



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

## Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Ed Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Drew Beaumont

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

### **5724 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr Peter Bates

### **5725 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

### **5726 Dispensations**

There were none.

### **5727 Clent Youth Council**

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

- Litter pick – date is 7<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Nock confirmed that the equipment had been ordered.

### **Public Question Time**

The following issues were raised by the public:

- Progress of new basketball hoop backboard. The expenditure had been approved by the council and the action was with the Chairman to order the new board and fit it. This was ongoing.

### **County and District Councillor Updates**

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

- Youth Council litter pick – equipment ordered.
- WCC election purdah.
- Housing Steering Group and public consultation.

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

- Unitary authorities and devolution
- Asset transfers and protection of assets

## 5728 Minutes

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

## 5729 Correspondence

(a) From BDC inviting applications to their Community Infrastructure Fund – it was agreed that the Clerk would apply to the fund for a new roundabout and a replacement rope climb for the Trim Trail.

## 5730 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£803.72
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£80.74
(iii) Bromsgrove DC Bin emptying 2025/26	£3305.40
(iv) Paul Timmins (phone box repair and paint)	£500.00
(v) WCC Street light replacements Woodman Ln	£3247.31
(vi) WCC Street light replacements Church Ave	£7313.88
(vii) Play Safety	£412.80

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 31/03/25 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the March 2025 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £88,686.37 as at 31/03/2025.

(d) Insurance claim for missing defibrillator - The Chairman reported that the missing unit had been retrieved. The Clerk would cancel the insurance claim with the broker.

## 5731 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) WMP Phone box on Adams Hill – painting had been carried out. The painting contractor would source some “Defibrillator” signs for the phone box and also paint the top yellow so that it is clear it is not a phone box. New defib to be fitted within the next few weeks by the electrician. The Clerk would obtain quotes for running another defib training session for the community.

(b) Nimmings Car Park and highway improvements to discourage late night ASB (Cllr May/NT) – there is to be a “stopping up order” requested by the NT to enable the gates to be moved closer to the junction. More yellow lines would be consulted upon for opposite the entrance to the car park with more enforcement carried out by BDC.

(c) Repairs to bench outside church – quote for green oak slats is being prepared.

(d) Litter bin outside parish hall – BDC is arranging this with funding from Cllrs May and Nock with thanks. The trustees would be consulted before any work is undertaken to install the bin.

(e) Speeding on Bromsgrove Road – the offer from a resident to accommodate a police speed check area cannot now go ahead as the property is too close to a speed limit change.

(f) VAS by the French Hen PH on Bromsgrove Road needs to be replaced. Cllr May advised that this should be requested from the new county councillor after the elections in May.

**5732 Field Maintenance & Play Areas**

(a) Trim Trail removal/replacement – the rope ladder unit had now been removed.

(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) New Youth Council noticeboard – It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure on the new noticeboard as follows:

Spec – green aluminium unglazed 8 A4 landscape with posts.

£500 from Cllrs May and Nock with thanks.

£250 from PC reserves.

The Clerk would look into suitable products in consultation with the Chairman.

(e) Replacement benches in Centenary Field – it was **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 new benches for £460 each delivered to the Chairman’s address.

**5733 Planning**

(a) There were no new applications to consider.

(b) 55 Belbroughton Road – 2 storey side extension. Despite no objections from the PC, BDC refused this application. The applicant appealed but this was rejected.

**5734 Village Green Status**

In light of the uncertainty over abolition of WCC and BDC, it was agreed that the PC should firm up the ownership of its land, and push BDC for an asset transfer of the Trim Trail field.

The Clerk would look into “village green status” for Holy Cross Green and the Trim Trail field.

It was thought that Centenary Field was already protected but the Clerk would confirm this.

**5735 Parish Magazine**

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

**5736 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Clent Parish Hall. This is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm*

**Signed as a true record:**

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