



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

Minutes

Present: Cllr Nick Sugden (Chairman), Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Andrew Sherrey and Cllr Drew Beaumont.

In attendance: County Cllr Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 10 members of the public.

5424 Apologies for absence

Cllr Margaret Sherrey (illness) and Cllr Peter Bates (holiday).

5425 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 5431(a)(viii) as he is the Parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

5426 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:

- Lamppost replacements – it was clarified that several of the parish council owned concrete lampposts were being replaced by WCC as they were becoming life expired. The new lampposts would be LED with steel columns.
- Poor state of some of the PROW in the parish. The resident was advised to report these online using the WCC mapping system and should action not be forthcoming to report back to the parish council and/or Cllr May for further action.
- Christmas tree – complaints were made about the size of the tree and the lateness of the lights being installed. It was noted that the tree is donated so there is little control over the particulars of the tree. Also, as the lights use the adjacent lamppost electricity it requires a WCC approved electrician to install them and their availability was tight this year. A suggestion was made about planting a tree – this would be considered by the PC later in the year.
- Speed data cables on Church Avenue – this was in hand with Cllr May.

County and District Councillor Updates

Cllr Karen May provided updates on the following district council matters:

- Cllr Margaret Sherrey who is on the district council cabinet is currently off sick so Cllr May is covering her duties.
- Waste and recycling
- 2023/24 budget and council tax increase of 2%
- Staff capacity issues particularly in finance and the new ERP finance system.

Cllr Karen May provided updates on the following county council matters:

- 2023/24 budget and council tax increase.
- Nimmings car park entrance. The NT are planning to extend their car park gates to the edge of their land to prevent anti social behaviour late at night. This work has the support of the parish council but WCC are preventing the work as it is “on the highway”. Cllr May would pick this up with county officers. As part of this negotiation, it would be helpful if the NT could keep the car park open longer in the summer to help alleviate anti-social parking on summer evenings.
- Western Road new 30mph limit. Cllr May is working with WCC Highways and the police to progress this issue.

5427 Minutes

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

5428 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:
There was no new correspondence.

5429 Clent Connect Update

The senior board members of Clent Connect Ltd presented the company’s latest accounts and provided an update on the community wellbeing activities operated by the community interest company (CIC). This includes the twice weekly wellbeing café, new community shop and parish newsletter. Clent Connect requested a grant of £6000 in 2023/24 from the parish council to assist with the continuation of its community activities, plus any funding available to assist with its operations for the remainder of 2022/23.

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £6000 to Clent Connect from the parish council’s grant funding budget in 2023/24. This would be paid by cheque on the 17th April 2023.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £3384 to Clent Connect to assist fund its activities for the remainder of 2022/23. A cheque was raised and handed to the Treasurer.

5430 King’s Coronation Update

A parishioner representing the team organising parish events for the Coronation presented a “wish list” of items that are needed to put on several events over the Coronation weekend. This included bunting, a DJ & band, hall hire, road closures, table cloths and painting the new beacon. It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £3000 to the Coronation events (payable to Clent Connect) as follows:

- £1000 paid now to secure enough bunting for the village. A cheque was raised and handed to the Treasurer of Clent Connect.
- £2000 for further expenditure in 2023/24, **subject to the organising group providing firm costings and a funding request in writing to the Clerk.**

5431 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary and expenses (Dec & Jan)	£1,475.20
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£161.21
(iii) Bromsgrove DC Lease of Land	£60.00
(iv) Clent Parish Hall	£55.00
(v) Nick Sugden Expenses (hamper and Zoom)	£168.27
(vi) Candoo Web Design	£850.00
(vii) GJH Electrical Services	£300.00
(viii) Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£278.00
(ix) Clent Connect General Grant	£3,384.00
(x) Clent Connect (bunting for Coronation)	£1,000.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/12/22 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the December 2022 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £111,728.79 as at 31/12/2022.

(d) It was **RESOLVED** to set a budget requirement of £53,270 for the 2023/24 financial year and demand a precept of £49,850 from Bromsgrove DC. There is no increase in the parish council precept again this year.

5432 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) The Chairman raised that the current vehicle activated speed sign (VAS) was now quite old and could do with upgrading. It is possible that Cllr May would be able to fund a new sign. This would be added to the February agenda.

(b) Cllr Sheppard reported that there are a number of blocked gullies around the parish and he would send photographs and locations to the Clerk to add onto the WCC reporting system.

5433 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Tree work – this was to start next week and the contractor would liaise with Cllr Sheppard about what work needs to be done.

(b) New equipment to replace the trampoline. Some ideas would be collected and costed for presentation at a future meeting. There may be some S106 monies available – the clerk would write to BDC to clarify.

(c) The area beside the pond near the kissing gate gets extremely boggy and needs surfacing. Cllr Sheppard and the clerk would obtain a quote from the contractor who cleared out the pond.

5434 Planning

(a) 22/01591/FUL - Proposed New Two storey Dwelling - Littleacre , Belbroughton Road, Clent. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections.

5435 Defibrillator Training for Parishioners

A quotation has been received from the Community Heartbeat Trust of £250 plus VAT for up to 50 participants for a 2 hour session, plus the hall hire cost. It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the training after April and to allocate £300 to the event from the 2023/24 budget. The Clerk would liaise with the CHT and the parish hall.

5436 Blue Telephone Box at Adam's Hill

West Mercia Police had formally offered the parish council the blue phone box on Adam's Hill at no cost. The parish council would take on the ownership which would include all associated costs and liabilities. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this offer. It would be used to house the new defibrillator which was currently with Cllr Sheppard. The parish would then have 4 defibrillator units for community use.

5437 Councillor Recruitment

CALC has produced some templates and posters for the run-up to the local elections in May. It was agreed that the Clerk would populate the templates etc and use these for the parish magazine article in March, plus the Clent Connect newsletter that was due to be distributed in late February.

5438 Parish Magazine

It was agreed that the councillor recruitment information be used for the March parish magazine.

5439 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

Next meeting:

- VAS sign upgrade
- King's Coronation – request for funding

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 20th February 2023 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____