

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

+

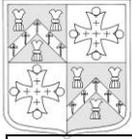
MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 6th May 2025 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. R. Bowles Cllr. R. Davies Cllr. M Jones Cllr. D Morris	Cllr. J. Limond
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk) Tracey Amass (Minute taker) 2 members of the public	

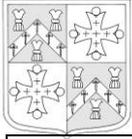
+

	Agenda item	
053-2025	1.	TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN / MAYOR
		Cllr. Davies opened the meeting and said he was prepared to stay on as mayor for a further year. It was agreed unanimously that this should happen.
054-2025	2.	TO RECORD PERSONS PRESENT
		See above
055-2025	3.	APOLOGIES No apologies received.



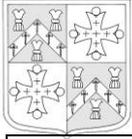
Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

056-2025	4.	PUBLIC SESSION 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>
057-2025	5.	TO ELECT THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN / VICE MAYOR
		Cllr. Davies proposed Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr. Bowles, agreed unanimously.
058-2025	6.	MAYORS REPORT To receive a report from the outgoing Mayor
		Cllr. Davies provided a summary of the three years served as Mayor. This covered ceremonial activities, the numerous challenges faced by the community over the period and some significant events. Thanks were extended to all those who supported the Mayor during the three years. Full transcript recorded at Appendix 1.
059-2025	7.	APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING: a) Personnel committee b) Planning Committee
		Deferred to next meeting.
060-2025	8.	APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATION a) Clun Memorial Hall – Cllr. Bowles b) Chapel Lawn Redlake Valley Village Hall - TBA c) Clun Climate Emergency Advisory Group – Cllr. Bowles d) South West Shropshire Enterprise- Cllr. Davies
061-2025	9.	APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS: a) Clun Highways and Traffic Working Group b) Churchyard working group



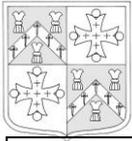
Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

		Deferred to next meeting.
062-2025	10.	TO CONFIRM THE POSITION OF CLUN PARISH TREE WARDEN
		Clerk to chase the current tree warden to clarify if he is still available.
063-2025	11.	TO CONFIRM RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GROUPS: a) Clun Parish Path Partnerships b) SpArC
		Current arrangements to remain.
064-2025	12.	TO CONFIRM OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES: a) Lead Councillor Town Hall Cllr. Bowles b) Lead Councillor Public Toilets TBA c) Lead Councillor Cemetery and St George's closed churchyard TBA d) Lead Councillor Street Lights - Cllr. Morris
065-2025	13.	TO CONFIRM FOR THE RECORD OTHER COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES a) Recreation Trust b) Appointment of Trustees to the Clun Town Trust (Museum) Custodian Trustee - Memorial Hall and Playing Field Trust
		Deferred to next meeting
066-2025	14.	TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND FORMAT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
		The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 16 th May at 6.30 and around 20 groups will provide updates on their activities.
067-2025	15.	PUBLIC SESSION (i) Shropshire Councillor Report – Cllr. Walmsley said that the new members had met for the first time and it was clear that pot holes are a key priority. The new leader would be elected later that week. (ii) Police Report none



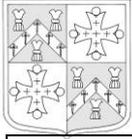
Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

		(iii) Public comments – If members of the public are present ten minutes will be set aside to allow the public to ask questions.
		A member of the public raised concerns regarding the fire risk assessment of the Town Hall. Cllr. Bowles reported that things were being progressed. The member of the public raised concerns regarding the current approach suggesting that there were potential breaches of fire regulations within the building. The contents of the building are not insured against fire and this was questioned as the lease requires insurance to be in place. The council is responsible for the insuring the contents owned by the council, which should be in the room set aside for those purposes. Documentation relating to the museum was currently being stored in the room set aside for council papers. This adds to the fire risk of the building. Cllr. Bowles maintained that the documents in question are archives of the town and therefore are the responsibility of the Town Council. The member of the public asserted that there is a real risk of fire and this could be devastating, the costs of rebuilding could be significant, and therefore proposed that a formal external assessment is undertaken. Cllr. Davies said this would be covered in the relevant agenda item.
068-2025	16.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES To approve and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 1 st April 2025.
		Agreed unanimously.
069-2025	17.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		Cllr. Bowles, item 6 regarding the phone box, this has been confirmed as a listed building. Item 13 regarding documentation held at the museum, this is an ongoing exercise and a report will be brought to the council at a future date.
070-2025	18.	CLERK'S REPORT To Receive the Clerk's Report
		-The Clerk reported that two applications have been received for co-option of council members to fill some of the remaining posts. A letter had been received from a member of the public regarding public access to the bailey, Ed McGregor of English Hert to be contacted. A letter had been received from a member of the public regarding a planning enforcement matter, the Clerk will chase this matter with the enforcement department.
071-2025	19.	PLANNING To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters 1. 25/01319/FUL Application for the erection of building for storing manure, and ancillary works at Upper Farm, Guilden Down, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NZ (This is for information only).



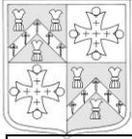
Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

		To note only.
072-2025	20.	<p>ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>To discuss and decide on the following: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Hall: Cllr. Davies said a meeting would be planned as soon as possible between the council and the Town Trust. SO were suspended for a member of the public to speak. The member of public questioned the statement made at the previous meeting regarding the potential for a fire assessment closing the museum and stating that the museum accreditation documentation supported the argument being made. Cllr. Bowles clarified that Cllr. Morris had mentioned that there was a risk that the building could be closed if a negative report was received. Cllr. Davies said this would be pursued as a matter of urgency, consideration would be given to how other similar buildings deal with this matter. 2. Public toilets: no update.
073-2025	21	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED
		<p>Cllr. Bowles reported that a date had been set for Clun in the Future 2, this would be held on Sunday September 28th at the Memorial Hall with the focus being on actions from Clun's Biodiversity Action Plan. The group had expressed gratitude to the council for the contribution towards this. There would involvement from several groups, talks and a play put on by young CADS members, other displays and activities.</p> <p>Litter picking would continue until the grass is too long with the area covered being extended to include Guilden Down and Bicton.</p> <p>Involvement in events regarding the state of the river continues and the group was seeking the council's support in requesting that a letter might be sent to the River Clun Liaison Group.</p> <p>Cllrs. Davies a Jones had attended the funeral of Phillip Dunne's father.</p>
074-2025	22.	<p>FINANCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To discuss whether Clun with Chapel Lawn Town Council meets the criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence. – Too few councillors elected so this will now be in abeyance until the next election. 2. To receive the Bank Reconciliation – No questions or comments 3. To receive the accounts year 2024-2025 – Cllr. Bowles sought clarification regarding the payment labelled as St George, the Clerk clarified that this related to the closed churchyard work. Accepted unanimously 4. To review and consider allocation of Earmarked Reserves. The Clerk noted that a further review of some items would be needed in the future. Cllr. Bowles asked if the reserve for the toilets maintenance was necessary at the current high level, it was agreed to leave it for the time being.



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

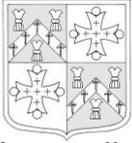
		<p>5. To approve the following invoices for payment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. HMRC £432.61p (S112 Local Government Act 1972) b. G. J. Rippon £76.99.00p (home working allowance, mileage and printing) (S112 Local Government Act 1972) c. G.J.Rippon £3874.42 Tax rebate (S112 Local Government Act 1972) d. Halls SMS £100.95 (Toilet supplies) (S111 Local Government Act 1972) e. PKF £378.00p (External Audit) S111 Local Government Act 1972) f. Cllr. Ryan Davies £480.44p (reimbursement of accommodation costs) (attending Garden Party) S111 Local Government Act 1972) g. A. Wallace £100 (Grass cutting) S9 &10 Open Spaces Act 1906 <p>For information</p> <p>Agreed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> h. Jon Churchett £500.00 Cleaner (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) i. Tracey Amass £89.88 Minute taker (S1-S7 Localism Act 20
075-2025	23.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE To review any correspondence received</p>
076-2025	24.	<p>INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles raised the issue of the position of the Freeman of the Town Board, suggesting that it could be positioned in the Memorial Hall Lobby. If members agreed a quote for the necessary work to be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>Public meeting on 21st May at 7.30 for the Clun Community Benefit Society and Cllr. Bowles asked if a Councillor would attend that meeting to show support and reinforce that there is no conflict of interests.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles said a letter had been received from Shropshire Wildlife Trust Clun and BC regarding a late payment, the Clerk said this could not now be paid until new signatories have been appointed.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris noted that the lights in the square have been replaced and are now up and running.</p>
077-2025	25.	<p>CONTRACTOR ISSUES *</p> <p>Cllr. Davies reported that the current contractor undertaking the cleaning of the toilets had not had a rise for a number of years. It was suggested that this should be increased to £600 and this was unanimously agreed. With regard to the post of Deputy Clerk, a candidate who is prepared to do 7 hours a month had been identified. A contract of employment to be prepared.</p>



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

		It was hoped that this person would be prepared to undertake the necessary training to become Clerk.
078-2025	26.	AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
		Wildlife trust resolution
	27.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 rd June 2025
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 20.47

* Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under Section (1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

Appendix 1

Mayor's update.

At the start of the term, three years seemed quite a daunting thought, especially as I was taking over from a previous Chair (Cllr. Brian Angell) who had undertaken a huge amount of work over several areas!

The first official duty was the Platinum Jubilee celebrations to commemorate the late Queen's 70 years of service to the Country and Commonwealth. The weekend comprised of a beacon and the 'Right Royal Knees Up' at the Memorial Hall, which was a great success and encouraged a large participation from across the community.

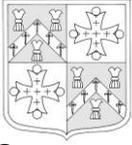
As the months progressed the health of Her Majesty deteriorated which saw her passing in September 2022. This triggered a process which I was totally unaware existed (and I would imagine most others had the same view). This saw all town Mayors, the Judiciary, Lieutenancy and the county's Shrievalty paraded through the streets of Shrewsbury to the Quarry Band Stand to accept the Proclamation from the High Sheriff to bring back to the respective towns.

This was a great honour and privilege to be part of. To have chaired through a jubilee, death of the Monarch and Coronation of the New King within 5 months was quite a rollercoaster to say the least. Personally, the Proclamation has bittersweet memories as shortly after the event Mum passed away and saw me disappear from action for a couple of months and I'd like to publicly thank councillors and residents for all of their support.

Whilst on the topic of dignitaries, it has been an absolute pleasure to have hosted visits from four High Sheriffs and the Lord Lieutenant at various events. Notably the 'Together at Christmas' service at St George's which was the first held. We've also seen a number of Clun people being recognised for their efforts through a number of High Sheriff awards and King's Awards. One thing that is always commented on is the community spirit in Clun and I think this is something we can all hold our heads up high about! We were also able to award two members of our community for the work they have undertaken – Richard Bright and Graham Dudley.

Apart from the niceties of the role, there is a much more serious one as well. Over the past few years, we have been affected by numerous influences, some in our control some not so. Financial pressures seen at Shire Hall has had implications to us and Clun and Chapel Lawn people in terms of increasing council tax demands and a decrease in the services which we have previously had. This in turn has put pressure on us in order to maintain what we offer the community. This resulted in two significant increases in precept, however we have managed to stabilise budgets going forward into this financial year.

Planning remains a big issue for us all. An embargo on permissions has led to a great deal of frustration across the community and beyond whilst the Environment Agency, Natural England and Shropshire Council try to come to a conclusion.



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

Over my term saw the establishment of the South Shropshire Mayors Forum which has proved to be a very useful group applying pressure to Shropshire Council to make sure they are looking after us in the south, not just Shrewsbury and above. I hope this will continue once we have got over the elections.

It would probably be remiss not to mention the purchase of regalia to be worn at various events. This, admittedly, was a controversial move. However, has proven to be successful. Before having a chain of office, attendance at civic events, you turned up as 'a man in a suit.' Now people come over to see where you are from and find out what's going on in your corner of the county. Now purchased, this will remain an asset of the Council going on into the future.

In closing I would like to give my thanks to Cllr Mark Duffee, or outgoing Deputy Mayor who has been a fantastic support over the past few years as well as getting our website up and running alongside official email addresses. Cllr Brian Angell for his hard work and dedication in supporting a number of projects notably the streetscape and signage, planning and the recent churchyard gain. Cllr Rob Andrews for all his work in supporting the work of the council, keeping a brief of the public conveniences, which isn't a job which you would think is particularly complicated – but it turns out it is(!) and alongside Brian with the Churchyard project. Cllr Bill Shepherdson notably for the hard work and time committed into the Town Hall project. Cllr Rowena Bowles for the 101 things she gets involved in with a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm. Cllr Darren Morris for his diligent work with the street lighting. Cllr Jack Limond for his financial diligence and continued support for the community as a whole and of course the newest recruit Cllr Monika Jones who has been a fantastic support over the last few months of taking office. I would also like to table my thanks to both Gwilym and Tracey for the work they do behind the scenes.

And whilst I'm on the thank you I would also like to table my appreciation for the support from Cllr Nigel Hartin as our ward councillor, our MP's Philip Dunne and Stuart Anderson and also our Link Deputy Lieutenant Katherine Garnier DL who has helped champion Clun to the Shropshire Lieutenancy and also supported us in many of the activities that we have undertaken.