



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 19th February 2024**  
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 & District Cllr Karen May, Bonnie Harvey (Clent Connect), Nick Farress (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

### 5569 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Simon Nock, George Kirkham (NT)

### 5570 Declarations of interest

(a) Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5575 as he is the parish Lengthsman/cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

### 5571 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:

- Pond and highway drainage.
- Dog waste bin on Adams Hill. This bin is broken. Cllr May would organise a new bin to be installed.

### 5572 Clent Connect Grant Funding Request

It was **RESOLVED** to grant fund Clent Connect £8,600 for the 2024/25 financial year. This would be paid in April.

### County and District Councillor Updates

Cllr May provided updates on the following:

- Bromsgrove Community Hub, BDC budget and council tax increase.
- "Tented community" on land adjacent to Holy Cross Lane. Planning enforcement had been informed.
- Hossil Lane drainage. WCC engineers are looking into this.

- A448 closure.
- WCC budget and council tax increase.
- Clent Connect – how important the project is to Clent.

#### **5573 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5574 Correspondence**

(a) From a parishioner in relation to road run off water draining into the village pond. County Cllr Karen May would look into the possibility of testing the run off water from the road to establish whether the content of the water is toxic in any way.

#### **5575 Finance**

(a) Payments: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of the following for February 2024:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| (i) Clerk salary & expenses            | £781.46 |
| (ii) HMRC PAYE                         | £20.08  |
| (iii) Ed Sheppard Lengthsman           | £430.75 |
| (iv) GJH Electrical (xmas tree lights) | £148.50 |
| (v) Nigel Morgan Tree Maintenance      | £350.00 |
| (vi) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses         | £352.99 |

(b) Budget monitoring: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/01/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) Bank reconciliation: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the January 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £99,338.59 as at 31/01/24

#### **5576 Community Orchard and Apple Tree Grafting**

It was **RESOLVED** to grant up to £460 to hold a tree grafting event for parishioners and produce any printed material to advertise the event on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, and the orchard tree planting day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Clent Connect have kindly agreed to advertise the events in their March newsletter. Mr Lawrence Weston is leading on the projects and Clent Connect agreed to be the recipient of the funds and pay Mr Weston accordingly.

#### **5577 General maintenance & highway matters**

(a) Odnall Lane drainage issues. Cllr Sheppard would forward the WCC reference number to Cllr May who would follow this up.

(b) Odnall Lane Lamp 3 is out. The Clerk would report this to WCC.

#### **5578 Field Maintenance & Play Areas**

There were no issues or updates.

#### **5579 Planning**

There were no new applications to consider. Cllr A Sherrey reported that the 12 Kings Meadow appeal has been dismissed.

#### **5580 Clent Youth Council**

The job description had been forwarded to the school and feedback was awaited.

**5581 Parish Magazine**

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

**5582 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

There were no further updates.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.10pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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

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