



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 18th March 2024**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont (from 7.20pm).

In attendance: County & District Cllr Karen May, George Kirkham (NT), Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

5583 Apologies for absence

Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, District Cllr Simon Nock

5584 Declarations of interest

(a) Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5588 as he is the parish Lengthsman/cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5585 Dispensations

There were none.

Open session

The meeting was adjourned for the open session and the following reports/updates were noted.

Public comments/questions

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Adams Hill, bottom of back track which is owned by the NT has seen significant water/mud run off. Mr Kirkham from the NT would investigate whether the silt trap was still functioning correctly.
- Nimmings car park opening hours. The NT are looking at extending the summer car park opening hours to help with parking issues on Hagley Wood Lane after 5pm.

County and District Councillor Updates

Cllr Simon Nock provided a written report which was received by councillors.

Cllr May provided updates on the following:

- Odnall Lane (part of) would be closed from 22nd April for flood alleviation works.
- A gully cleaner had been booked and paid for from Cllr May's divisional fund to clean the gullies on Violet Lane, Adams Hill, Walton Pool and Odnall Lane.
- Flytipping – instances are increasing.

- Street lights out at Woodman Lane (no.1) and Odnall Lane (no.3). Cllr May would report these to the street lighting team.

National Trust Clent Hills Woodland Management Plan

George Kirkham, the Conservation, Programming & Partnerships Manager from the NT presented their 10 year Woodland Management Plan relevant to the Clent Hills. The plan had been through heavy consultation with the NT's Wildlife, Conservation, Tree and Woodland Advisors. Compartments 3d, 13 and 15 would be restocked with resilience to climate change in mind, so a diverse mix of native species. The full plan can be seen online.

5586 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5587 Correspondence

(a) From a parishioner suffering from anti-social behaviour on Adams Hill. It was noted that other residents of Adams Hill had not seen or heard anything recently and the parishioner would be encouraged to report any issues to the police.

5588 Finance

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

| | |
|--|---------|
| (i) Clerk salary & expenses | £860.45 |
| (ii) HMRC PAYE | £20.08 |
| (iii) Ed Sheppard Lengthsman | £419.25 |
| (iv) GJH Electrical (RE-ISSUE) | £300.00 |
| (v) Bromsgrove DC lease of land | £60.00 |
| (vi) Clent Parish Hall | £60.00 |
| (vii) Clent Connect (Tree grafting LW) | £400.00 |

(b) Budget monitoring: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 29/02/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) Bank reconciliation: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the February 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £96,903.81 as at 29/02/24

(d) Council Tax increase. The council tax bills show an increase to the band D for Clent PC of 3%, despite the PC precept being frozen. It was clarified by Cllr May that this was because the tax base had decreased.

5589 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Beacon Great War memorial band – The Chairman is awaiting a quote to fit a first world war commemorative metal band for the beacon – defer to next meeting.

(b) Pond water testing – Cllr May advised that testing the run off water coming from the road would cost around £2.5k and WCC are very unlikely to fund this. The PC would also need to be specific about what the test is looking for. The Clerk would send a request to Cllr May to be forwarded to North Worcestershire Water Management for advice.

(c) Pathway works by the pond gate. The Chairman would ask the tree management company to quote for the work as the previous contractor had not responded.

5590 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

There were no issues or updates.

5591 Planning

(a) 24/00002/FUL - 55 Belbroughton Road - Two storey side extension. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

(b) 24/00220/FUL - Detached Single Storey Two Bedroom Dwelling, utilising an existing access from Odnall Lane and creating a new driveway - Land At, Odnall Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT to this application as it was not felt that this was not an appropriate development in the green belt.

5592 Clent Youth Council

Cllr ffoulkes was absent so this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

5593 Parish Magazine

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

5594 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 15th April 2024 at Clent Parish Hall. This will include the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____