



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 20th October 2025**
at Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QT

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ed Sheppard, Cllr Andrew Sherrey, Cllr Sara ffoulkes, Cllr David Mudie, Cllr Drew Beaumont

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

5778 Apologies for absence

George Kirkham (National Trust)

5779 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5784(a)(iii) as he is the parish Lengthsman and cheque payee. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or sign the cheques.

5780 Dispensations

There were none.

5781 Clent Youth Council

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

- Board game event
- Basketball hoop – awaiting a part
- Mural on the underpass – this is with Cllr M Sherrey
- Youth Council Garden – creation of a garden or allotment

ACTIONS - MS

Public comments/questions:

The following issues were raised by the public:

- No questions from the public.

County and District Councillor Updates

Councillor Simon Nock reported on the following from Bromsgrove DC

- Bromsgrove Local Plan Review
- Devolution and unitary councils for Worcestershire.

5782 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th September 2025 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5783 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

(a) From the Clent Litter Pickers asking the PC to purchase some hi-viz vests. It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £120 for this purpose.

5784 Finance

(a) To consider and agree the payment of the following for Oct 2025:

(i) Clerk salary & expenses	£817.49
(ii) HMRC PAYE	£89.57
(iii) Mr Ed Sheppard Lengthsman & Expenses	£627.50
(iv) Cllr Sara ffoulkes expenses	£67.97
(v) Playdale Playgrounds (50% deposit)	£6,673.81
(vi) Clent Connect Ltd (refreshments YC event)	£25.70
(vii) Clent Cricket Club 3 months mowing	£1,320.00
(viii) Playdale Playgrounds (VAT)	£1,334.76

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

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the monthly bank reconciliation for September (circulated previously) noting a balance at 30/09/25 of £78,859.69

ACTIONS - NF

5785 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) Litter bin outside parish hall – quote from BDC (Cllr May) – this was with Cllr May.

(c) New VAS for Bromsgrove Rd – the Clerk had clarified the funding plan for the VAS including contributions from Cllr May and Cllr Nock and the unit was on order with WCC.

(d) Adams Hill – water running of Clent Hills due to blocked drainage on NT land. Cllr Sheppard and Cllr A Sherrey held a site meeting with the NT in an attempt to move this forward.

(e) Speeding – WMP have a new speed “gun” which is more efficient than previous models used. WMP would like to know the areas where the unit could be best deployed, but any area would need to meet strict criteria in relation to speed limit changes and visibility.

(f) Christmas tree – Cllr Sheppard would source a 18/20 foot tree. The electrician has asked that the tree is in place by the end of November so that the cherry picker is available to install the lights. It was agreed to further discuss storage and purchasing more energy efficient lights for the tree at a future meeting.

(g) Defibrillator “phone” booth on Adams Hill – the light in the booth does not work. Cllr Sheppard would contact the electrician who installed it to return to fix the problem.

ACTIONS: KM/ES

5786 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) Playground 3 year maintenance and replacement plan – Cllr ffoulkes presented an updated budget over the next 3 years including some estimated costs. The draft budget is appended to these Minutes at Appendix A and the Clerk would work the figures into the 2026/27 overall council

budget. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the costs for 2025/26 which would be funded from the “playground improvements” budget plus reserves which are:

- (i) £2,948 for new seating (benches and replacement picnic table)
- (ii) £4,000 for the toddler area refurbishment
- (d) Pathways and gates – no update as Cllr Bates was absent.

ACTIONS: NF/SF/PB/ES/KM

5787 Planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

5788 Parish Plan

It was **RESOLVED** not to refresh the Parish Plan created in 2006 due to a lack of PC resources and uncertainty as to the practical value of such a plan.

5789 Parish Magazine

There were no specific items for the December issue, so the Clerk would write a general update..

ACTION: NF

5790 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 17th November 2025 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:_____ **Date:**_____