



Meeting of **Clent Parish Council** held at **7:00pm on Monday 16th March 2026**
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 Drew Beaumont (from 7.20pm), Cllr Mark Brocklebank, Cllr Peter Bates

In attendance: County/District Councillor Karen May, District Cllr Simon Nock, Nick Farress (Clerk), 2 members of the community.

5829 Apologies for absence

None

5830 Declarations of interest

Cllr Ed Sheppard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 5836(a) as he is the parish Lengthsman and payment recipient. Cllr Sheppard did not vote on this item or approve the payment.

5831 Dispensations

There were none.

5832 Clent Youth Council

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

- Valentines event was very successful.
- Litter pick event organised for May.
- Christmas event planning has begun.

Public comments/questions:

The following issues were raised by the public:

- A resident asked when the new back board to the basketball hoop was going to be installed as it had been over 12 months since the original request. Cllr Sheppard reported that there had been some issues with the supplier but an alternative supplier would be sought.

County and District Councillor Updates

Councillors Karen May and Simon Nock provided updates on the following:

- BDC budget agreed with a 2.99% increase in their element of the council tax.
- £1.25m Community Investment Fund agreed – application process yet to be agreed.
- Ward Member Fund increased to £5k.

- Clent allotments – would the PC be willing to take these on? This would be put on a future PC Agenda.
- LGR update including the proposal for new “neighbourhood committees”. The role of PCs in this new structure was unclear.
- Flytipping – 33 enforcement cameras now in operation.

5833 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th February 2026 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

5834 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered:

(a) From BDC – “Local Government is Proposed to Change in Your Local Area - Government Consultation is Now Live”. It was **RESOLVED** to respond that the PC consider a two unitary option (north/south) would serve the county more effectively. The Clerk would respond officially on behalf of the PC.

(b) From Catshill Baptist Church asking for funding for a local foodbank and white goods scheme – this request was declined.

(c) From WMP asking the PC to provide any new policing priorities for the parish. The priorities remain the same (drugs/antisocial driving/flytipping). The Clerk would respond accordingly.

5835 Defibrillator at Parish Hall

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the purchase of a iPad SP1 Semi-Automatic Defibrillator at £750+VAT and £10.95 carriage from Wel Medical due to the failure of the existing unit. Mr Richard Price would handle the purchase and installation of the unit in liaison with the Clerk.

It was noted that Clent Connect were holding a defib training event on the 9th May. The PC would fund additional places to widen the attendance at the event if Clent Connect felt this was necessary and there was space.

ACTION: NF

5836 Finance

(a) Payments – January/February 2026 – it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of the following from the council's current account via the Unity Trust Bank internet banking system:

19/01/2026	first choice electrician	120.00
19/01/2026	Ed Sheppard expenses	611.75
19/01/2026	ed sheppard lengthsman	722.00
21/01/2026	Scottish Power	19.40
31/01/2026	bank charges	6.00
09/02/2026	WCC Street Lighting	485.44
16/02/2026	WCC VAS unit	2,900.00
16/02/2026	N Farress salary	807.03
16/02/2026	HMRC PAYE	89.77
23/02/2026	Scottish Power	19.40
24/02/2026	Clent Orchards	255.00
27/02/2026	Bromsgrove DC Lease of Land	60.00
27/02/2026	Mia Chalrton Youth Council	7.50
28/02/2026	bank charges	6.00

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

(c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the monthly bank reconciliation for February (circulated previously) noting a balance at 28/02/26 £83,843.18

ACTIONS: NF

5837 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 but there have been changes to the staffing structure which has delayed progress.

(b) Litter bins outside parish hall and church - Cllr May had a site meeting to agree locations with the relevant officer at BDC.

(c) New VAS for Bromsgrove Rd – the unit was on order with WCC.

(d) Chapel Lane flooding due to a blocked ditch. Cllr Sheppard would e-mail North Worcs Water Management and copy in Cllr May.

ACTIONS: KM/ES

5838 Field Maintenance & Play Areas

(a) Trim Trail field lease – update re potential asset transfer. This is with the BDC legal department.

(b) Play area new access gate – it was **RESOLVED** to accept a quote for £750 for the new accessible gate from Steelway Fensecure. Cllr Bates would arrange for the unit to be delivered to his home address and handle the installation.

(c) Tarmac path to new accessible roundabout – it was **RESOLVED** to accept a quote for £3,200+VAT from Ultimate Driveways. Another 2 quotes were requested – one company submitted a quote for £6,200+VAT and another company declined to quote.

(d) “Twin towers” climbing frame – it was **RESOLVED** to accept a quote from AE Evans Ltd (who supplied the unit originally) for £650+VAT on parts and labour to refurbish this piece of play equipment. Cllr Bates and the Clerk would liaise with the supplier.

(e) Play equipment 3 year plan – Cllrs Bates and ffoulkes advised that the cost of new and refurbishing existing equipment over the next 3 financial years would be around £52k. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into placing £35k of reserves “ring fenced” for the project into a separate saving account with Unity Trust Bank.

(f) Path and gateway by duck pond – this path needs to be levelled with hardcore and kerbed. Cllr Bates would ask the same company who are doing the roundabout path to quote.

ACTIONS: KM/PB/SF/NF

5839 Planning

The following applications were considered:

There were no new applications.

5840 Parish Magazine

There were no specific items for the May issue but the Clerk would submit the annual finance report.

ACTION: NF

5841 Councillor updates and items for next Agenda.

(a) New concrete picnic tables for play area.

(b) Moving play area benches away from the overgrowth.

(c) Unity Trust savings account for ring fenced reserves.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council is the 20th April 2026 at Clent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____
