

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

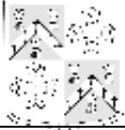
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 2nd April 2024 AT 7.30PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk) Tracey Amass (Minute taker)	3 members of the public

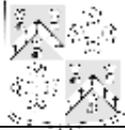
	Agenda item	
035-2024	1.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
		Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance.
036-2024	2.	DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
		a) All members have interest in the Clun Memorial Hall b) To declare any personal interests. Item 14 Cllr Angell declared a prejudicial interest.
037-2024	3.	MAYOR'S REPORT
		To receive a report from the Mayor. Firstly, an apology regarding the lack of meeting in March due to ill health this has put a bit more business on to tonight's agenda, but these things do happen. Also I would like to thank Cllr Woolridge who has decided to step down to pursue other interests – I'd like to thank her for all of her efforts and input over the past few years. It has been an interesting few weeks, with the High Sheriff's Legal Service which saw Jessie Benson giving a reading, attendance at and congratulating the team on the awarding of the Kings Award to the Clun Good Neighbours team and also the launch of the Clun Valley 33 Walks book, with a really good attendance! Coming up I will be meeting with fellow Mayors from South Shropshire to discuss the various issues we are all facing with the current backdrop of budget cuts. I will report back more fully at the next meeting

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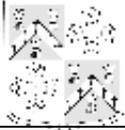
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		<p>What I want to talk through is the rationale for the increase in the precept which had been ratified by the full council back in January.</p> <p>There is always a necessity to make sure we have sufficient reserves to pay for unexpected expenses. A big example, the water pipe at the toilets which was not budgeted for and cost us quite a large amount of money which could be diverted to other projects.</p> <p>We then have the Town Hall. Essential works must be done and the grant work was not guaranteed. Plus, we still must find the lever funding to pay for the remains of the 80% funding – 20%. Also we don't know what will happen when the render is removed. There could be the unknowns within the project which are unaccounted for. We also must take into consideration the rising costs of materials and labour since the initial application was submitted. As we are all aware building materials are fairly volatile in terms of cost.</p> <p>S.138 grants. We've budgeted for SpArC and Memorial Hall yearly, plus we want others to take advantage of this. Part of the precept increase factored this in as well as maintaining funds for other organisations within the parish.</p> <p>The Churchyard. Something what we couldn't plan for at the time as the costs are unknown and still, to a degree remains the same, although it is pleasing to hear the wall is in good order which I think was a relief for us all to hear. However, there does remain the listed Lytch Gate and various graves, plus the maintenance of trees surrounding the church which encroach into neighbouring properties. This is also the case for the cemetery.</p> <p>The general upkeep of the town and surrounding area is also an important but costly item. As stated above, we have had unexpected spending which can be costly. And therefore, it is vital we have money in our reserves ring fenced for certain projects and for future proofing the council.</p> <p>As you will have seen, the precept does not cover the full expected spend over the 2024/25 financial year and therefore I believe the increase over the year is right and correct. I recall from the January meeting views from councillors was that the Council have been underfunding ourselves over many years. Over the past five to six years, Clun as a town has grown up considerably and now on really on the map in terms of our identity and abilities and I feel we need to keep that momentum. Therefore making sure future proofing remains critical. Plus, we note the continuous budget pressures faced by the Local authority which will no doubt impact on our community and therefore we need to be in a position where we can at least provide for our community on the spending lines which we have responsibility for.</p> <p>Email to follow with late additions.</p>
038-2024	4.	PUBLIC SESSION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Shropshire Councillor Report NA (ii) Police report as in Chronicle



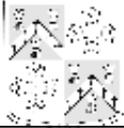
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		(iii) Public comments A member of the public asked questions regarding the process of passing responsibility for the closed churchyard to the council.
039-2024	5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes approved, proposed and agreed.
040-2024	6.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES None
041-2024	7.	CLERK'S REPORT The clerk provided an update on outstanding matter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• names of previous Mayors to be provided by Cllr Davies• Certificate final details from Cllr Davies• Contract for Broadband is two years. Cllr Angell noted that the new format for actions had been helpful and asked that it be used in future. A review of outstanding actions was undertaken with those actions completed to be closed on the action list. Older matters have been completed and should be closed.
041-2024	8.	CASUAL VACANCY The resignation of Cllr Wooldridge has created the need for a replacement, after a wait of 14 days from notice being posted (last Wednesday it would be clear if an election had been called. At that point a plan of action could be agreed.
042-2024	9.	PLANNING To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 24/00184/FUL Application for the conversion of garage into ancillary living accommodation, to include erection of single-storey extension beneath existing external staircase Harp House 5 Clun Shropshire SY7 8NE Previously done2. Planning Reference: 24/00740/TCA Application for the proposed works to trees in St George's Churchyard, Clun Conservation Area. Previously considered3. 24/00378 - Caradoc - Various works to 4no. trees (T1-4) and 1no. overgrown hedge (H1) within Clun Conservation Area. Previously considered4. 24/00156 22 Newport Street - Reduce in height by 25-30% 2no. Bird Cherry Trees



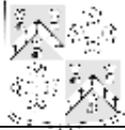
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		<p>(T1&T2) & either pollard by 50% or reduce in height by 35% 1no. Sycamore within Clun Conservation Area. Previously considered</p> <p>5. 23/05395- Land West of Enfield Street one Larch to be felled and a Beech to be thinned. Previously considered</p> <p>6. 24/00981/TCA Application for Various works to trees (see schedule) within Clun Conservation Area at Trinity Hospital Almshouses, Hospital Lane, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8LE Unanimously supported</p> <p>7. 24/01004/FUL Was supported but turned down by planners as was said to be out of character with area. Unanimously supported</p>
043-2024	10.	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL
		<p>To update on the following and any action deemed necessary: -</p> <p>a. Town Hall Report from Cllr Shepherd re project management – standing orders were suspended to allow Tracey Amass to provide an update. The procurement process was due to go live within days. The Department for Levelling up had asked for a progress report and this had been provided. The project was progressing in line with plans. Cllr Bowles reported on the assessment that had been provided by an expert from West Mids Museums Group. A list of the best options for improving the humidity problems had been agreed and a request for the first funds amounting to £1000 to purchase thermostats and timers was put before the council. This would come from the portion of the Twon Hall grant which had been ringfenced for improving the environment for the community. Cllr Andrews proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded. Cllr Shepherd noted that the leaking cupola would need to be addressed before any insulation was installed.</p> <p>b. Public toilets update on maintenance Cllr Andrews noted that there was an intermittent problem with the lock on the door, early investigations have not identified a problem.</p>
044-2024	11.	CLOSED CHURCH YARD
		<p>Update in relation to Closed Church Yard Cllr Angell noted that a report has been submitted for the March meeting, the working group has not met since that doc was produced. In due course a more comprehensive document would come to council. Vegetation management was ongoing. Ivy needs to be cut back on the walls, one of the Council's regular contractors can be asked for a price. Consideration needs to be given to the state of the wall and impact of removing the ivy. It was agreed that named volunteers are covered by the extant insurance. CFGA would need to supply the names.</p>



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047-2024	14.	FINANCE
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation -2. To ratify the expenditure to in-tend to cover the costs of assisting to produce the necessary documentation, quality assures our process and to providing documents for much of the process. - £895, unanimously supported.3. To consider the following grants<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. £143.52 Litter picking – pause standing orders, CV expanded and provided details of requirements, litter picking on the roads outside town, initial grant for hoops and grabbers, grateful, now need replacing. Unanimously supported.b. £750.00 River Clun Monitoring Group – annual request, Cllr Angell noted that he had been approached to chair this group and was likely to agree to do so. There was a discussion regarding the work of the group and the other sources of funding. Cllr. Limond proposed the grant be given, Cllr Andrews seconded. Supported with 2 abstentions.c. Cllr Andrews submitted a request amend the annual grant to the Memorial Hall to address the need to remove the wall in the ball park for safety reasons. It was requested that a grant of £2850 be made for the coming year at this is paid directly to the contractor undertaking the work relating the removal of the wall. This would replace the annual grant of £2000 to the Memorial Hall. Cllr Angel raised a concern that this larger grant may result in other grant applications needing to be refused due to the limited pot. Cllr Bowles noted that the grant pot for 2023 had not been fully spent which indicated that there were sufficient funds to prove this request. The Clerk noted that the underspend on grants for 2023 was £1200 Cllr. Andrews reassured the meeting that the money from 2023 had been used to improve assets and not used for running costs. Approval with Cllr. Angell abstaining.d. John French community cars. A £50 grant to maintain phones was requested. Standing orders were suspended to allow John French to expand on the request, setting out that the original source of funding was no longer available. Cllr Limond asked if phone companies had been approached as the Defibrillator Scheme had been able agree freephone line provision. The value of the work of the community car scheme was discussed and it was agreed that this must be supported. Cllr Davies suggested that the grant be agreed in principle subject to the supplier being approached. Cllr. Andrews proposed the grant and Cllr. Duffee seconded, it was unanimously agreed.4. To approve the following invoices for payment<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. J. Churchett £500.00 (Toilet Cleaning) (S1-S& Localism act 2011)b. HMRC £418.64 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)c. G. J. Rippon £144.49 (home working allowance and mileage) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)d. The Rampant Horse £75.00 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) – All agreed.5. To ratify the following payments which were made between meetings<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. J. Churchett £500.00 (Toilet Cleaning) (S1-S& Localism act 2011)b. HMRC £418.64 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. G. J. Rippon £144.49 (home working allowance and mileage) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) d. Pear Technology £108.00 (Burial software) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) e. Shropshire Council £643.30 (Joint Electricity) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) – BA we need more detail on how bill is calculated as many lights are now LED and that may change the calculation. Clerk, this is for NH to answer. f. Tracey Amass £89.88 minute secretary) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) g. Highline £1548.00 (Streetlight repairs) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) – BA still question over what is covered as there is still one light out, clerk will in future send bills to DM for ratification h. Memorial Hall £75.00 (Room Hire) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) – All approved
048-2024	15.	CORRESPONDENCE
		To review any correspondence received
049-2024	15.	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS
		<p>Cllr. Angell reported that there had been no follow up from Cllr. Dan Morris regarding the roads. An email holding reply had been received. Cllr Angell suggested a zoom meeting was requested to clarify what has been done, what is proposed and what aspirations are.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell noted that Natural England (NE) had reiterated their position statement, they do not support the Shropshire Council approach to local development, the diversion of waste from Bishops Castle into Only solves the Bishops Castle issues enabling more houses to be built. Cllr. Angell noted that NE should speak to the community as it has a big impact on the Clun community. Cllr. Bowles added that this could result in the reduction of pressure on the Clun potentially lowering the urgency of improving the Clun.</p> <p>Cllr. Duffee reported that in the future he would be joining the Clerk in the office on Tuesday 12-2 and would be available to sort out email issues. Work was needed on the website, Parish on line is part of the requirement and this was in hand.</p> <p>Cllr. Limond asked if pressure could be put on Highline to install Chapel Lawn defibrillator as this was still outstanding.</p>
050-2024	16.	AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
		Street lights, inoperability and costs, grant policy, Mayors Charity event.
051-2024	17.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
		Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 ^h May 2024 Annual Council meeting
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 21.14