



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 21st July 2025**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Peter Bates (until 8.15pm), Cllr Drew Beaumont

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

5754 Apologies for absence

George Kirkham (National Trust)

5755 Declarations of interest

There were none.

5756 Dispensations

There were none.

5757 Clent Youth Council

There was no meeting of the Youth Council as it is school holidays, but Cllr ffoulkes provided updates on the following:

- Indoor games event on 13th September at the parish hall.

Public comments/questions:

The following issues were raised by the public:

- Pre-planning application presentation from developers of land on Church Avenue to build 4 dwellings on the site. The PC would respond via the formal planning consultation process as and when the application is submitted.

County and District Councillor Updates

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

- VAS sign replacement Bromsgrove Road – see Minute 5761 below.
- Devolution update

5758 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman. ***NOTE – there was no meeting in June***

5759 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

- (a) From WMP asking for any updates on the PC's crime and policing priorities.
It was agreed that the priorities remained the same – anti-social behaviour on Clent Hills, speeding on Church Avenue in particular and flytipping.
- (b) From a resident reporting that the VAS on Bromsgrove Rd is not working.
See Minute 5761 below.
- (c) From a resident asking when the gateway planters are going to receive some attention.
See Minute 5761 below.
- (d) From WMP asking for the PC to identify any fly tipping "hotspots".
The "hotspots" were identified as Clent Hills, Nimmings/St Kenelms Pass and Walton Pool Lane.
- (e) From BDC approving the PC's grant application for new play equipment up to £6,250.
This was noted. See Minute 5762 below.
- (f) From a resident in relation to "dangerous parking" near the Woodman pub on Bromsgrove Rd.
It was agreed that it was too early since the pub re-opened to object, and the parked cars to slow down traffic. The situation would be monitored.

5760 Finance

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of the following for June 2025:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£803.88
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£80.74
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman (3 mths)	£1001.75
(iv) Clent Parish Hall	£86.25
(v) First Choice Electrical (defib work)	£393.60
(vi) Bromsgrove DC Lease on land	£60.00
(vii) Clent Cricket Club	£880.00
(viii) Candoo Web Design	£997.00

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to agree the payment of the following for July 2025:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£803.88
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£80.74
(iii) Richard Price (defib pads)	£134.40
(iv) The Noticeboard Company	£901.75
(v) WCC Street Lighting	£419.31
(vi) Clent Cricket Club	£440.00
(vii) Nigel Morgan Tree Tops	£740.00

(c) It was **RESOLVED** approve the budget monitoring report (circulated previously)

(d) It was **RESOLVED** approve the monthly bank reconciliation for May 2025 and June 2025 (circulated previously) noting a balance at 30/06/2025 of £96,284.46

(e) It was **RESOLVED** to switch banks to Unity Trust Bank and change to online banking with a three tier authorisation process for payments.

ACTIONS - NF

5761 General maintenance & highway matters

- (a) Nimmings Car Park and highway improvements to discourage late night ASB (Cllr May/NT) – progress update on stopping up order and new TRO – this was with the NT currently.
- (b) Repairs to bench outside church – progress update (Cllr Sheppard) – this would be completed within the next fortnight,
- (c) Litter bin outside parish hall – quote from BDC (Cllr May) – this was with Cllr May.
- (d) Odnall Lane pavements are narrowed by overgrowing vegetation. The Lengthsman would be asked to side out the footways.
- (e) Road signs around Violet Lane and Walton Pool Lane need to be checked as some need washing and some are hidden by vegetation. The Lengthsman had already completed work on some signs in that area but would check for any others that need attention.
- (f) New VAS on Bromsgrove Road – it was **RESOLVED** to spend £2000 on a new solar powered VAS to replace the battery powered unit on Bromsgrove Road. Cllr May would also contribute £400 from her WCC Divisional Fund, and Cllr May and Cllr Nock would contribute £250 each from their BDC Member funds. Cllr May would arrange for the unit to be ordered and installed.
- (g) Gateway planters – it was agreed that the gateway planters needed some attention. Cllr Sheppard had recently weeded them but a plan to plant them up and maintain them was needed. Cllrs ffoulkes and Bates would approach the local gardening club to see if they could assist.

ACTIONS: KM/PB/SF

5762 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

- (a) Trim Trail field lease – update re potential asset transfer. This is with the BDC legal department.
- (b) Pond footpath levelling/surfacing – update on new contractor to carry out work – no update.
- (c) New play equipment to be purchased with the BDC Community Grant. It was agreed to purchase an accessible roundabout and different styles and prices would be investigated. There had been a quote from Playdale already for £7195 (unit only). BDC grant would cover 50% of the overall cost.
- (d) Playground 3 year maintenance and replacement plan – it was agreed that a 3 year plan should be drawn up to maintain and/or replace the existing play equipment as some of the units are close to the end of their life. Cllrs ffoulkes would start work on this and report back at the next PC meeting. The Clerk would circulate the 2025 RoSPA report to all councillors for information.
- (e) Pathways and gates – it was noted that it is all very well having accessible play equipment but the entry points and general surface to and around the play equipment is inadequate. Cllr Bates would look at improving/replacing the gated access to the play area, and the surfacing would be included in the 3 year plan.
- (f) Orchard – the trees in the orchard need to be topped. Cllr Sheppard would arrange this.

ACTIONS: NF/SF/PB/ES

5763 Planning

25/00789/FUL - Malvern Cottage , Holy Cross Green - Single-storey rear extension. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objection.

5764 Parish Magazine

The Clerk would write a general update. Cllr ffoulkes would also forward the flyer for the Youth Council event in September.

ACTION: NF/SF

5765 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 15th SEPTEMBER 2025 at Clent Parish Hall. There is no meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:_____ **Date:**_____
