



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. B. Angell	Cllr. R. Andrews
Cllr. R. Bowles	Cllr. J. Limond
Cllr. R. Davies	Cllr. D Morris
Cllr. M. Duffee	Cllr. W. Shepherd
Cllr. M Jones	Cllr. N. Hartin

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk)
Tracey Amass (Minute taker)

1 members of the public

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	Agenda item	
150-2024	1.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
		The Mayor thanked those in attendance and noted that apologies had been received from Cllrs Andrews, Limond, Morris and Shepherd.
151-2024	2.	DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING AND WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS
		(Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer). <i>Please note that all members need to complete a new declaration of pecuniary interests register for the Council term, whether previously a councilor or not.</i>
		None reported.
152-2024	3.	MAYOR'S REPORT



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		<p>The past month has been filled with numerous events and meetings. Councillors had discussions with officials from Natural England concerning planning issues in the valley, although no progress has been achieved so far. Nevertheless, we now have established open communication channels between the council and Natural England. Earlier, I proposed an open meeting to gather Clun residents' opinions on planning, which I intend to organize soon.</p> <p>The lack of local input stems from the community's disinterest in creating a neighborhood plan, making such a meeting potentially beneficial in fostering future involvement and enthusiasm.</p> <p>Last night, I joined nearby parish councils of Llanfair, Newcastle, and Bucknell to discuss their views on Shropshire Council's budget proposal. It was reassuring to see a consensus that the demand for 10% of our precepts is impractical and would likely offer no direct benefit to us.</p> <p>Questions about accountability and governance emerged over the allocation and oversight of this funding. It was also noted that residents of parishes like Llanfair and Bucknell usually use facilities outside Shropshire Council's area, making it hard to justify contributing to a fund for services they don't utilise.</p> <p>This issue also highlighted the absence of planning, which consequently hampers our ability to generate new revenue through the precept. The conversations held will be relayed for discussion at the South Shropshire Mayors Forum on Friday. I believe that a more collaborative approach from the Clun Ward will enhance our position when lobbying the Local Authority. I am hopeful this group will begin meeting informally more frequently and include Clunbury and Bettws to reinforce our collective efforts.</p> <p>November marks the 2-year Anniversary of the Butty Van project, with High Sheriff Brian Welti attending. Additionally, we have a charity event on 16 November for SpArC, Clun Valley AED, and Lingen Davies. Tickets will be available soon. Please support to help raise funds for these charities.</p> <p>Cllr Angell mentioned people had asked why Shropshire Council were asking for extra from us rather than putting it on the council tax. It was noted that this would not be likely to benefit the local area and therefore would not be supported.</p>
153-2024	4.	PUBLIC SESSION
		<p>(i) Shropshire Councillor Report – no report received (ii) Police Report – no report received. (iii) Public comments - A member of the public mentioned that the website is still not being maintained despite this being raised numerous times. When would the council employ someone to ensure this is resolved. Cllr Davies said that a Deputy Clerk will be employed who will take on this work. Cllr Bowles noted that the minutes had been posted on the Town Hall notice board. The member of the public also raised the issue of LED lights noting that the new lights being installed do not appear to be in line with agreed spec which aims to reduce light pollution. The Clerk said he was not aware of the need for a tight light cone and would investigate to ensure this was raised with Highways.</p>



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154-2024	5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
		<p>Cllr. Davies asked if there were any amendments required for the minutes. Cllr Angell raised a question regarding item 9 setting out that the SOs which had been discussed at the previous meeting were not the extant SOs and therefore the decision taken was not taken on the correct basis.</p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that the same conclusion would have been reached and therefore it does not need to be discussed again.</p> <p>Cllr Angell also noted that in item 8 the word ownership should be changed to a lease.</p> <p>Minutes agreed.</p>
155-2024	6.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		Nothing to report.
156-2024	7.	CLERK'S REPORT
		<p>The work has been undertaken at the closed church yard and this had been well received. Tenders were in regarding the conservation of the closed church yard. Only one had been received. Cllr. Angell said it should be done as soon as possible.</p>
157-2024	8.	CASTLE GROUNDS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To discuss the land drainage around the Castle – deferred to next meeting. It was noted some drainage work had been done recently in the Castle Meadow.b) To discuss the paper regarding taking ownership of the pathway between Buffalo Lane and the Castle - dealt with in item 7.



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158-2024	9.	REVIEW OF CONTRACTS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The grass cutting contract (General) – Current arrangement to continue2. The contract for Toilet Cleaning – Current arrangement to continue3. The Contract for Grass Cutting (Clun Cemetery) – Current arrangement to continue4. The Contract for Grass Cutting (Closed Churchyard) – A tender is expected from the incumbent and it is expected to be a reasonable price. <p>A vote to agree the above. Proposed by Cllr. Duffee and seconded by Cllr. Bowles, agreed unanimously.</p>
159-2024	10.	PLANNING
		<p>a) To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters</p> <p>24/03365/LBC Installation of log burner and flue (retrospective application) Hackney Barn Guilden Down Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 8NZ</p> <p>No comments on the application.</p>
160-2024	11.	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL
		<p>To update on the following and any action deemed necessary : -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Town Hall: summary of conclusions from the recent building report. Report was attached to the papers and would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. It was agreed that the proposed repairs to the cupola should go ahead to ensure the collection is not put at risk by the leaking roof. This would form part of the internal improvements set out in the original agreement.2. Public toilets: To discuss any issues – deferred to next month.
161-2024	12.	FINANCE



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		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation2. To discuss and decide on funding towards the improvements at the Memorial Hall – Deferred to next meeting.3. To approve the following invoices for payment.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. HMRC £209.32 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)b. G. J. Rippon £144.49 (expenses) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)c. Reynolds Conservation £28659.04 (Town Hall) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)d. Mark Room £1700.00 (Closed Churchyard) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)For information<ol style="list-style-type: none">e. John Churchett £500.00 Cleaner (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)f. Tracey Amass £89.88 Minute taker (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)g. Andrew Wallace £20.00h. Halls SMS – toilet paper £91.80 <p>All agreed unanimously..</p>
162-2024	13.	CORRESPONDENCE
		There was nothing to report under this heading
163-2024	14.	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS
		<p>Cllr Angell noted that work has commenced on altering the road signs regarding HGV use of the roads. A design for the drains at the bottom of Bridge Street is close to completion. This does not include the work needed in The Square. It seems that not addressing the drains in The Square would be a mistake as this would impact on Bridge Street. Cllr Davies noted that the money allocated to the road improvements does not appear to be in place. Cllr Angell suggested a face to face meeting with Highways in Shrewsbury. It was noted that the work needed at the ford did appear to be included in the planning.</p> <p>Cllr. Duffee asked all councillors to raise any issues being experienced with new email system. Once this was embedded further improvements could be considered.</p>
164-2024	15.	CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP



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		<p>We conducted an informal survey of Clun residents' views on biodiversity issues in Clun at Clun Show. A wide range of issues were mentioned. This will inform further more formal collection of views as in the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan. One outcome was that those surveyed felt the need for more communication from their Council about environmental issues, especially by social media. Himalayan Balsam pulling was concluded and the report accepted with suggestions for further work from the castle site to Waterloo next year. Litter picking will resume next month. We are consulting the Marches Energy Agency about whether or not grants for air source heating etc could be better publicised in Clun.</p> <p>Cllr Angell noted that Shropshire Wildlife Trust would welcome more engagement with regard to the Castle Grounds and would like the support of the council.</p>
165-2024	16.	Agenda items for the next meeting
166-2024	17.	Date of next meeting
		Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 5th November 2024
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 20.30