



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 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, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont.

**In attendance:** County Cllr Karen May, District Cllr Simon Nock, Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

### 5544 Apologies for absence

None

### 5545 Declarations of interest

(a) Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5549(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman/cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

### 5546 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:

- Elm Tree planting in Clent (see 5536 below).

### County and District Councillor Updates

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

- County and District Council budgets for 2024/25
- Local housing need
- Odnall Lane pavement sweeping
- Nimmings car park entrance work

### 5547 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>h</sup> October 2023 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

## 5548 Correspondence

No new correspondence.

## 5549 Finance

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of the following for November 2023:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£1053.90
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£130.65
(iii) Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£503.00
(iv) Playdale Playgrounds	£3,598.20 (inc VAT from last invoice)
(v) WCC Street Lighting Q2	£675.73
(vi) Cricket Club grass cutting	£400.00
(vii) Cllr Ed Sheppard expenses	£75.90

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/10/23 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the October 2023 bank reconciliations noting a balance of £108,944.62 as at 31/10/2023.

(d) Three Roses Homes hamper. It was **RESOLVED** to provide a hamper again to the home as they maintain the PROW adjacent to their property. The Chairman would ask former Chairman Nick Sugden to organise the hamper (up to £100) and claim expenses from the PC.

## 5550 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Holy Cross Green maintenance – Cllr Bates asked that the council consider the costs and benefits of contracting out the maintenance of Holy Cross Green. This was to be deferred to the January meeting.

(b) 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 and pass details to Cllr May so that WCC can take action if necessary.

(c) Christmas tree – it was **RESOLVED** to buy a 14ft tree at a cost of £260 (including installation and take down) from Mr S Bubb. The Chairman would instruct Mr Bubb accordingly.

(d) Dead trees in skate park area. The usual tree contractor to deal with the dead trees in the skate park area - Cllr Sheppard would follow this up with the contractor.

(e) Elm tree planting in Clent. It was **RESOLVED** to spend up to £500 on 6 English elm trees to be planted in locations agreed with the council. The trees would be purchased from Frank Matthews in Tenbury. It was agreed that the resident who proposed this initiative to the parish council order the trees on behalf of the parish council and that Frank Matthews in Tenbury would invoice the council accordingly. Exact locations would be agreed with the parish council before any planting took place.

(f) Parish boundary planters. The Chairman would speak with Clent Nurseries to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the boundary planters. Cllr ffoulkes would also approach the primary school gardening club to see if they would be interested in growing suitable plants next year.

(g) National Trust/Clent Cottage wall/hedging on Odnall Lane which is causing the footway to become impassable. Cllr May would find out the status of the negotiations between Clent Cottage, the National Trust and WCC.

(h) Broome Lane PROW fingerpost missing. Cllr Sheppard as the Lengthsman will repair this.

## 5551 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

There were no issues raised.

## 5552 Planning

(a) 22/01460/FUL - 12 Kings Meadow, Holy Cross – this refusal has now gone to appeal.

(b) 23/01231/FUL - Church Farm St Leonards Square - Removal of existing conservatory and replace with traditional size orangery. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

**5553 Clent Youth Council**

Cllr ffoulkes has begun to draft the ToR for the Youth Council and will report again at the January meeting.

**5554 Parish Magazine**

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

**5555 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

Items for next agenda:

- Holy Cross Green maintenance
- Youth Council
- Budget and Precept 2024/25

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 7.45pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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

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