



**Clun Town Council
with Chapel Lawn**

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 6th February 2024 AT 7.30PM

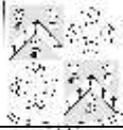
PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. R. Andrews Cllr. B. Angell Cllr. R. Bowles Cllr. R. Davies Cllr. M. Duffee Cllr. D. Morris Cllr. W. Shepherd	Cllr. M. Wooldridge Cllr. J. Limond

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk) Shropshire Council Cllr. N. Hartin Tracey Amass (Minute taker)	Cllr Dan Morris (Shropshire Council)

There were 2 members of the public present

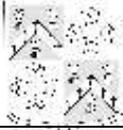
	Agenda item	
018-2024	1.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
		Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance.
019-2024	2.	DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
		a) All members have interest in the Clun Memorial Hall b) To declare any personal interests .
020-2024	3.	MAYOR'S REPORT
		To receive a report from the Mayor. This is a fairly short report this month due to the timing of the meeting in January. The two items I wanted to bring up this evening is the fantastic news Clun Town Council has been awarded c.£11,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy. This gives us a pot of money to spend on projects to enhance the community's offering for tangible assets. More detail will come forward in due course, but I would ask councillors to think about

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		<p>that this money could be invested in. I've got a few ideas however we probably need to consult with the community to gauge ideas.</p> <p>The other point is charity work. I've been asked alongside the Mayor of Bishops Castle to undertake a charity event to raise money for the renewal of the Swimming Pool at SpArC, Bishops Castle. This will take place in April which involves pushing the bed from Bishops Castle to Clun and Clun back to Bishops Castle. However, this time the bed will be converted to accommodate a fifty-litre tank of water to symbolise the 50 years the pool has been open. I will be looking for volunteers to help push the bed and provide support across the route. More details to follow! This brings me on to what I've been mulling over this last few weeks. Looking at other towns, they have a yearly charity fund raiser for local good causes. I will have this added to the agenda for next month for proposer discussion but would appreciate if Councillors could give thought in to what we could do and who to support.</p> <p>I also remind all that the Town Council Annual Meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 7th May, with the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 18th May.</p>
021-2024	4.	PUBLIC SESSION
		<p>(i) Shropshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Cllr Hartin asked if a wider meeting with a group would be possible. Cllr Dan Morris said if there was a clear reason and a strategy a meeting could be arranged once the plans had been published.</p> <p>Cllr Hartin opened his report by saying he was pleased that Cllr Dan Morris had attended.</p> <p>Main issue is around the Councils Financial situation, since I reported on the 18th we have had a further update from Council Leader Lezley Piction on the Council's financial situation We have had over 1,000 responses to the public consultation on budget responses which will assist the Council in drawing up its plans – Since last month Lezley & Chief Executive Andy Begley have put out a general warning to all Councillors & staff that we face very difficult choices in trying to make the Council sustainable going forward She points out that “Demand pressure has built beyond our expectations and, as the picture for 2024/25 becomes ever more clear, we know that our budget gap in now even greater than £54M”</p>



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They go onto say that this means some services will be considerably reduced and some will stop altogether adding – “This means we will become a smaller organisation with fewer people”

This obviously will have implications for staff delivering services in those areas where we cease providing services – hence the reason for Andy Begley’s warning to all staff. – I expect Cabinet to review all options prior to us setting a Budget at our February 29th Council meeting, but I suspect that meeting is going to be a difficult one, not just for the administration tasked with delivering a financial sustainable way forward, but also for opposition groups who are faced with an ever narrowing suite of potential options.

I am sure that Cabinet will do its best to continue to provide services where it can, no party grouping would I am sure, wish to remove services, often well regarded by the public, unless there remained other options to allow them to continue whilst delivering a sustainable budget. However, my personal view, as I have said before, is that we are now entering a ‘last chance saloon’ & unless Government actually realises the huge damage it is doing to local communities through under funding of Local Government, not just provide a ‘sticking plaster’ to allow Local Authorities to sell off all its assets to provide revenue support, we face a bleak future.

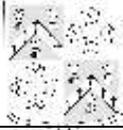
(ii) Police report
No report

(iii) Public comments

Cllr Dan Morris introduced himself by setting out that he has been representative for Highways Portfolio for past 6 months.

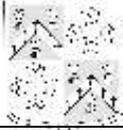
With regard to the comments made recently regarding refusal to meet with town councillors, a combination of factors including diary clashes and availability of relevant information and decisions from Shropshire Council had made meeting impossible. Additionally with a total of 74 wards across the county it would not be attend all local meetings. A meeting had subsequently taken place between Bishops Castle council and Clun Mayor which Cllr Dan Morris had attended. Matter discussed included issues raised regarding quality of work completed in recent months. A statement setting out of 3 years work had been produced and this would be sent to Council members by Cllr Dan Morris. Eighty percent of the planned work had been completed to date.

Network North money will be available and will be considered for use for long standing projects. A list of projects planned in South Shropshire will be circulated in due course.



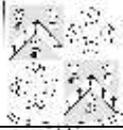
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		<p>Cllr Sheppherd asked if a breakdown of the work completed and that which remained to be done could be provided.</p> <p>Cllr Angell mentioned that there had been a constructive relationship with Shropshire on highways matters in the past but that was no longer the case, partnership working was useful and helped the engineers. Regarding The Square specifically, engineers had found problems in terms of infrastructure and therefore it seemed extraordinary that the tarmac dressing had been applied before these issues had been resolved. Cllr Angell set out specific examples of ongoing issues. Wording for highway signs had been signed off with WSP with implementation expected by the end of the year but so far no changes have been seen.</p> <p>There is a brook running down to Waterloo ford which is an important secondary route and used for diversions. The brook bed is higher than the road, two years ago it ripped up the tarmac, repair was made but the work to improve the brook was inadequate which had continued to leak during the period of drought. There may be issues needing to be addressed in terms of land owners and environment agency et. al. but it looks like money is being wasted.</p> <p>Cllr Dan Morris mentioned that there was a road surfacing program in place and agreed to feed the comments made back to the Highways Department.</p> <p>(iii) there was a question from a local resident regarding the fact there had been no notice of the meeting on the website nor the Notice Board. He pointed out this was contrary to the legislation. After some discussion Cllr Bowles agreed to post notices on the Council Noticeboard at the Town Hall for the time being.</p>
022-2024	5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
		<p>Minutes from meeting on 18th January 2024 were approved. Parish Councillors’ guide sets out the minutes should be short and should record decisions but not the discussion that precede them. The Minutes of the January were signed off as an accurate record.</p>
023-2024	6.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		None
024-2024	7.	CLERK’S REPORT
		<p>To Receive the Clerk’s Report. Update on actions: Action –109/23 emergency tree work in church yard, Sandford Hankin,</p>



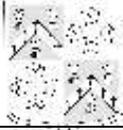
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		<p>once it has been done it can be paid. Mill matters all resolved. (Cllr Davies has been contacted by new owner asking why a community asset request had been submitted as was delaying the purchase. Cllr Davies to meet new owner). Regalia, the Mayor to provide names of previous Mayors for the bars, going back to 2009. Seal for cert done for Richard Bright. Clun Town Council Trust bank details done. Benches no update from Shropshire. Street lights on Powells Lane erected and removed but not yet working. Trinity street light was also not working.</p> <p>Cllr Angell pointed out that the replacement streetlight on Newport Street was a significantly different colour to other light recently replaced and asked for this to be looked into.</p> <p>115/23 update of Freeman sign was not complete, the Mayor was aware it was outstanding.</p>
025-2024	8.	PLANNING
		<p>To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 24/00184 - Harp House – Conversion of garage into ancillary living accommodation, to include erection of single-storey extension beneath existing external staircase – Cllr Angell said that the application seemed to make sense, the property was isolated – deferred to next. 2. 24/00378 - Caradoc - Various works to 4no. trees (T1-4) and 1no. overgrown hedge (H1) within Clun Conservation Area. 3. 24/00156 – 22 Newport Street - Reduce in height by 25-30% 2no. Bird Cherry Trees (T1&T2) & either pollard by 50% or reduce in height by 35% 1no. Sycamore within Clun Conservation Area 4. 23/05395- Land West of Enfield Street one Larch to be felled and a Beech to be thinned. <p>As these applications had not been included on the agenda councillors had not had time to consider the detail, therefore comments would be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>
026-2024	9.	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL
		<p>To update on the following and any action deemed necessary: - a. Town Hall: A sub group consisting of Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Bowles and Cllr Andrews had been convened. The group had met on 24th January to</p>



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		<p>progress the work on the town hall. A job description for a project manager had been drafted and Tracey Amass had agreed to act as project manager. Tim Ratcliffe had agreed to act as technical project manager with Cllr Shepherd acting as contract coordinator. Tim Ratcliffe to advise on tech aspects of re-rendering quote. All three stone masons who had previously quoted for the sandstone work had agreed to update their quotes and Tim Ratcliffe would advise on the details including which stone was priority for replacement. There was a need to readvertise the work to ensure a fair competition was in place.</p> <p>b. Public toilets update on maintenance – Cllr Andrews reported that all work was complete except for hot water in the technical room which was only used to test flush in urinals, this was to be looked at. The electricity bill previously queried was for 6 months and based on an over estimate. However, it was noted that the underfloor heating had been switched on but was now off again. As a new supplier was in place for water the new bill would be monitored.</p>
027-2024	10.	CLOSED CHURCH YARD
		<p>Update in relation to Closed Church Yard</p> <p>Cllr Angell apologised for the late circulation of the report. A very good meeting had taken place on 12th January resulting in a clear idea of scope, it had been useful to have a physical walk round. An area remained open for burial of ashes. The paths go outside of the church yard onto Hand Causeway and it is proposed to adopt the disabled access and handrail in the extended area. The gate is missing but there were no plans to replace. Five benches are in scope one dilapidated which would not be replaced. A list of monuments and gravestones had been agreed including details of those with a listed status. Some are propped up with wood and wire and there were some hand painted danger signs, these will need to be considered by the working group in the future. Path lights, flood lights and bird boxes are excluded. In addition, it had been confirmed that church would remain responsible for the notice board by the lychgate. There were 21 trees in scope including the ancient yew which requires minimal attention. The details of the arrangements in place for grass cutting were discussed and it was agreed that in the short term the current contracts would remain in place.</p> <p>Caring For God’s Acre (CFGa) met annually with the Church Warden and the working group would attend in future to agree how best to support wildlife and church needs. Cllr Angell would remain as point of contact.</p> <p>Cllr Angell requested approval of the inclusion of the path and handrail in scope, continuation of the current contractors for grass cutting for this year and the meetings with CFGa.</p> <p>The Mayor thanks Cllr Angell for his work. Approval for the three items above was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The clerk suggested the council might consider a grant to CFGa</p>



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028-2024	11.	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED
		None
029-2024	12.	CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP
		To receive an update from the Clun Climate and Environment Group – As the report had not circulated with the papers the substantive discussion would be carried forward to next meeting. Cllr Bowles noted that a set of documents put together by Andrew Maliphant the SLCC Advisor on Environment and Sustainability, and these had been used as basis for the draft policy document. It had been enhanced to make it open and supportive of local issues. There was a desire to undertake a survey of what green spaces are valued and what biodiversity issues matter locally. Clun is in a good position with what had already been achieved so it would be important to maintain momentum.
030-2024	13.	FINANCE
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation – agreed2. To consider a grant application from Clun Walking Group – a popular group appreciated by locals and tourists. There was a shortfall of £1689 and a grant towards this had been requested. The Mayor proposed a grant to cover the shortfall. Decision: Unanimously supported. Cllr Angell asked for a quarterly statement against budget heads to be provided in the future to allow a continuous understanding and to track spend through year. Cllr Andrews noted the hard court area at the Memorial Hall need remedial work to remove the unsafe retaining wall. It would make sense for the Town Council was billed directly by the suppliers as the agreed grant would cover the costs. Agreed unanimously. <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. To approve the following invoices for payment.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. J. Churchett £500.00p (<i>Toilet Cleaning</i>) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)b. HMRC £418.64p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)c. G. J. Rippon £79.99 (<i>home working allowance and mileage</i>) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)d. Tracey Amass £89.88p (minute secretary) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)



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		Cllr Angell asked for final agreed budget to be circulated to all councillors
031-2024	14.	CORRESPONDENCE
		To review any correspondence received
032-2024	15.	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS
		<p>Cllr Bowles noted that the Environment Agency had been alerted to rubbish dumped on the flood plain and they had contacted the landowner to take action, this was encouraging.</p> <p>Cllr Bowles highlighted the councils listed as supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill did not include Clun and Chapel Lawn and asked that this is updated to reflect the decision to support.</p> <p>Cllr Angell commented that the use of a QR code to request donation for the car park at the Memorial Hall was working well and this could be considered as a way to raised funds for the maintenance of the toilets.</p>
033-2024	16.	AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
		<p>Charity event</p> <p>Biodiversity policy.</p>
034-2024	17.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
		Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 ^h March 2024
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 21.22