethorpe; J Hill (Clerk)

**696 Declarations of Interest**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda: none

**697** There were no written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

**698 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed: W. Bradley

Seconded: B. Yarnold

Proposal carried: unanimous

**699 To receive the report of Worcestershire County Councillor (WCC) Ken Pollock - For Information**

CCllr Pollock had apologised for his absence from the meeting; his report had been circulated to Council by email prior to the meeting.

**700 To receive the report of Malvern Hills District Councillor (MHDC) Caroline Palethorpe – For Information**

DCllr Palethorpe's report had been circulated by email to Members.

**701 Planning**

a) Application: 19/00282/HP

Location: The Old Surgery, Hope Lane, Clifton upon Teme, Worcester. WR6 6DN

Proposal: Proposed conservatory to rear and glazed porch to front

Applicant: Bruce Gilbert

Members resolved to support the application (see response on file at MHDC)

Proposal: B. Yarnold

Seconded: N. Parkinson

Proposal carried: unanimous

b) Cllr Yarnold reported that Pound Lane had been repaired and that the Parish Council had been successful in their constant lobbying to ensure that a permanent repair was made to the highway where new pipe work had been laid in relation to Lovell's development

c) Cllr Yarnold reported that a garage was being built at premises next to the village shop in the conservation area: refer to DCllr Palethorpe.

**702 Finance**

a) Bank Reconciliation: Members noted that bank statements for April had not yet been received

b) Income: Members noted that bank statements for April had not yet been received

c) Payments to be made in respect of outstanding invoices and requests for payment totalling £6,441.20 were approved

Proposed: W. Bradley

Seconded: M. Newman

Proposal carried: unanimous

d) Members noted receipt of the minutes of the Staffing Committee of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

e) Lengthsman provision: Members resolved

- to accept the Lengthsman Contract as submitted by Worcestershire County Council for the 2019/2020 financial year.

- to appoint R. Wilks appointed as Lengthsman to Clifton upon Teme for 2019/2020 at a rate of £12.00 per hour

Proposed: M. Newman

Seconded: B. Yarnold

Proposal carried: unanimous

- f) Freedom of Information request:  
Members resolved Proposed: B. Yarnold Seconded: W. Bradley Proposal carried: unanimous  
That the enquirer should be notified that Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act does not require Information/documentation which is 'reasonably accessible by other means' to be provided. This would include information/documentation which has already been published and information/documentation which is part of an accepted policy re publication (Clifton upon Teme Parish Council publishes its minutes on a website).

### **703 Property related matters**

- a) Urgent matters relating to property for which the Council is responsible which might arise between publication of the agenda and commencement of the meeting: none arisen
- b) Members noted the recommendations in the Annual Inspection and Safety Audit and resolved to defer consideration of the report (which identifies no high priority matters) be deferred until the May meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council (Inspector very pleased removed risk from last year and approved the tree trunk works).  
Proposed: B. Yarnold  
Seconded: N. Parkinson  
Proposal carried: unanimous
- c) Members noted receipt of a copy of Clifton upon Teme Guides response to the Parish Council Solicitor dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **704 Statements by Councillors**

#### **Statement of intention to resign by Cllr Wendy Bradley**

It is with regret that I hereby inform you that I intend to resign as a Parish Councillor on Tuesday 30 April 2019, as of 12.00 midnight.

The reason for my resignation exactly mirrors that of Councillor Winer in April 2018 - I have found that the uninformed criticism from a minority of parishioners has affected me personally.

There has been ongoing unwarranted, unwanted, unnecessary, unsubstantiated and inaccurate criticism prior to and since April 2018. The recent vindictive insidious and overt personal attacks and trashing of the Clerk from a minority of parishioners has rendered the situation untenable.

Since 2015, it has been my privilege to work with my fellow Councillors and Clerk in diligently dealing with a number of thorny issues that had been unresolved by a previous Council for a substantial time. I have supported and still support the current Councillors in making difficult decisions and I have supported and still support the Clerk who has sourced appropriate advice at the request of the Councillors, acting appropriately as a conduit or messenger.

The Councillors considered a complaint about the Clerk at its meeting of 21st March 2019 and determined that there is no substance to the accusations. Council resolved that it does not agree with the comments listed in the complaint and that in Council's judgment and opinion the Clerk has not provided poor advice or behaved in the manner suggested. It is Clifton upon Teme Parish Council's opinion that the Clerk is a valued and respected employee who has provided exemplary service to the Council.

The recent move by some parishioners' to blacken the Clerk's name and professional reputation not only within the Parish of Clifton upon Teme but also the Parish of Hallow is nothing short of a vexatious and defamatory attack. I can no longer tolerate being subject to unwarranted criticisms and unscrupulous antics.

#### **Statement of intention to resign by Cllr Neil Parkinson**

I hereby inform you of my intention to resign from the Parish Council at midnight on Tuesday 30 April 2019. As you know I have lived in Clifton upon Teme all my life and that I joined the Parish Council some 4/5 years ago in order to support and represent the village.

I fully support all the comments made by Cllr Bradley in her statement. I have become increasingly concerned about the level of discord generated within the village by a small group of residents which has become increasingly evident at the monthly meetings. This culminated in an unwarranted and direct attack on the Parish Clerk at the March 2019 meeting.

I am a volunteer and the personal criticism of the Council and the Clerk has left me disillusioned and unwilling to commit my personal time and effort beyond 30th April 2019.

### **Statement of intention to resign by the Chairman, Cllr Maggie Newman**

I am intending to resign on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 12 midnight from Clifton upon Teme Parish Council. I feel that it is unnecessary to add further comments to Councillor Wendy Bradley's statement as she has been very comprehensive in her detailing of the situation concerning the Parish Council and Clerk.

I will add though that my decision has not been an easy one and that I and the other councillors, who are resigning have timed it so that our end of term of office does not cause too much impact for the Parish, in regards of village facilities. I am looking forward to the end of my term as Councillor and Chair and wish the new council who sit in May, all the best.

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

The next Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council will be held at 19:40 hours on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at the Sports Pavilion, Clifton upon Teme.

Proposed: sign the minutes at the meeting

Proposed: B. Yarnold

Seconded: N. Parkinson

Proposal carried: unanimous

The meeting closed at 20:00 hours.

M. Newman  
(Chairman – 4th April 2019)