



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 16th September 2024**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherrey (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Peter Bates

In attendance: County and District Council Cllr Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

5652 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Simon Nock

5653 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5658(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5654 Dispensations

There were none.

5655 Clent Youth Council

This was the first meeting of the new Youth Council with 5 new Youth Councillors and a Chair had been voted in for the year.

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:

There were no public questions

County and District Councillor Updates

Councillor Karen May reported on the following from WCC and BDC

- Gully cleaning in Clent – this was now complete, however, Cllr Sheppard reported that the drains are still blocked on St Kenelms Pass.
- Finger post replacement outside Church. WCC had responded to the Clerk to say that this post would not be replaced as it is not rotten (despite it leaning) and the signs can be read (despite the reflective surface being corroded). Cllr May would follow up on this and insist that the post is replaced.

- Updated housing figures for the district, and new NPPF guidelines.

5656 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5657 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

- From the resident at Meadowside, Pool Furlong asking the PC if a septic tank/mains sewerage solution crossing PC land would be an available option for solving their private property sewerage issues. It was **RESOLVED not** to allow any works on parish council land in relation to this issue and the Clerk would respond accordingly.
- From the new co-ordinator of the local litter picking group sharing the notes from a meeting held with the local MP and Cllr May about litter, flytipping and anti-social behaviour on Walton Hill car park. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the PC were not invited to this meeting considering the ongoing conversations about the same issues on Nimmings car park.

5658 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses (2 months)	£1,564.52
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£40.16
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£1,518.75
(iv) Clent Cricket Club	£800.00
(v) Cllr Bates expenses (litter pickers)	£122.99
(vi) Community Heartbeat Trust	£69.54
(vii) WCC street lighting Q1	£646.45
(viii) Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers	£2,050.10
(ix) Clent Parish Hall	£60.00
(x) Bromsgrove DC	£60.00
(xi) WCC street lamp replacements	£9,910.93
(xii) David Mudie expenses DBS	£18.00
(xiii) Ed Sheppard expenses	£303.91

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/08/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the July & Aug 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £95,425.56 as at 31/08/2024.

5659 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) WMP Phone box on Adams Hill. The box now belonged to the PC. It was **RESOLVED** to spend £500 on having the box repainted. The contractor who carried out the beacon painting would carry out the work. Cllr Sheppard would obtain quotes for having the defib installed.

(b) Odnall Lane pavement, hedges and “dangerous” wall. There were some works people attending to the wall but it was not known who had employed them. Cllr May would check with NT.

(c) Litter bin outside the Church. Cllr Sheppard would ask BDC to install a replacement bin outside the Church as the current one had been vandalised.

(d) Bench outside the church needs new slats. It was agreed to gather costs for this work.

(e) Elm tree planting. The trees had been ordered and will be ready for planting next month. A tea of volunteers were available but locations needed to be agreed. It was agreed that the trees should be planted on the top side of the pond area, behind the cricket pavilion and one on Holy Cross Green.

5660 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Trim Trail removal/replacement – this was ongoing with Cllrs Sheppard and Mudie.

(b) Trim Trail land – extension of lease to allow for investment by the PC – this was ongoing with Cllr May and BDC.

(c) Vegetation growth around trees on trim trail and playing fields – the contractor had quoted £1200 to carry out this work in the Autumn. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this quote and Cllr Sheppard would liaise with the contractor to get the work done.

(d) Pond footpath levelling/surfacing – the Chairman would ask the tree contractor to quote for this work as the general contractor had not responded.

(d) Holy Cross Green – steps up to bench. It was agreed to gather quotes for installing wooden steps up to the bench on Holy Cross Green.

5661 Planning

(a) New applications – no new applications.

5662 Parish Magazine

The Clerk has written a piece about a new WCC volunteer recruitment scheme to encourage residents to reduce waste in their homes.

5663 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

There were no specific updates.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 21st October 2024 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____