



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 5th December 2023 AT 7.30PM

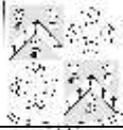
| PRESENT | APOLOGIES |
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| Cllr. R Davies Cllr. M. Duffee Cllr. R. Andrews Cllr. B. Angell Cllr W. Shepherd Cllr M. Wooldridge Cllr. D. Morris Cllr. R. Bowles | Cllr. J. Limond |

| ALSO IN ATTENDANCE |
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| Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk) Pc Coote |

There was 1 member of the public present and 1 potential new Minutes Clerk.

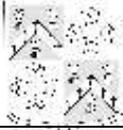
| | Agenda item | |
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| 118-2023 | 1. | ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES |
| | | Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance |
| 119-2023 | 2. | DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING |
| | | a) All members have an interest in the Clun Memorial Hall b) To declare any personal interests – none |
| 120-2023 | 3. | MAYOR'S REPORT |
| | | There has again been a raft of activity over the last 4 weeks. Much of which we will discuss this evening. However, firstly I'd like to thank everyone involved in the various projects being undertaken. Again, for the smallest town in Shropshire, I think pro rata we probably are one of the busiest. The transfer of asset concerning the churchyard continues to rumble on and Cllr Angell has helpfully put a |

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| | | <p>paper together to discuss this in more detail along with recommendations on a way forward.</p> <p>It was good to see a big crowd at the Remembrance Day service with myself and Cllr Duffee representing the Town Council on a very cold and wet morning – possibly one of the bigger turnouts for a number of years. This followed a lunch with the Royal British Legion members alongside Philip Dunne and his family.</p> <p>One matter which suddenly crept up yesterday evening was a letter received from a member of the Clun Mill group highlighting the concern that the property is ‘under offer.’ This is a quite a serious issue for a number of reasons. 1) We could lose the facility which is nationally known (2) the economic impacts for other businesses within the town, both negative and positive and (3) perhaps the one which will be a big issue to many who can’t get on the property ladder in the area, a large property potentially falls into private ownership for a very cheap price, which once converted will become a substantial residence with a very big price tag. Obviously this is currently speculation as we are unaware of who the purchaser is. However, if not already done, there is a call that the Mill is registered with Shropshire Council as a community asset. If we are to go down this route we need to act fast before the property is officially sold.</p> <p>In other news, Cllr Bowles attended the Nature Recovery Conference and has provided a useful note of proceedings within your document packs and I’m sure we can discuss the requirements to undertake a local nature recovery strategy, which legally needs to be undertaken by all councils. I welcome further discussion later on in the proceedings.</p> |
| 121-2023 | 4. | PUBLIC SESSION |
| | | <p>(i) Shropshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Council Finances have been in the news again, with Council Leader Lezley Picton in the press very gloomy about the Council’s ability to continue to fund the ever rising cost of Adult Social Care, currently taking up over 80% of its current budget. Looks as if she feels the Council is on course to find £47M of the £51M target in this financial year but rising costs mean that the Council will be faced with an extra bill for £20M just to meet its statutory duty delivering Social Care – This would mean as things stand that next year’s budget is already looking at a £23M shortfall, so the Council will need to cut all but essential services to have a chance of keeping within its budgets. She does not want to issue a Section 114 notice (effective bankruptcy) although it’s been considered by the Cabinet. This means that services like the £26M spent on libraries, to mention only one well regarded service, might have to go next year. All will be revealed when she publishes her forward budget plan in the next few days.</p> |



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The South West Shropshire Area received another blow the other day when the new Portfolio holder for Highways, Cllr Dan Morris again refused to come down to a Joint Area meeting covering the Clun, Bishops Castle & Chirbury Divisions at Sparc Theatre to tell us what Highways are doing or not doing to keep up with repairs on the roads. This was a bit of a shock, he had already refused to come out just to Clun, but there has never been an occasion I or my Council colleagues can recall when a Highways Portfolio holder has refused to engage with the community in this way. Cllr Morris says that “it’s not a good use of resources”. Ryan has a copy of the email refusal so may want to expand on where we go now, neither I nor my colleagues feel like leaving it there, similarly the Mayor of Bishops Castle.

The road resurfacing works in the Town are going ahead as planned between the 11th & 15th December, advance signage should be up & letters have gone out to affected properties. Churchbank should have had emergency patching carried out & longer term needs 3 sections properly patched & Divisional Surveyor Andy Keyland has been tasked with finding the quickest solution to get this done.

The Council’s Tree team has been granted £12,531 for a community orchard project in Shropshire, any Parish or Town Council are now able to apply for fruit trees to create their own community orchard and further funding is available from DEFRA for landowners to plant more trees on their land (Over the last two years this scheme has supported 27 agroforestry schemes and planted a total of 14,410 trees across Shropshire.

(ii) Police Report

See newsletter for wider crime report.

Few Clun crimes: assault, firearms non-compliance, malicious communications – all suspects identified.

Growing concerns currently are RTC’s and rural theft.

We now have a Streetwatch volunteer – observer role.

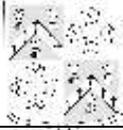
Cllr. Angell: question regarding support available to combat inconsiderate/obstructive parking. Police to include in Chronicle report but unable to enforce if no existing parking restrictions and unable to issue warning notice if not present at time.

(iii) Public comments

Chair of Clunbury Parish Council John Croxton raised concern about refusal by Dan Morris Highways Portfolio holder at Shropshire Council to attend two meetings recently offered, with no acceptable reason.

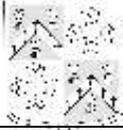
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| 122-2023 | 5. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES |
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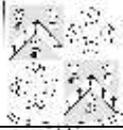
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| | | Minutes from meeting on 7 th November 2023 were approved. Proposed by Cllr. Angell and seconded by Cllr. Shepherd |
| 123-2023 | 6. | INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES |
| | | None |
| 124-2023 | 7. | CLERK'S REPORT |
| | | From Task sheet: Powell's Lane streetlight money paid but now Shropshire Council embargo on street closures so National Grid can't get closure for works until Jan. Purple streetlight – now standard Letter sent regarding Shropshire Council Pension Fund Regalia not yet ordered owing to potential change. Clun Mill ACV request not yet submitted as under offer. See also item 12. |
| 125-2023 | 8. | PLANNING |
| | | To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters 1. 23/05049/FUL Application for demolition of existing cattle shed, erection of proposed cattle shed including yard and cattle race covering. Hill House, Church Bank, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8LP Council response: support 2. 23/05010/FUL Application for demolition of existing garage, rear extension and porch and erection of new garage and rear extensions. 20 Newport Street, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8JZ Council response: support with one abstention 3. 23/04698/FUL Application for proposed first floor extension with balcony and garage conversion. Upper Clairmont Kidd Lane Clun Shropshire SY7 8LN Council response: support with extra sentence included in our standard paragraph suggesting consideration of alternative heat source e.g. heat pump, in light of planned removal of oil-fired system |
| 126-2023 | 9. | ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL |
| | | 1. Town Hall Cllr. Shepherd: we have 2 quotes under consideration for re-rendering of West wall, both have good health & safety and insurance arrangements but very differing costs. |



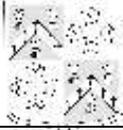
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| | | <p>Cllr. Shepherd: Shropshire Highways network manager has confirmed that will advise regarding road closure when contractor has scaffolding plan available. Potentially will need expense of traffic lights.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles: brief update regarding grant application – we will be informed by end of December whether application successful or not.</p> <p>2. Public toilets update on maintenance</p> <p>Cllr. Andrews: No problems currently.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell: need to replace missing/damaged/insufficient litter bins in Bridge Car Park. Proposed by Cllr. Angell, seconded by Cllr. Andrews, passed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell: need to fix picnic bench more securely as currently upended.</p> <p>3. Street lighting</p> <p>Cllr. Morris: Lights 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 are all out – no lights on in The Square (other than Christmas lights). Has contacted Shropshire Council as matter of urgency, response that it will be done in next round of work.</p> <p>Other street concerns</p> <p>Cllr. Wooldridge: railing dangerously damaged on footpath from Clun Memorial Hall to Newport Street. Council believe this to be Shropshire Council responsibility.</p> <p>Response from FixMyStreet will provide information on whether responsibility does lie with Shropshire Council.</p> |
| 127-2023 | 10. | NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY |
| | | <p>Cllr. Bowles: reporting back from Parish Councils Nature Recovery Conference in November, Council has a statutory responsibility to produce and action a local biodiversity policy, as part of the Shropshire Council Nature Recovery Strategy. Cllr. Bowles recommends that council request advisory Clun Climate and Environment Group to produce draft biodiversity policy and actions, to be presented to council at February council meeting. Agreed.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell: important that we regularly review progress made by Shropshire Council in their Nature Recovery Strategy. Important to note that council don't own any green spaces, but will support others that do.</p> <p>Cllr. Shepherd: potential to contact diocese regarding possibilities for old orchard area.</p> |
| 128-2023 | 11. | CLOSED CHURCH YARD |
| | | <p>Cllr. Angell explained main points from his document summarising legal position and guidance regarding closed churchyards. Due diligence essential to avoid unforeseen liabilities, important to understand standards required and when Faculty applications required. Need to record agreements and details of responsibilities for future councils. Need to know correct legal process is being done and dates for legal responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell: Recommendations:</p> |



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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolve to establish a Closed Churchyard and Civil Cemetery Advisory Working Group 2. Resolve to adopt the Terms of Reference (see his document for terms of reference) 3. Resolve to set a date in first 2 weeks of January with the Parochial Church Council to start the process of clarifying the details, priorities and processes of work to be done. <p>Council agreed above recommendations. Advisory working group to include Cllr. Angell, Cllr. Andrews and Cllr. Davies, with other non-council members to be co-opted. Proposed: Cllr. Duffee, seconded: Cllr. Angell, passed unanimously.</p> |
| 129-2023 | 12. | CLUN MILL |
| | | Cllr. Davies: has received email from Daniel Farrell of “Save Clun Mill Group” asking council to request that the mill be registered as ACV. See earlier action in item 7. Cllr. Davies has replied expressing support from council and copied in Philip Dunne for information. |
| 130-2023 | 13. | TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED |
| | | deferred |
| 131-2023 | 14. | CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP |
| | | deferred |
| 132-2023 | 15. | FINANCE |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation Received. 2. To receive the grant policy update 3. To agree the national pay award of £1.00 per hour Agreed. 4. To discuss the budget and precept demand for 2024/2025 Deferred in light of likely extensive discussion and already currently beyond standard length of meeting. January meeting to be dedicated to this matter as far as possible. 5. To approve the following invoices for payment |



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| | | <p>a. J. Churchett £500.00p (Toilet Cleaning) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>b. HMRC £357.43p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>c. G. J. Rippon £76.99p (home working allowance and mileage) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>All approved.</p> |
| 133-2023 | 16. | CORRESPONDENCE |
| | | none |
| 134-2023 | 17. | INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS |
| | | Cllr. Angell: requested council approval to write to Head of Highways to request reconvene Partnership Group in January, to assess progress with previously agreed plans. To include: agreed signage that was scheduled by end 2023 but not apparent yet and clarity about resurfacing work being carried out from 11 th December before drainage work, unlike the planned schedule. All agreed. |
| 135-2023 | 18. | AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING |
| | | Budget and precept discussion and decision |
| 136-2023 | 19. | DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING |
| | | Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 nd January 2024 at Memorial Hall |
| | | Signed by the Chair. |
| | | Meeting closed 9.45pm |