



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 20th January 2025**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Margaret Sherrey

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

5688 Apologies for absence

Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Andrew Sherrey

5689 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5694(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5690 Dispensations

There were none.

5691 Clent Youth Council

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

- Creating a map to help visitors and delivery drivers find their way around the village
- Spring litter pick – mid/late March
- New noticeboard at the entrance to the cricket field (see 5696 below)
- Flytipping
- 2 new members of the Youth Council had joined the meeting
- Mural in the underpass (Cllr May would ask WCC if this would be allowable)
- Table tennis table for use inside the Hall. A Hall Trustee who was present at the meeting would take this back to the Trust Board Meeting to ask whether this would be allowable. Storage was the main issue.

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:

- From the resident at Meadowside, Pool Furlong asking the PC if access would be permitted for a mini-digger from Belbroughton Road across Centenary Field to install a septic tank on their property. This was agreed to in principle for around a week but the resident would inform the PC when the work would start.

County and District Councillor Updates

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

- Devolution and Unitary
- WCC budget gap
- Water run-off from Clent Hills causing ice hazard on Adams Hill
- Drainage issues at bottom of Walton Pool – A site meeting would be arranged with WCC
- Health Bus
- Block gullies – Cllr Sheppard had reported several to WCC – reference numbers to be forwarded to Cllr May.

5692 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2024 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5693 Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to consider.

5694 Finance

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of the following for January 2025:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses (2 months)	£1,540.82
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£205.74
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£249.75
(iv) Clent Parish Hall	£86.25
(v) WCC Street Lighting (Odnall Lane)	£1,283.92
(vi) First Choice Electrical Solutions	£746.40
(vii) BDC Lease of Land	£60.00
(viii) Mr N Sugden (hamper)	£95.72
(ix) Steve Bubb Garden Services xmas trees 23/24	£520.00
(x) Cllr Ed Sheppard expenses	£29.50
(xi) Cllr Sara Ffoulkes expenses (YC event)	£55.89

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 30/12/24 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the November/December 2024 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £97,366.31 as at 30/12/2024.

(d) It was **RESOLVED** to demand the annual precept of £49,850 from Bromsgrove DC for the 2025/26 financial year. This represents a 0% increase in the parish element of the council tax bill.

(e) Church Clock annual maintenance. A representative from St Leonard's Church who had recently taken over the accounts asked whether the PC still pay for the church clock annual service. The Clerk advised that the PC would only pay this on request from the church and it is paid as a grant. The church treasurer would write to the PC to request this year's grant .

5695 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 would ask First Choice who look after the Christmas tree lights for a quote.

(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 is having a site meeting with WCC officers to attempt to reach agreement.

(c) 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.

(d) Christmas Tree. It was agreed to obtain one or two additional quotes for installing, taking down and storing the tree lights to ensure that the price of £400 charged by the current electrician was appropriate.

5696 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. It was agreed to ask for at least 25 years.

(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. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a back board up to £350. The Chairman and Clerk would procure from a suitable supplier. District Cllrs May and Nock offered to pay for this piece of equipment so the invoice/receipt would be sent to BDC for reimbursement.

(e) New Noticeboard (Youth Council). It was **RESOLVED** to install a new noticeboard at the entrance to Centenary Field adjacent to the community orchard primarily for use by the Youth Council. District Cllrs May and Nock offered to contribute up to £500 for this new board which was accepted with thanks. The Chairman and Clerk would procure a suitable board and forward the invoice/receipt to BDC for payment.

5697 Planning

There were no new applications to consider.

5698 Parish Magazine

The Clerk will write a general update for March edition of the church magazine. Cllr Beaumont would also provide an update on broadband improvements to the Clerk.

5699 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

No updates.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 17th February 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____
