



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

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Sara Ffoulkes

In attendance:, District Councillor Simon Nock, County Councillor Karen May, Nick Farress (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

5712 Apologies for absence

George Kirkham (National Trust). Cllr Beaumont was not in attendance but had not given formal apologies.

5713 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5718(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5714 Dispensations

There were none.

5715 Clent Youth Council

The Chair of the Youth Council provided updates on the following:

- Litter pick – preferred date is 7th June. Cllr May kindly offered to contribute £95 to pay for volunteer refreshments after the event. The Clerk would formally write to request this funding.
- Delivery driver map to avoid drivers getting lost and knocking on random doors for directions.
- Mural in subway under main road.

Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by the public:

There were no questions raised.

County and District Councillor Updates

Cllr Simon Nock (BDC) provided updates on the following:

- The request had been made for £500 towards the cost of the new Youth Council noticeboard for Centenary Field. This would be paid to the PC in due course.

- Strategic Planning Steering Group.
- Extra-ordinary meeting of BDC re: unitary authorities and devolution.

Cllr Karen May (WCC) provided updates on the following:

- Unitary authorities and devolution.
- Meeting with the NT re drainage on Adams Hill.
- Nimmings car park entrance – site meeting with WCC and NT.
- Odnall Lane – blocked gullies are on work programme. Footway needs siding out – the Lengthsman would attend to this.
- St Kenelms Pass – the road would re-open following underpinning after the collapse of the verge. However, it was reported that the road was already open, with concerns raised as to whether the underpinning had taken place. Cllr May would check this.

5716 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5717 Correspondence

(a) From West Mercia Police asking the PC to provide any update to the “local priorities”. The priorities remained the same as previously stated.

5718 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£810.52
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£29.19
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman	£668.50
(iv) Clent Parish Hall	£85.00
(v) Bromsgrove DC Rent	£60.00
(vi) WCC Street lighting Q4	£485.44
(vii) Mr S Geggie Hedge Cutting	£462.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 28/02/25 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the February 2025 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £90,002.27 as at 28/02/2025.

5719 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) WMP Phone box on Adams Hill. It was agreed to engage First Choice who look after the Christmas tree lights to install the new defibrillator at a cost of £200.

(b) Defibrillator missing outside Parish Hall. The unit had not turned up so it is assumed it had been stolen or used and not returned. The Clerk would consult the council’s insurers about claiming. The Adams Hill unit would be installed as interim measure.

(c) Repairs to bench outside church – this was ongoing with Cllr Sheppard.

(d) Litter bin outside parish hall – the hall trustees had been positive about having the bin with the preferred location next to the noticeboard. The bin would be added to the weekly emptying rota the PC pay for. Cllr May would ask BDC to quote for the bin, including installation.

(e) Litter bin outside church – this needed replacing as it was life expired. Cllr May would ask BDC to replace the bin.

(f) Hedge on Church Avenue belonging to BDHT – this hedge was not being maintained properly and encroaches on the highway. Cllr May would ask her contact at BDHT for comment.

(g) Christmas tree socket – does this remain “live” or is it disconnected after the lights have been removed? The Clerk would chase a response from the electrician.

(h) Speeding on Bromsgrove Road – Cllr A Sherrey was awaiting a response from the SNT about arranging some enforcement.

5720 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

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

(b) Trim Trail land – Cost for BDC to re-issue the lease seemed unreasonable. Cllr May suggested that an asset transfer could be an option and would investigate this with BDC officers.

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

(d) Storm damage in the field – a tree had been damaged but it belongs to a private property.

(e) Japanese Knotweed had been spotted in the field but it was on the boundary of a private property. Cllr Sheppard would investigate further and spray it if necessary.

5721 Planning

(a) 25/00190/FUL - Field House Rest Home Western Road Hagley - Proposed partial demolition, extensions and alterations of the Coach house and Cottage and associated external works. Proposed demolition and alterations of Field House to form ensembles, repair and rectification works to facade, extension of existing car parking and drive resurfacing. It was **RESOLVED** to raise **no objection**.

(b) 25/00158/FUL - Land At Hagley Wood Lane Hagley - Installation of a wetland sewage treatment system, creation of landscape features in the form of earthworks and biodiversity enhancement on land to the north of Nimmings Wood Car Park. It was **RESOLVED** to raise **no objection**.

(c) 24/01168/FUL - Chapel Cottage Bromsgrove Road - Mixed use replacement domestic garage and new agricultural building with amended access to serve agricultural paddock and dwelling. Concerns were raised that this building would be the basis on which a new larger dwelling would be built in the future which would be inappropriate. It was **RESOLVED** to **object** in principle to this application. However, any objection must be on planning terms and based on the application as it stands. Cllr A Sherrey would draft an objection and circulate for further comment.

5722 Parish Magazine

The Clerk will write a finance update for May edition of the church magazine.

5723 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 14th April 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____
