



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 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, Cllr Drew Beaumont

**In attendance:** County & District Cllr Karen May, District Cllr Simon Nock, Nick Farress (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

### **5766 Apologies for absence**

George Kirkham (National Trust)

### **5767 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5772(b)(iii)/(v) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

### **5768 Dispensations**

There were none.

### **5769 Clent Youth Council**

- Indoor Games Event – the event at the parish hall was a great success with over 20 young people in attendance. The table tennis kit purchased by the PC would remain at the parish hall for future use. Thanks were extended to Cllr Karen May for paying for the refreshments.
- Christmas event – due to the lack of hall availability, there would be no Christmas event this year, however there would be carols around the Christmas tree.

### **Public comments/questions:**

The following issues were raised by the public:

- Bromsgrove Local Plan Review – sites on Hossil Lane identified as “grey” sites (see 5775 below).

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

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

- Bromsgrove Local Plan Review
- Housing targets for Bromsgrove and lack of education provision
- WCC have cancelled the new school in Worcester

- High cost of home to school transport due to lack of local school places
- Devolution and unitary councils for Worcestershire.

### 5770 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman. **\*NOTE – there was no meeting in August\***

### 5771 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

- (a) From a resident raising concerns about the proposed housing site on the border with Hagley in the local plan review consultation document – (see 5775 below).
- (b) From WCC inviting the PC to comment on the “Review of Worcestershire County Council’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan” – the PC had no comments to make.
- (c) From a resident reporting that the road name sign for Horsall Lane is missing. It was clarified that Cllr Sheppard has the sign for repair and will be refitted in due course

#### **ACTIONS - ES**

### 5772 Finance

(a) It was **RESOLVED** to renew the council’s insurance policy with Hiscox for the 2025/26 as arranged by Gallagher Insurance Brokers at a premium of £2082.11 and to “lock in” the premium for 3 years.

(b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of the following for September:

|                                                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (i) Clerk salary & expenses (2 months)               | £1,706.40 |
| (ii) HMRC PAYE                                       | £215.09   |
| (iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman                      | £603.00   |
| (iv) BDC Lease of Land                               | £60.00    |
| (v) Cllr Ed Sheppard expenses (chippings etc)        | £1,542.95 |
| (vi) Clent Connect Ltd (litter picking refreshments) | £78.45    |
| (vii) Sutcliffe Play (swing seats)                   | £229.68   |
| (viii) PKF Littlejohn LLP                            | £378.00   |
| (ix) Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd       | £2,082.11 |
| (x) Clent Parish Hall                                | £60.00    |

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

(d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the monthly bank reconciliation for September (circulated previously) noting a balance at 31/08/25 of £92,508.58.

#### **ACTIONS - NF**

### 5773 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) – now complete.

(c) Litter bin outside parish hall – quote from BDC (Cllr May) – this was with Cllr May.

(d) New VAS for Bromsgrove Rd – Cllr Sheppard would send a “what3words” to Cllr May for the exact location for the new VAS.

(e) Gateway planters – the Clent Gardening Club had kindly agreed plant and maintain the planter on Broome Lane. Cllr Sheppard would look at the other planters as they may need to be moved to allow the Gardening Club to adopt these and work on them safely.

#### **ACTIONS: KM/ES**

#### **5774 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 – it was **RESOLVED** to select Playdale Playgrounds to supply the new inclusive roundabout using the Bromsgrove DC community grant. The PC will need to match fund. The final quote including earthworks, supply, installation was £13,348 and the Clerk would now instruct Playdale accordingly and arrange for the 50% deposit to be paid prior to the work starting.
- (d) Playground 3 year maintenance and replacement plan – Cllrs ffoulkes and Bates presented an initial draft budget over the next 3 years and would firm up some of the costs and plans for the October/November meeting.
- (e) Pathways and gates – in order for the new inclusive/accessible play equipment to be accessed, a new gate would need to be installed off Hossil Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £1032 plus installation. The same gate is in use in Romsley if anyone wanted to see it in situ. Cllr Bates would arrange to order the gate.

**ACTIONS: NF/SF/PB/ES/KM**

#### **5775 Planning**

- (a) It was agreed to provide an objection to the land allocations for housing proposed in the local plan review, specifically the site in Hagley which borders Clent parish. Cllr Mudie would circulate a response for comment following which the Clerk would submit on behalf of the PC. The objections would focus on infrastructure & facilities and environmental impact.

#### **5776 Parish Magazine**

There were no specific items for the November issue, so the Clerk would write a general update including the Youth Council games event.

**ACTION: NF**

#### **5777 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.**

Next agenda – Update of the 2006 Parish Plan.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 20th October 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

*The meeting closed at 9.00pm.*

**Signed as a true record:**

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