



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 17th February 2025**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Drew Beaumont, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Andrew Sherrey.

In attendance:, Bob Ayres (NT), George Kirkham(NT), Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

5700 Apologies for absence

Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara Ffoulkes, District Councillor Simon Nock, County Councillor Karen May

5701 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5706(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5702 Dispensations

There were none.

5703 Clent Youth Council

There was no Youth Council meeting this month.

Open session

The meeting was adjourned for the open session and the following reports/updates were noted.

Update from the National Trust:

Representatives from the NT provided updates on the following:

- £20k received from Community Trust Fund. Work will be done in arboretum by Dark Pool to establish a fruit and nut orchard.
- Leaky dam project – felled Leylandii will be used on dams and Black Poplar planted at the sides.
- This is first year of a Woodland Management Plan and will concentrate initially on Nut Wood, Moors Coppice and Clatterbach. Outside contractors will be used.
- Litter etc – per Bob Ayres been going on for 30 years.
- Problem with County filling in ditches.
- Work to be done on hedges and fences.
- Meeting with WCC in March to look at Nimmings junction and yellow lines.

The Chairman thanked the NT for their attendance and updates.

Public comments/questions:

The following issues were raised by the public:

- New litter bin outside parish hall. This would require the agreement of the parish hall trustees.

County and District Councillor Updates

There were no reports or updates as the councillors were not in attendance.

5704 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5705 Correspondence

(a) From St Leonards Church Treasurer asking for a grant of £750 for the annual service of the clock and a further contribution towards the upgrade of the clock to electric to prevent the need for the clock to be manually wound. The total cost of the upgrade would be around £12,000. It was **RESOLVED** to grant the £750 to the PCC. The further grant for the upgrade was deferred until firm quotes had been put forward by the PCC.

(b) From a resident/visitor to the Clent Hills concerning litter, anti-social behaviour and parking. This had been passed to the NT for comment. There would be a site meeting with WCC about parking and tackling ASB on the Hills by restricting access to the Nimmings car park at night.

(c) From a resident concerning speeding on Bromsgrove Road. Cllr A Sherrey would contact PCSO Stuart Taylor in relation to "Trucam" speed gun and feasibility of speed monitoring.

5706 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses (2 months)	£796.92
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£29.19
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£666.25
(iv) WCC Street lighting maintenance Q3	£485.44
(v) St Leonards PCC (clock annual service)	£750.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/01/25 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the January 2025 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £92,492.32 as at 31/01/2025.

5707 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. A site meeting between WCC and NT has been arranged.

(c) Defibrillator missing outside Parish Hall. Resident to leaflet local area and post on social media. Adams Hill unit to be installed as interim measure.

5708 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. Cost for BDC to re-issue the lease seemed unreasonable.

(c) Pond footpath levelling/surfacing – the Chairman would ask Tree Tops – Nigel Morgan contractor to quote for this work.

5709 Planning

There were no new applications to consider.

5710 Parish Magazine

The Clerk will write a general update for April edition of the church magazine.

5711 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 March 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____