



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 19th May 2025**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Peter Bates, Cllr Drew Beaumont.

In attendance: Nick Farress (Clerk), Cllr Karen May, George Kirkham (NT), 3 members of the public.

5737 Apologies for absence

Cllr Sara ffoulkes – work commitment, District Cllr Simon Nock.

5738 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2025/26

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Ed Sheppard as Chairman for 2025/26

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Andrew Sherrey as Vice Chairman for 2025/26

5739 Declarations of interest

There were none.

5740 Dispensations

There were none.

5741 Clent Youth Council

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

- New Chair – Peggy
- Community litterpick
- Clent Connect board game event
- New noticeboard – PC has ordered this
- Basketball hoop – PC has ordered this

Public comments/questions:

The following issues were raised by the public:

No issues raised by the public.

George Kirkham – National Trust

Mr Kirkham attended the meeting and provided updates on the following:

- Anti-social behaviour – fires and motorbikes
- Signage to discourage bonfires/BBQs etc
- Fire Service exercises on the hills

- Adams Hill access and drainage
- New hedgerow planting
- Nimmings stopping up order
- Waste water management plan
- New natural and accessible play area (summer 2026)

County and District Councillor Updates

Councillor Karen May reported on the following from Bromsgrove DC and Worcestershire County Council:

- Flytipping
- Unitary authority
- Nimmings parking enforcement
- Housing numbers and targets
- St Leonards bus stop – could be used for the direct request service
- Clent Court refuse collection – Cllr Sheppard would refer residents to Cllr May
- WCC election results

5742 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5743 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:
There was no new correspondence.

5744 Policies and Procedures

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following documents for the 2025/26 council year:
(a) Asset Register – Clerk will add the new benches, basketball hoop and noticeboard once paid for.
(b) Risk Assessment

5745 Internal Auditor's Report 2024/25

It was **RESOLVED** accept the Internal Auditor's report on the 2024/25 accounts with no material issues being identified.

5746 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25: Annual Governance Statement

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement which is Section 1 on the AGAR and agree that the Chairman and Clerk sign the document and forward this to the external auditor in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations for parish councils.

5747 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25: Accounting Statements

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2024/25 Accounting Statements which is Section 2 on the AGAR and agree that the Chairman and RFO sign the document and forward this to the external auditor in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations for parish councils.

5748 Finance

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

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£796.92
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£80.74
(iii) Ed Sheppard Chairman's Allowance	£500.00
(iv) N Farress Expenses (Land Reg search)	£59.75
(v) Cllr Ed Sheppard Expenses (benches)	£963.00
(vi) CALC Annual Sub	£919.63
(vii) John Benner Internal Audit	£330.00
(viii) Paul Timmins phone box work	£245.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report dated 30/04/25 prepared by the Clerk.

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the April 2025 bank reconciliation noting a balance of £103,465.22 as at 30/04/2025.

5749 General maintenance & highway matters

(a) WMP Phone box on Adams Hill – the electrical work has been carried out but the fuse box needs to be covered to avoid tampering. Contractor P Timmins would be engaged to carry out this work.

(b) Nimmings Car Park and highway improvements to discourage late night ASB (Cllr May/NT) – WCC are awaiting NT to complete the necessary paperwork for the stopping up order.

(c) Repairs to bench outside church – ongoing.

(d) Litter bin outside parish hall – quote from BDC (Cllr May) – the Clerk would follow up on this.

(e) A member of the public had reported that disposable BBQs had been used on the picnic table on the playing field and damaged the surface. Cllr Sheppard would cover the surface with a thin sheet of metal to prevent further damage.

(f) Speed awareness sign on Belbroughton Road (facing away from Clent) – Cllr Sheppard would switch this back on to see if it still worked.

ACTIONS: ES/NF

5750 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Trim Trail field – update re potential asset transfer (Cllr May) – this was ongoing.

(b) Pond footpath levelling/surfacing – update on new contractor to carry out work – this was ongoing.

(c) Emergency tree work – it was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority and spending of up to £500 to the Clerk to deal with emergency tree maintenance with the tree contractor.

ACTIONS: ES/KM

5751 Planning

(a) New applications - there were no new applications to consider.

(b) 25/00286/FUL - 12 Kings Meadow. A amendment to the boundary of the two plots. This seems to be bringing the two plots closer to becoming one dwelling. However, no grounds for objection could be identified.

5752 Parish Magazine

The Clerk would write a general update.

ACTION: NF

5753 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

There were no further updates.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 16th June 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:_____ **Date:**_____
