



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Margaret Sherrey.

**In attendance:** Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

### 5532 Apologies for absence

Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Peter Bates and District Cllr Simon Nock.

### 5533 Declarations of interest

(a) Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5537(a)(v) as he is the parish Lengthsman/cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

(b) Cllr Sara ffoulkes declared an other disclosable interest (ODI) in item 5540(a) as her husband works for the applicant.

### 5534 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 the public:

- Large pothole at the top of Hill Lane (off Mount Lane) behind Adams Hill. NT are aware of this.
- Elm Tree planting in Clent (see 5536 below).

### County and District Councillor Updates

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

- Traffic calming in Belbroughton Road (see 5538(b) below)
- VAS solar panel to be moved.

### 5535 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>h</sup> September 2023 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

## 5536 Correspondence

- (a) From a resident in relation to a proposed 'reintroduce the English Elm to Clent' initiative. The parish council were supportive of planting new elm trees and purchasing a small number of trees at around £75 each. Councillors were asked to consider suitable locations and the Clerk would add this to the November agenda.
- (b) From a resident of Church Avenue in relation to the hedge causing issues to vehicles. Bromsgrove DC have cut the hedge back but not far enough. Cllr Sheppard would ask the contractor to return.
- (c) Odnall Lane "dangerous" wall and overgrowing vegetation blocking the footway. The parish council cannot touch this area as it is subject to a dispute between WCC, NT and Clent Cottage owner.

## 5537 Finance

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of the following for October 2023:
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| (i) Clerk salary & expenses (Oct)        | £745.39  |
| (ii) HMRC PAYE                           | £10.20   |
| (iii) Bromsgrove DC Election Costs       | £159.72  |
| (iv) Nigel Morgan Emergency Tree works   | £340.00  |
| (v) Ed Sheppard (repair of boules pitch) | £1326.28 |
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 30/09/23 prepared by the Clerk.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the October 2023 bank reconciliations noting a balance of £88,789.83 as at 30/09/2023.
- (d) Boules court repairs. The council agreed to spend £700 in March on the boules court fencing. The final cost was £1678. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this overspend and use reserves.

## 5538 General maintenance & highway matters

- (a) Street lighting - the recent street light replacements and further quotation from WCC to replace the remaining concrete columns was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to ask WCC to go ahead and replace the remaining 12 concrete columns at £1100 (net) each = £13,200. Cllr Sheppard would speak to the street lighting department about the "heritage" lamp tops to see if they can be converted to LED rather than completely replaced with new heritage style lamps.
- (b) Speeding on Belbroughton Road – Cllr May said that the police would not support traffic calming measures on Belbroughton Road as the visibility was not sufficient. The speed sign's solar panel is to be moved out of the view of homes on Belbroughton Road following resident complaints.
- (c) Holy Cross Green maintenance – Cllr Bates asked that the council consider the costs and benefits of contracting out the maintenance of Holy Cross Green. As Cllr Bates was not in attendance to present his proposal, this was to be deferred to the November meeting.
- (d) Sunfield trees overhanging the road on Adams Hill by the Fountain pub. The Clerk had written previously but no action appears to have been taken. The Clerk would write again.

## 5539 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

- (a) Installation of new play equipment
- (b) Dead trees in skate park – Cllr Sheppard would obtain a quote from Nigel Morgan to remove the dead wood.

## 5540 Planning

- (a) 23/00801/FUL - Single storey rear extension - Walnut Tree House , Field Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

(b) 23/00943/FUL - Demolition of Existing Dwelling and Construction of Two Dwellings - The Owls Nest , Belbroughton Road. It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this development due to the adverse impact on the street scene. The proposal is for two 2 storey buildings whereas the rest of the properties along the stretch of road are single storey.

**5541 Clent Youth Council**

Conversations with the schools are ongoing.

**5542 Parish Magazine**

The Clerk would write a general update for the December edition.

**5543 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

Items for next agenda:

- Christmas tree
- Holy Cross Green maintenance

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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

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