



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

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

**In attendance:** District Councillor Simon Nock, County Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 6 members of the public.

### 5676 Apologies for absence

Cllr Margaret Sherrey

### 5677 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5682(a) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

### 5678 Dispensations

There were none.

### 5679 Clent Youth Council

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

- (a) "Carols, Crafts and Christmas Fun" will run on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December in the parish hall between 1pm and 3pm. This would be a free event for residents to attend, organised by Clent Youth Council and Clent Connect. It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £50 to pay for refreshments and the PC would also pay for the hall hire.

### 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:

Representatives from Clent Connect Ltd updated the meeting on the following:

- Current activities
- Accounts and funding streams
- Shop and Café extended hours

## County and District Councillor Updates

District Cllr Simon Nock updated the meeting on the following:

- Ward boundary review

County & District Councillor Karen May updated the meeting on the following:

- WCC budget and £12m gap
- Unitary authorities for Worcestershire
- BDC budget and £10m reserve
- National Forestry Project – Bromsgrove District in final 4
- Old Fire Station and Market Hall proposals

### 5680 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

### 5681 Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to consider.

### 5682 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£947.18
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£92.94
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£358.00
(iv) Tree Tops	£1,680.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/10/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the October 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £99,317.43 as at 31/10/2024.

(d) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a hamper for Three Roses Homes up to £100 in lieu of keeping the footpath that runs adjacent maintained. Cllr Sheppard would ask Mr Nick Sugden to arrange this as in previous years.

### 5683 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) 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 will speak with the new highways liaison officer for the area to attempt to move this forward.

(c) Bench outside the church needs new slats. The cost of oak cut to size to repair the bench will be available for the January meeting.

(d) Holy Cross Green – installation of steps up to the bench. A quote has been received from the council's usual maintenance contractor (Tree Tops – Nigel Morgan) for £1600. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this and go ahead with the work.

(e) Christmas Tree. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a 18-20ft tree at a cost of up to £260 including delivery Cllr Sheppard would source the tree .The Clerk would ask the usual electrician to connect up the lights. The Clerk would ask the electrical contractor whether the cable to the plug from the lamppost is disconnected each year or left “live”.

(f) Grit bins – Cllrs Mudie and Sheppard had checked the grit bins and they all had adequate stocks.

**5684 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 Tree Tops – Nigel Morgan contractor to quote for this work.

(d) New backboard for basketball hoop. Playdale had said that they cannot supply just the back board as it isn't their unit. Other companies would be investigated.

**5685 Planning**

There were no new applications to consider.

**5686 Parish Magazine**

The Clerk will write a general update for the new church magazine which is linked to Hagley instead of Belbroughton.

**5687 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

Christmas tree lights – cost of installation and storage.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm*

**Signed as a true record:**

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

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