



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Sara ffoulkes (from 5497).

**In attendance:** County Cllr Karen May, District Cllr Simon Nock, Nick Farress (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

### **5493 Apologies for absence**

There were none.

### **5494 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5499(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheque.

### **5495 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:

- Overhanging trees on Church Avenue. This should have been resolved by now by WCC following a site visit some weeks ago. Cllr May would follow this up.
- Overgrowing hedge causing obstruction on the footway by the school. The Lengthsman would look at this.

### **County and District Councillor Updates**

County Councillor Karen May provided updates on the following:

- Bromsgrove DC is now “no overall control” following the district elections.
- The LGA is being consulted by BDC about reverting to the “committee system” of governance, rather than the “leader and cabinet” model.
- Street lamp 2 on Bromsgrove Road has been reported as unlit again – reference #24596.
- Clent Nurseries traffic island grass cutting – this seems to have fallen between WCC and BDC and no action is being taken. Cllr May would follow this up.

- New VAS – the post has now been installed for the new vehicle activated speed sign (VAS). The WCC officer will liaise with Cllr Sheppard in relation to the electricity supply which is no longer required as the new sign is solar powered.
- Housing need survey – a survey had been delivered to households in the area asking about housing need. This is from a developer and is to support a potential planning application. There is no requirement for residents to complete the survey despite it looking “official”.

District Councillor Simon Nock provided updates on the following:

- Newly elected councillor and has been appointed to the O&S Committee as Vice Chairman and to the Audit Committee. Cllr Nott would attend as many PC meetings as possible.

#### **5496 Councillor Co-option and Recruitment**

An application from Clent resident Sara ffoulkes was received to be co-opted to the parish council following a vacancy being created by Nick Sugden not standing for election. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Sara to the parish council with immediate effect. Cllr ffoulkes signed her declaration of office, witnessed by the Clerk.

#### **5497 Minutes**

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to add the following to the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May in relation to Minute 5477 Election of Chairman.

(i) Councillor Bates expressed concerns with regards to electing Councillor Sheppard as Chairman. The concerns are that Councillor Sheppard is Lengthsman to Clent PC and also cuts the parish council fields as a contractor to Clent Cricket Club. Councillor Bates believes this to be a conflict of interests.

(ii) Ahead of the meeting, the Clerk had consulted with CALC (Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils) as to whether it was legal for the Chairman to also act as a contractor to the parish council (ie as Lengthsman). CALC clarified that there was no legislation or other reason that the Chairman could not work as a contractor to the parish council, provided that all the necessary interests are declared by the councillor and that the councillor is prepared to leave the meeting should it be necessary to do so.

(b) It was **RESOLVED** that subject to Minute 5497(a) above, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5498 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was considered:

(a) From the Trustees of Clent Club seeking the PC’s permission to appoint additional trustees in line with their constitution. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this request and the Clerk would write to the Clent Club trustees accordingly.

#### **5499 Finance**

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£739.39
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£10.20
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£386.50
(iv) Bromsgrove DC	£60.00
(v) Clent Parish Hall	£86.25
(vi) Candoo Web Design	£980.00
(vii) Clent Cricket Club	£800.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/05/23 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the May 2023 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £100,241.97 as at 31/05/2023.

## 5500 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Memorial on Holy Cross Green – Cllr Bates had met with the resident. The resident’s wish is to plant an acer tree on the green with a plaque. This would all be funded by the resident but in the future the maintenance of the tree would fall to the parish council as it is on PC land. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to this and Cllr Bates would advise the resident accordingly.

(b) Grass cutting on Holy Cross Green. It was **RESOLVED** that this would be cut THREE times per year and paid for from the general grounds maintenance budget.

(c) Grit bin on Holy Cross Green (Hossil Lane side) – residents have approached Cllr Bates to have this bin relocated to the top of the hill from the bottom. It was agreed that an additional bin would be better, leaving the existing bin where it is. Cllr May agreed to fund a new bin, but the slabbing and work to install the new bin at the top of the hill would need to be funded and organised by the parish council. Cllr Bates would meet with residents to agree a location for the new bin.

(d) Grass cutting on the traffic island by Clent Nurseries – Cllr May is following this up as it seems to have fallen between WCC and BDC.

(e) Overgrowing bushes on Bromsgrove Road from Church Avenue to the school. The Lengthsman would look at this.

## 5501 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Play equipment replacements including the Trim Trail. Cllr Mudie shared a brochure from Playdale including a range of trim trail type equipment and conventional play equipment. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the company to arrange a site visit with councillors to consider different options etc. It was noted that the lease on the trim trail land from BDC was only for 10 years. Cllr May would check whether there was any S106 money available for Clent.

(b) Two quotations for levelling the pathway by the kissing gate next to the pond, and for repairing the gates at the top of the trim trail were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following quotes:

- (i) £900 to clean off soil and re-stone, re-hang gate – Greenwaste Recycling
- (ii) £700 to repair and rehang gates at the top of the trim trail.

Cllr Sheppard would liaise with the contractors.

(c) Boules pitch – it was noted that the boules pitch needs attention. It had been previously agreed to replace the fencing.

## 5502 Planning

No new applications to consider.

## 5503 Defibrillators

(a) Training event – Cllrs Mudie and Bates had attended the training session paid for by the parish council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. It was well attended with 17 residents taking part.

(b) Maintenance and monthly checks. It was noted that local resident Richard Price (former parish councillor) currently carries out monthly checks of batteries and pads and registers this with Community Heartbeat Trust. Mr Price is happy to continue with this, and to add the new defibrillators at the French Hen and Adams Hill (once the phone box is transferred to the PC from WMP).

## 5504 Website & Social Media

(a) Updates required to the website:

- Chairman's welcome needs to be changed to Cllr Sheppard (it has on the home page but not on the "council" page).
- District Councillors need to be updated.
- New pictures are needed for the Cricket Club and the Parish Hall.

(b) Website upgrade proposal – the website host had provided a proposal and quote for upgrading the website to allow it to be viewed on mobile devices plus overhauling the content of the site. It was **RESOLVED** to agree the quote of up to £575 to carry out the work involved and the Clerk would instruct Candoo Web Design accordingly.

(c) PC Facebook page. A page exists but no-one has the login details. Cllr Mudie would look into this.

## 5505 Clent Youth Council

It was **RESOLVED** to re-introduce the Clent Youth Council from September subject to enough interest from local schools and young people. Cllr M Sherrey and Cllr ffoulkes would contact local schools.

## 5506 Parish Magazine

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

## 5507 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

Items for next agenda:

- Repainting of beacon.
- Invite Clent Hills manager from the NT to next meeting.
- Christmas Tree.

## Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.45pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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