



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **8:00pm on Monday 25th April 2022**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr David Mudie and Cllr Peter Bates.
In attendance: County Cllr Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

5350 Apologies for absence

Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Margaret Sherrey and Cllr Andrew Sherrey

5351 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5355(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

5352 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.

5353 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st March 2022 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5354 Correspondence

(a) From a Mr Reeve in relation to adding a name to the parish war memorial. The Clerk had written to Mr Reeve to ask his permission to pass his letter on to the historical society and the RBL in order to research the matter further.

(b) From several residents in relation to a hole in the footpath alongside the pond. Cllr Sheppard had now repaired this.

5355 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses £849.08

(ii) HMRC PAYE £30.99

- (iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman £815.00
- (iv) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses £90.00
- (v) Bromsgrove DC Bin Emptying 2022/23 £2,700.00
- (vi) Community Heartbeat Trust (defib pads) £105.60
- (vii) Clent Connect Grant (2nd payment) £1,500.00
- (viii) Play Safety Ltd £361.20
- (ix) Nick Sugden Zoom Expenses £43.17
- (x) A Baldi & Son (hedge cutting) £270.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/03/2022 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the March 2022 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £92,321.53 as at 31/03/22.

5356 General Maintenance and Highway Matters

- (a) Grit bin on Adams Hill – Cllr May will agree the location of the bin with the NT at meeting on Friday.
- (b) Village pond tree maintenance. This work would take place in the autumn and Cllr Sheppard is working on obtaining quotations for the work. The planting of grass seed on the bare areas around the pond would also be considered.
- (c) Walton Pool hedge cutting. This had been inspected by the Lengthsman and trimmed and would be monitored.
- (d) Cllr May reported that there was a “rough sleeper” in Walton Pool and this was being dealt with by BDC.

5357 Field Maintenance and Play Areas

- (a) Lease on Trim Trail – BDC have indicated that they are happy in principle to renew the lease and would sent through a draft lease for consideration by the PC in due course.
- (b) The gate from the field onto Hossil Lane still needs attention and Cllr Sheppard would look at what needs doing as soon as possible.
- (c) The new picnic bench has been put together, but it will need a concrete pad to give it more stability on the field. Cllr Sheppard has this in hand.
- (d) Dog waste bags – there seem to be many complaints about the dog bag dispensers being empty. The council do pay someone £1000 per year to look after the field and top up the dispensers and concern was raised that the PC are not getting value for money from this service. The Clerk would write to the person concerned and ask for a schedule of the work that he carries out and when. Cllr Sheppard would supply an address.
- (e) Grass cutting. The Cricket Club continue to provide this service to the PC, cutting twice per month between April and September for £350 per month. It was agreed that the Cricket Club could add a calculated “fuel supplement” to their invoices until such time as the cost of fuel starts to return to “normal” levels. Each invoice would be approved for payment at PC meetings as usual.

5358 Additional Defibrillators

Cllr Sheppard is obtaining quotes for installing the unit at the French Hen. The Adams Hill unit won't be installed in the phone box until West Mercia Police have contacted the PC about transferring the ownership of the box.

5359 Planning

No new applications to consider.

5360 Parish Magazine

Cllr Bates had drafted a "what the parish council does" article for the June edition which was agreed.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is the **16th May 2022** at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____
