

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

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MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 4th March 2025 AT 7.30PM

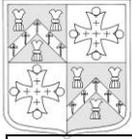
PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. R. Andrews Cllr. B. Angell Cllr. R. Bowles Cllr. J. Limond Cllr. M Jones Cllr. D Morris Cllr. W. Shepherd	Cllr. R. Davies Cllr. M. Duffee

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ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

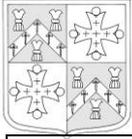
Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk)
 Tracey Amass (Minute taker)
 Nigel Hartin (Shropshire Cllr)
 1 member of the public

018-2025	1	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
		The Mayor sent his apologies and Cllr. Bowles proposed Cllr. Limond to chair the meeting. Agreed unanimously. Cllr. Limond welcomed attendees and thanked those in attendance. Apologies received from Cllrs. Davies and Duffee.
019-2025	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 councillor or not.</i>
		None reported.
020-2025	3	MAYOR'S REPORT
		17 April - opening of the Town Hall. Lord Lieutenant has confirmed and invites have gone out to various people. This will generally be open to anyone who wishes to attend weather permitting of course, this should be a good opportunity to meet a few people from across the community and further afield. White Horse has agreed to do the catering and I'll send out a firmed up schedule once confirmed with an idea of who will be attending. Obviously would be good to get the full complement of councillors there if possible. Idea is everything kicks off at about 12pm at the Square. One thing we'll need to consider is coning off part of the square closer to the town hall for people to stand. The idea is to encourage people travelling to park at the bridge or memorial hall.



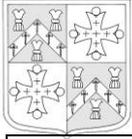
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		<p>8th May - VE Day. This is still being worked on which if all goes to plan, a beacon and church bells. I'm working with the RBL to get a better plan together, again will be back in touch with what we come up with.</p> <p>Telephone box - it's come to our attention there appears to be a plan to remove the kiosk by the town hall. This was noticed by Cllr Angell yesterday and neither of us are that sure where this has come about or why. A few years back we were consulted on the removal of the kiosk at Whitcott and the decision was made to keep it, so why no consultation has been given this time raises a few questions.</p> <p>SpArC Open Evening - Friday 7th March at SpArC from 6pm. This is to celebrate the raising of £250,000 to replace the 50 year old swimming pool. Guest speaker is Ollie Morgan, previous lifeguard and Olympian at the France 2024 games. It would be good to see Clun Councillors in attendance as we've been granting SpArC money for a couple of years to add to the pot.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the potential removal of the phone and or box in the square. It was agreed that the box is a key feature but the phone could be removed with Cllr. Shepherd not supporting the decision due to potential cost of upkeep.</p>
021-2025	4	PUBLIC SESSION
		<p>(i) Shropshire Council Report – Cllr. Hartin reported that the council has now moved out of the Shire Hall and is now in the Guildhall. The budget has now been passed for the next year due to the government allowing borrowing which is required to cover the costs of redundancies. The situation regarding services remains tight with a high proportion of the budget going to adult care services. There is pressure on the highways budget. Elections will take place on 1st May. Pre-election period starts on 10th March. Cllr. Hartin will not be standing at this election and has been a councillor for 28 years.</p> <p>A member of the public asked what the consultants have been doing as the cost is high, also what will happen to the work that the 540 people being made redundant. Cllr. Hartin said that the consultants have identified cost savings and the work will either be stopped or undertaken by smaller team.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the proposed Shrewsbury relief road, a decision will be made after the election and opposition parties do not support the road.</p> <p>Cllr. Shepherd asked what the 540 was as a proportion of the total staff, it was around 15%.</p> <p>(ii) Police Report – None received.</p> <p>(iii) Public comments – A member of the public asked about a meeting which is due to take place regarding Clun castle. Cllr. Bowles noted that this meeting is not a council meeting and it is not council land. Cllr. Angell said that the need for a meeting had been agreed between the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, English Heritage and Clun Town Council. Cllr. Limond highlighted the efforts that have been put in regarding the castle area by a number of local groups.</p>
022-2025	5	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
		Subject to minor amendments Cllr. Shepherd proposed approval of the minutes and Cllr. Angell seconded. Agreed.
023-2025	6	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		Cllr. Angell reported that there is now a structure under the footbridge which contains kit for continuous water monitoring. The live data is going to the EA and is supported by regular physical testing. Cllr Angell asked about progress with ordering bins which



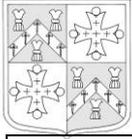
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		was in 13 of the previous minutes. The Clerk to send the prices out following the meeting to all councillors. Action: Bin prices to be circulated by the Clerk.
024-2025	7	CLERK'S REPORT
		Nothing to report.
025-2025	8	Christmas lights
		To discuss the provision of Christmas lights. Cllr. Limond talked to a paper that had previously been circulated to members. In summary the Green Man committee have managed the lights and it may now be a good idea for this to come back under more formal control which a working group to be set up to manage the lights in the future. Cllr. Angell said it feels valid that formal ownership of the working group should sit under the Town Council. The Clerk would have delegated authority for £600 spend with any other spend needing to come to council. Agreed unanimously.
026-2025	9	Highways
		To discuss any highway issues. Cllr. Angell reported that the design of the repairs around the ford is complete and pricing is being explored. Timing of the repairs will need to fit around weather and water levels in the brook and river. The design for the drainage works in Bridge Street is complete and permissions are being sought from EA regarding upsizing the outfall pipe into the river Clun, along with work to clear debris around the flood arch. Costs are being sought and discussions will be needed to agree timeframes due to the disruption this will bring to the town. It was agreed that when dates are known it would be sensible for all councilors and traders to discuss the arrangements. Cllr. Limond thanked Cllr. Angell for the hard work undertaken over the past seven years.
027-2025	10	Planning
		a) To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters 1. 25/00380/FUL Application for replacement of all windows, installation of timber cladding to two gable ends and front elevation and insertion of 1.5m flue in east facing roofline at 21B High Street Clun Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 8JB Supported unanimously.
028-2025	11	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL
		To update on the following and any action deemed necessary: - 1. Town Hall: a. Town Hall Maintenance. Current position:- a. The works have been signed off as completed. an additional sandstone is to be replaced, at a cost of £735. Reynolds will be undertaking this work during w/c 3 March. b. The Flag support bracket has been fabricated by a local company in stainless steel and now just awaits the purchase of flag poles we estimate at a cost of circa £42 for two, the flags will be at extra cost, before completion. c. Finances, headline figures are as follows:- Total cost including repairs to the Cupola are £78,028.42 Grant from Levelling Up Fund was £53,385.00 Hence, the balance or the amount funded by CTC is £24,643.42 A detailed breakdown will be circulated at this meeting.



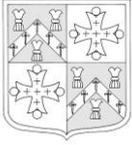
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		<p>2. Other Items relating to The Town Hall:-</p> <p>a. Clock Maintenance:- Following a conversation with Smiths of Derby the cost of £1,284 for servicing the clocks included 3 new motors, one for each clock. Smiths suggested that we also need a new auto-restart mechanism. Smiths suggest maintenance should be undertaken every 2 years, they are to provide quotations for the auto-restart and servicing (an alternative for combining servicing with their visit to St George's was also requested). Cllr. Angell asked if the records could be checked regarding any work undertaken at the last service regarding the auto-start function. Clerk to check records.</p> <p>b. Stair Lift Maintenance:-</p> <p>i. Acorn Stair Lifts are due to service the stairlift during 11th March, which is approx. 5 weeks before the Museum re-opens. The cost is £414.</p> <p>ii. Cllr. Shepherd proposed that careful consideration be given to removing the stairlift, this is for three reasons, firstly the cost of on-going maintenance is hard to justified considering the little (or no use) that it gets, secondly, should there be a fire when visitors are upstairs, the stairlift would hamper their safe evacuation and thirdly visitors are forced to use the narrow part of the stair treads when using the stairs. Cllr. Bowles noted that the stair lift had been used a number of times last summer and this should be discussed with The Town Trust.</p> <p>c. Electrical Condition Report:-</p> <p>i. Whilst the last inspection was carried out in November 2020 by EOM of Newtown, an inspection is due over the next few months, a Quotation from EOM has been received and a second price is also being sought. PA Testing is to be included.</p> <p>d. Museum Tenancy Agreement:-</p> <p>i. The current agreement as circulated on 5th February, gives details of the Tenant/Landlord terms and conditions. Cllr. Shepherd drew the Council's attention the clause setting out that the Council will retain the absolute right to use the office space for such purposes as it wishes, as when an Assistant to the Clerk is it would be very helpful to have a base in Clun, to deposit paperwork and to check on Council documents etc. Other conditions are equally relevant and possibly a meeting between the Museum Trustees and Council may be helpful going forward. Cllr. Bowles noted that there are council documents stored in the office at the Town Hall. Cllr. Angell suggested that there could be a review of these documents and decisions made regarding the appropriate storage for the future. Action: Cllr. Angell to draft a note regarding the documents</p> <p>The Chair thanked the team for the work on the renovations to the Town Hall.</p> <p>2. St Georges Closed Churchyard. To discuss and actions The survey of the memorials has been completed. In summary a number of the memorials are in poor repair but none are at risk of imminent collapse. The cemetery is currently ok, the compost bins need some attention. There is one grave which is slightly sunken and would benefit from attention. The retaining wall does need attention in the area which is currently degrading. Cllr. Shepherd noted that the recent survey suggested that so long as the vegetation is kept under control the risk is low. It was agreed that there is no urgency but a future survey could be undertaken to check for further degradation. Action: Survey of cemetery retaining wall To be discussed again in 6 months.</p>
029-2025	12	FINANCE
		<p>1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation. The clerk said that it would be unlikely that any funds would be added to the ear marked reserves at the end of the year.</p> <p>2. To approve the following invoices for payment.</p> <p>a. HMRC £265.21p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p>



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		<p>b. G. J. Rippon £76.99 (expenses) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) c. Teme Valley Engineering £117.00p (flag pole bracket) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) For Information d. Jon Churchett £500.00 Cleaner (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) e. Tracey Amass £89.88 Minute taker (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles proposed Cllr. Andrews second, all agreed.</p>
030-2025	13	CORRESPONDENCE
		<p>Clerk distributed packs for those wishing to stand. Cllr. Bowles reported that the Town Trust was seeking agreement to appoint a new trustee. Agreed unanimously.</p>
031-2025	14	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS
		<p>Cllr. Angell noted that the river sensors are plugged into the toilets and would remain in use for 6 months. This would mean that the socket could not be used by others for the duration of the time. A second socket is in place but it is not clear if that will become an issue.</p> <p>Cllr Shepherd mentioned an email that had been received from Trinity Hospital regarding the state of the footpath and kissing gate at the boundary wall. Action: Cllr Bowles to ask P3 group to address.</p> <p>Cllr. Andrews asked if the cost of the cleaning contract could be reviewed as it has not been increased for a number of years, Action: Cllr Andrews to ask for an email to be sent by the cleaner regarding number of hours being worked.</p> <p>Cllr. Shepherd said that the cost of the marquee for the Clun Show has increased by significantly and would be council consider helping with the costs. Cllr. Limond suggested a formal grant application be submitted.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris asked if the Clerk had been able to obtain a response from Highline regarding the light on Buffalo Lane. Action: Clerk to chase a response from Highline regarding the light on Buffalo Lane.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles had been contacted by a member of the public who would like a light in the Square to be restored. Shropshire Council have said it can go on the member of public's house if she gives written permission. Had the Council been approached regarding the others. The Clerk reported that no contact had been received from Shropshire Council regarding this matter.</p>
032-2025	15	CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP
		<p>A follow up event to the successful Clun in the Future event of 2021 is being planned for 28th Sept at the Memorial Hall. The focus will be actions from Clun Council's Biodiversity Action Plan. There are several events and activities planned about the state of the River Clun. The group is participating in Shropshire Council's Nature Recovery Consultation. Litter Picking is taking place monthly. Links are being developed with the Bishops Castle group as well as existing strong links with the Clunbury group.</p>
033-2025	16	Agenda items for the next meeting
		<p>None.</p>
034-2025	17	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Next meeting to be held 1st April 2025
		<p>Signed by the Chair. Meeting closed at 8.50pm</p>



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