

CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP (CCEG) Minutes of meeting by ZOOM on Thursday 29th January 2026

Summary for next Council meeting; The Group was pleased to learn that the Council's insurance covers its voluntary litter pickers. There are ongoing efforts to develop charging stations for owners of EV's in Clun. There is ongoing concern about the apparent inaction of the Strategic Clun Liaison Group in protecting the river, following a meeting called by the SWT and at which the CCEG was represented. Strategies to intervene are being considered. Concerns over the ever-present floods in Clun and the lack of public information were discussed and a request to SCC to consider this matter is in hand.

1. **Attendees;** Robert Humphreys (chair), Chrissie Verduyn (secretary), Catherine Humphreys (minute secretary), Mary Eminson, Rowan Cairns-Wade, Dave Thomlinson, Christina Anderson, Rowena Bowles, Tom Wall, Ursula Freeman, Angela Martin, who was welcomed to the Group.

Apologies for Absence; Brian Angell, Alison Weeks.

Declarations of interest; none

2. **Minutes of last meeting (20.11.25)** No amendments and agreed. Matters arising on agenda.

3. **Finance.** Rowena reported no change to account at £34.12. However, there has been a late invoice from Enterprise House for printing as part of event 'Clun in the Future' which totals £57.71. Rowena has paid this and suggested she could delay reimbursement until funds allow. She was thanked and this agreed, although it was noted that at present there are no fund raising plans.

4. **Feedback from Council meeting and planning applications.**

There was no meeting in January. Report therefore on December meeting.

Sam Walmsley (SCC) raised issue of the Councils use of glyphosate. The Council will only use minimally.

The matter of insurance cover for litter pickers acting as part of the CCEG was discussed. The SCC's insurance will cover this activity, provided all pickers are described as Council Litter Pickers. Rowena has submitted a list of all CCEG members so as to ensure cover of anyone who turns up unexpectedly. It was agreed that a note will be placed in the Chronicle asking that first-time volunteers email CCEG. Following questions Rowena confirmed the cover is for public liability. There has been a single planning application for barn conversion at The Hurst. Mary queried whether sufficient wildlife surveys would be done and Angela asked the provenance of the barn. Robert said these details were outside of the CCEG remit.

5. **Clun in the Future**

Update on three planned actions;

a) EV charging;

Robert has spoken to Rob Andrews (Chair Memorial Hall) and a meeting is to be set-up. **Action** Robert

b) Street groups for garden sustainability;

More news to follow at next meeting including notice in Chronicle.

Action Mary

c) Local Food Security

Catherine reported that she had found half a dozen local producers and suggested we might highlight their existence and offer information about their outlets perhaps through a piece in the Chronicle which was agreed.

Action Catherine

In connection with this Christina reported on an event to be held at The Discovery Centre 12/2 giving a platform to local producers. She said it was fully booked but would send the information she had.

Action Christina

6. Strategic Clun Liaison Group Meeting with River Group (RCMG)

A report of the meeting held on 15/12/25 had been circulated. Tom and Robert who attended offered details.

Robert praised Tom's role in relation to the meeting.

Representation/Participation:

The meeting had been called by SWT. The NE, EA and ST attended but the SCC officer was not able to do so due to financial constraints. Sam Walmsley chaired the meeting and spoke for the Council.

The NFU attended and contributed positively.

Severn Trent was represented by Mark Craig who offered positive intentions. He mentioned the need to sort out the sewerage problems at Bucknell which is presently planned for the 2030/35 cycle of works. He said he would try to bring it forward.

Comments from Tom and Robert and suggested basis for future strategy

Broadly the SCLG is not a vehicle for change and action. The group remains moribund. A "blue print", to include action, was to have been written 2 years ago, but it is now anticipated that it will not be written for a further 12 months, and even when it is, there is unlikely to be money allocated to follow for implementation.

Tom suggested that a River Action Group should be formed, to avoid the difficulty of SWT being compromised in its intentions by its dependance on funding from the EA. He felt pressure to make the Clun catchment a "Water Protection Zone" was needed. He wondered if legal action could be taken to create this.

Robert questioned whether the Clun was a significant enough case to enable this. There was general agreement that farming practices are key to change. Rowan asked if it was known how many farms if persuaded, could bring about change. This was not known, but Christina felt there are already encouraging alterations in practice locally. Rowan agreed to try and find further information on number of farms involved.

Action Rowan

SHNL is apparently also working with farmers. Mary said she would speak to Mike Kelly to get a view from SWT.

7. Winter survey of Air Pollution in Bishop's Castle

A report had been circulated.

Dave confirmed that the checks in Bishops Castle had only been outside of buildings and in only one location. Christina felt that multiple locations should be tested. Chrissie wondered if the BC equipment could be borrowed in the spring. Rowena felt checks should be in winter.

Action Dave to ask if equipment could be borrowed, and Christina to write piece for Chronicle asking for a volunteer to undertake the checks.

8. Feedback from Shropshire Climate Action (SCA) meeting – 26.11.25

Report from Robert and Dave circulated. Dave said the most important subject had been the discussion about charging of EV's.

9. Campaigns

Flooding of Clun Bridge

Robert had asked if the Town Council could consider means of monitoring the water level at the bridge when it floods. Rowena reported that the Council confirmed the responsibility was with the Highways Authority.

There was discussion about the issue.

Chrissie felt the ever-increasing flood events due to climate change needed improved channels for communication and asked that this should be raised with SCC through Sam Walmsley.

Rowan agreed as a first step to investigate the EA website and Robert to attempt contact with the SC Highways team.

Action Rowan and Robert

Greenman

It was agreed our only contribution will be to litter pick.

Church energy actions

Dave had attended a meeting and will circulate extracts from the reports.

Action Dave

10. Events

There is to be a hedgerow walk in Clunbury the week of the 7/2. More information from Tom.

The inappropriate dredging of the stream between the pub and the river in Clunton, was raised by Tom with loss of crayfish and the landlords of many years at the pub. Contact has been made with Severn Trent.

SWT has arranged a presentation by Andy Boak and Sam Walmsley will attend.

Rowena asked if Tom could let her have any useful information.

Action Tom

ST has agreed to meet the CRMG to discuss “missed connections” (of Clun sweage pipes) on the 11th March; Sam Walmsely and Rowena will attend. Rowena asked Tom to send her information in advance.

11. AOB None

The meeting closed at 7.15

12. Date of next meeting

19/2/26 (but subsequently changed to 19th March)