



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 21st October 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: District Councillor Simon Nock, George Kirkham (National Trust), Nick Farress (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

5664 Apologies for absence

County Cllr Karen May

5665 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5670(a) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5666 Dispensations

There were none.

5667 Clent Youth Council

The Youth Council considered the following items at their meeting which proceeded this meeting:

- (a) Activities for young people in Clent (film nights, indoor games, community art projects)
- (b) Christmas event
- (c) Community litter pick – spring 2025
- (d) Additional notice boards on playing fields to advertise local activities
- (e) “Village Pride” event

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:

George Kirkham, Clent Hills Manager for the NT updated the meeting on the following:

- Recent break-ins on NT land and buildings
- Woodland Management Plan has been approved
- Covert fly tipping cameras now in place around the Hills estate
- Surface run-off from pathway by the Fountain pub

- Nimmings car park – moving the entrance gate forward

County and District Councillor Updates

District Cllr Simon Nock updated the meeting on the following:

- Political make up of BDC following a councillor changing parties
- Winter Fuel Allowance – motion to object to the Government’s plan to scrap this payment

5668 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5669 Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to consider.

5670 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£775.46
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£20.08
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£410.00
(iv) Clent Cricket Club	£400.00
(v) WCC Parish streetlighting Q2	£485.44
(vi) Mr N Brazier (Elm Trees)	£512.40
(vii) PKF Littlejohn LLP	£378.00
(viii) Community Heartbeat Trust	£329.40
(ix) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses	£255.00
(x) Fereday Cylinder Ltd	£300.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 30/09/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the September 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £78,259.21 as at 30/09/2024.

(d) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the external auditor’s report on the 2023/2024 accounts with no issues identified.

5671 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) WMP Phone box on Adams Hill. An electrician needs to be arranged to look at installing the defib in the box as it needs an earth rod. Cllr Sheppard will liaise with an appropriate electrician.

(b) Odnall Lane pavement, hedges and “dangerous” wall. The NT had not arranged for any work to the wall, but the NT confirmed that their side of the wall is not subsiding and does not need any intervention.

(c) Nimmings Car Park and highway improvements to discourage late night ASB. The NT are committed to moving the entrance gateway towards the junction but WCC are blocking the work. Cllr May and the NT are continuing to work on this.

(d) Bench outside the church needs new slats. Costs were being investigated by Cllr Sheppard.

(e) Holy Cross Green – installation of steps up to the bench. Costs were being investigated by Cllr Sheppard.

(f) Cllr A Sherrey reported a large pothole has opened up again following a recent patch. The Clerk would report this to WCC.

5672 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) Pond footpath levelling/surfacing – the Chairman would ask the tree contractor to quote for this work as the general contractor had not responded.

(d) New backboard for basketball hoop. Cllr Sheppard would provide a photo to the Clerk so that the play company that installed the latest set of play equipment could provide a quote.

5673 Planning

(a) New applications – (a) 24/00893/FUL - Extension to detached garage/workshop building - Vine Cottage, Vine Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

(b) Kings Meadow – an address in Kings Meadow which recently had permission granted for an extension seemed to have some very large footings dug. Cllr ffoulkes would monitor the progress of the work and report to planning enforcement if necessary.

5674 Parish Magazine

The Clerk will write a general update.

5675 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

The Christmas Tree would be added to the next agenda.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 18th November 2024 at Clent Parish Hall followed by a budget meeting for Councillors only.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____