



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 18th September 2023**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr Peter Bates and Cllr Drew Beaumont.

In attendance: Nick Farress (Clerk), 10 members of the public.

5520 Apologies for absence

Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Karen May, Cllr Simon Nock.

5521 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5525(a)(iii) and (xiii) as he is the parish Lengthsman/cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5522 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:

- Large pothole at the top of Hill Lane (off Mount Lane) behind Adams Hill. This is on NT land (the Clerk will refer this to the NT site manager for Clent Hills).
- Speeding on Belbroughton Road. The new speed sign has helped but the problem persists. Surveys over the years have not revealed a problem significant enough to warrant intervention. It was agreed to ask WCC to carry out further speed surveys with a view to installing some kind of physical speed reduction measures, akin to those in Blakedown. The Clerk would refer this to Cllr May.
- Positioning of solar panel on new speed sign on Belbroughton Road.

County and District Councillor Updates

County and District Councillor Karen May and District Councillor Simon Nock provided written updates which were noted with thanks.

5523 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17^h July 2023 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5524 Correspondence

(a) From a resident in relation to the unkept village gateway planters. The planters had been weeded by Cllr Sheppard but no planting had taken place since last year. It was **RESOLVED** to spend up to £300 on winter planting and the Clerk would approach the Gardening Club to see if they would be interested in planting and maintaining the boxes.

(b) From St Leonards Church asking for a £600 grant towards the annual village clock maintenance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this grant.

(c) From several residents in relation to the Boules pitch fencing and general appearance. This was being addressed.

(d) From a resident in relation to the upkeep of the wild flower area next to the cricket club. This area will be cleared ready for wild flower seed planting next year.

5525 Finance

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

- (i) Clerk salary & expenses (Aug & Sept) £1,480.32
- (ii) HMRC PAYE £20.40
- (iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman £579.75
- (iv) Clent Cricket Club (grass cutting) £400.00
- (v) PKF Littlejohn £378.00
- (vi) WCC Parish Initiative 2023 2024 Q1 £675.73
- (vii) Nigel Morgan (gatepost replacements) £720.00
- (viii) St Leonards Church PCC £600.00
- (ix) Bromsgrove DC lease of land £60.00
- (x) Clent Parish Hall £85.00
- (xi) Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance £2002.80
- (xii) Peter Bates (litterpickers) £95.90
- (xiii) Ed Sheppard expenses - £448.89

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/08/23 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Aug & Sept 2023 bank reconciliations noting a balance of £95,992.85 as at 31/08/2023.

5526 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) Street light replacements - 4 concrete posts have been replaced so far. The Clerk would chase WCC to provide a list and a quote for replacing the remaining concrete posts.

(b) Centenary field hedge bordering Belbroughton road is encroaching onto the pavement, this happens every year during the summer months. It is cut 4 times per year but would be cut further back in the future.

(c) WCC have advised that the hawthorn tree next to the new VAS needs removing or at least cutting back. It was **RESOLVED** to spend £360 to remove the tree. The Chairman would instruct the contractor.

(d) Beacon repainting – it was **RESOLVED** to engage the usual contractor at £180.

- (e) Holy Cross Green – this is to be cut three times per year. Cllr Bates asked that a discussion takes place to decide whether to contract out this work rather than use the Lengthsman. This will be added to the next agenda.
- (f) Christmas Tree – It was agreed that the tree would be at least 12ft this year and Cllr Sheppard would investigate suppliers and costs.

5527 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Play equipment replacement for trampoline which had been removed for safety reasons. Cllrs Mudie, ffoulkes and Sheppard had met Playdale Playgrounds who provided a quote for a “activity trail” made up of:

- City Suspension Bridge £2,693.00
- City Wobble Board £1,348.00
- City Rubber Step £143.00

It was **RESOLVED** to accept this quote as it was the cheapest quotation received for similar equipment. The Clerk would contact the company and instruct them accordingly.

(b) Five bar gate entrance to Centenary Field from Holy Cross Green, requires repair or replacement – this work had been completed.

(c) Update with regard to resurfacing kissing gate surface by duck pond. This work was scheduled for the next week.

5528 Planning

(a) 23/00766/FUL - Proposed new vehicular access and driveway including re-modelling of ground levels - Wenlock Cottage , Holy Cross Green. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

5529 Clent Youth Council

Cllr ffoulkes had contacted the headteacher at the school who would like a written “remit” for the Youth Council. Cllr ffoulkes would consult with Cllr M Sherrey as she lead the previous Youth Council.

5530 Parish Magazine

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

5531 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

Items for next agenda:

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 16th October 2023 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____