



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 17th July 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 Sara ffoulkes.

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

5508 Apologies for absence

Cllr Peter Bates and Cllr Drew Beaumont.

5509 Declarations of interest

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

5510 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:

- Recycling bins on Adam's Hill for the benefit of the volunteer litter pickers. It was noted that if the blue council refuse bags are placed next to the dog waste bin on Adam's Hill, WDC will remove them.
- Mr Kirkham from the NT updated the council on National Trust activities on the Clent Hills including fire response exercises, woodland management plan consultation, pothole repair on Adam's Hill, Japanese knotweed clearance, Hagley Wood Lane ASB.

County and District Councillor Updates

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

- CEO and Finance Director vacancies at BDC
- Governance Review at BDC (Leader/Cabinet vs Committee system)
- External audit delays affecting local authorities.
- Clent Connect is being championed by WCC as an excellent example of an asset led community project.

District Councillor Simon Nock provided written updates on the following:

- BDC Governance System Task Group

5511 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June 2023 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5512 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

(a) A request from the volunteer litter picking group for £100 to purchase a new set of litter pickers. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to this request. Cllr May offered additional funding should the group also need any other equipment such as high viz vests etc.

(b) A request to install traffic management in Clent from Belbroughton PC in relation to the scarecrow festival in September. The road closure was being proposed at the Bell and Cross but it was preferred that it is closed at the parish boundary on Belbroughton Road (the post box by Pool Furlong). The Clerk would write back to Belbroughton PC.

5513 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£745.39
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£10.20
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£362.25
(iv) Clent Cricket Club	£400.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 30/06/23 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the June 2023 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £97,547.65 as at 30/06/2023.

5514 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Overgrown hedge adjacent to school entrance – the Lengthsman had cut these back.

(b) Overgrown hedge at Hossil Lane – the Lengthsman would deal with this in due course.

(c) Overgrowing branches on a tree on Sunfield land had fallen onto the footway opposite the Fountain Pub. The Clerk would write to Sunfield to advise them of the issue with this tree.

5515 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Replacement play equipment (trim trail and trampoline). A site meeting with Playdale Playgrounds was scheduled for 18th July. Cllrs Mudie, ffoulkes and Sheppard would attend.

(b) Slide landing area – the rubber chippings were thin in this area exposing a concrete pad. Cllr Sheppard would look at this along with ordering a new supply of chippings for the playground generally. It may also be possible to fit a soft mat of some kind to place on top of the concrete pad. Cllr Sheppard would investigate the viability of this.

5516 Planning

23/00521/FUL - Bakery Cottage Belbroughton Road - Extensions and alterations and conversion of existing single vehicle garage into annexe accommodation. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

5517 Clent Youth Council

Cllrs ffoulkes and M Sherrey had had a positive conversation with the school, with a possibility of linking in with the DofE award. It was noted that Advanced DBS may be required for councillors managing the Youth Council if parents were not present at meetings.

5518 Parish Magazine

The Clerk would write a general update for the September edition, including the re-introduction of the Youth Council.

5519 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

Items for next agenda:

- Repainting of beacon.
- Christmas Tree.
- Website upgrade.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 18th September 2023 at Clent Parish Hall.
The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____