



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

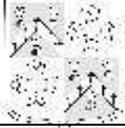
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 2nd December 2025 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. M. Jones Cllr. J. Limond Cllr. R. Bowles Cllr. J. McVicar Cllr. A. Martin	Cllr. R Davies Cllr. D. Morris

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk)	Shropshire Cllr Sam Walmsley

There were 4 members of the public present

	Agenda item	
173-2025	1.	ATTENDANCE Please see above. In the absence of the Mayor, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, who thanked all for their attendance. The resignation of Cllr Page was noted.
174-2025	2.	APOLOGIES Cllr Davies and Cllr Morris
175-2025	3.	DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING All members have an interest in the Clun Memorial Hall. No others.
176-2025	4.	MAYOR'S REPORT No report from the Mayor.
177-2025	5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approved.
178-2025	6.	PUBLIC SESSION (i) Shropshire Councillor Report Finance Shropshire Council will require Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from central government to ensure that it has sufficient funds for this financial year. We are still working with government to confirm the process for accessing this funding, at present it is expected that just over £70m will be requested, this will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £21m of revenue spending in the current financial year



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- £10m of transformation work to fundamentally change the way the council operates
- £39m of write off costs linked to the North-West Relief Road (NWRR).

It's important to note that central government have not yet confirmed that Shropshire Council will have to pay the £39m for the NWRR, so this is being requested as a contingency, and if NWRR costs do not have to be repaid, the EFS money linked to this will not be drawn down.

The section 151 Officer at the council has received legal advice that the application for EFS means that at present there is no need for him to issue a S114 notice (effectively declaring the council bankrupt).

Additional information on the period 7 Finances are available here <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s43038/Financial%20Monitoring%20Period%207-05112025%201556.pdf>

Improvement Plan

It is clear that if Shropshire Council continues to operate as it has done, the budget shortfalls will also continue. With this in mind significant effort is going into developing a plan to get SC into a more sustainable position. This work is being supported by the Local Government Association (LGA), drawing on experience from other councils that have been in very difficult financial situations. The plan is in the early stages of development, the current version is available here <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/b20192/8.%20Improvement%20Plan%2001st-Dec-2025%2010.00%20Transformation%20and%20Improvement%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Comm.pdf?T=9>

Town & Parish Devolution Plan

Pilot models are being actively developed with Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Shifnal and Broseley, including how funding will be phased and work governed. Key areas of challenge include TUPE arrangements and ensuring (smaller) contracts for local delivery of services are viable. Pilots are starting in the larger settlements first as they generally have more existing infrastructure to deliver work, but it is recognised that smaller towns/villages could also benefit from being able to take control of some services within their area. Pilots in smaller settlements are also being looked at.

Waterloo Ford

It was very disappointing to see the recent work at Waterloo Ford fail so soon after it was installed. The highways team are expecting to complete a temporary repair in the next couple of weeks. A longer-term solution will be delivered as part of a bigger capital project looking at drainage across Clun. I am waiting for a meeting with Highways and the project team responsible for delivering this this work, my current understanding is that it is part of the long-delayed project linked to the Clun streetscape. First step will be to get the project moving again, once I have more information this will be shared with the Town Council.



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		<p>Cllr Bowles asked for any update regarding the use of glyphosate by Shropshire Council on verges. Some discussion has already taken place.</p> <p>(ii) Police Report none</p> <p>(iii) Public comments A member of the public requested that the council contact SC Highways to ask the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why were the recent (unsuccessful) repairs to the ford not the repairs recommended by WSP following their onsite meeting with councillors? 2. When will the repeatedly postponed works take place on Bridge St and High St? 3. Please include the council in future discussions, in order to re-establish the previously good and useful relationship and engagement. <p>A member of the public raised concerns about the council website, in particular its not being up to date and the importance of local residents' access to minutes and financial information. (see item 13) In addition the member of the public raised concerns regarding the increased financial pressures currently on local residents and requested that the precept be frozen. (see item 15)</p>
179-2025	7.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		<p>Cllr Bowles reported regarding item 6 that the River Clun Monitoring Group have agreed to provide some data on the river upstream and downstream of the outlet.</p> <p>Council updated the Actions list.</p>
180-2025	8.	CLERK'S REPORT
		None
181-2025	9.	PLANNING
		<p>To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 25/04298/FUL Application for a proposed change of use of commercial/educational building to one dwelling house and associated works Residential Barn Conversion South of the Hurst, Clunton, Shropshire. <p>Supported</p>
182-2025	10.	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Hall – nothing to report



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		<p>2. Public Toilets Cllr Bowles requested that the Clerk contact Shropshire Council regarding the registering and subsequent emptying of the new bins which are now installed in the Bridge car park.</p>
183-2025	11.	GRIT BIN AT CHAPEL LAWN
		Council approved the purchase, subject to Shropshire Council's agreement to fill it.
184-2025	12.	TOURISM
		Deferred to February meeting.
185-2025	13.	WEBSITE
		Council agreed on the urgent need to re-establish an up-to-date and useful website, with the first step being to employ a new website provider. Clerk has discussed with CEO at Vision ICT who will send relevant prices. Clerk recommends using Vision ICT.
186-2025	14.	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED (and consider recommendations)
		<p>Cllr Bowles reported from the Clun Climate and Environment Group: The group discussed the action plan from the Clun in the Future Day. There were many ideas but it is proposed to tackle 3 in the first instance: EV charging points for people with only on-street parking; gardening sustainably for biodiversity and local issues in food security.</p> <p>Cllr Limond reported from the Christmas Lights Group: approx. £200 was donated at the event, which he proposed the council donate to the Crisis at Christmas charity. Approved unanimously.</p>
187-2025	15.	FINANCE
		<p>1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation Not reconciled.</p> <p>2. To consider the budget and precept demand for 2026-2027 Following discussion and reduction in some draft amounts it was proposed that the precept be frozen at £70,000 and the budget be set at £69,894.</p> <p>3. To approve the following invoices for payment.</p> <p>a. HMRC £558.58p (Tax £446.36 Employers NI 112.22) (S 112 Local Government Act 1972)</p> <p>b. G. J. Rippon £76.99p (home working allowance, mileage SLCC subscription and printing) (S 112 Local Government Act 1972)</p>



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		<p>c. Mark Room Grass cutting (cemetery) £700.00p (101 Local Government Act 1972)</p> <p>d. Mark Room Grass cutting (St George's) £1500.00p (101 Local Government Act 1972) For information</p> <p>e. Jon Churchett £600.00 Cleaner (S 111 Local Government Act 1972)</p> <p>f. Stephen Wallace £226.75 for installation of bins at Bridge car park.</p> <p>g. Cars – £45.00 (S 111 Local Government Act 1972)</p> <p>h. St. Georges £94.28p (S 111 Local Government Act 1972)</p> <p>Approved.</p>
188-2025	16.	CORRESPONDENCE
		<p>Cllr Bowles reported on a matter raised by a member of the public regarding the regular flooding events effectively separating the North and South portions of the town, requesting that council consider the possibility of a new bridge being added.</p> <p>Council response: not within the capabilities of the council, would be in the jurisdiction of Shropshire Council Highways.</p> <p>Member of the public requested information about deteriorating state of Waterloo footbridge: SCllr Walmsley confirmed that it is on SC standard inspection rota and is currently deemed to be adequate.</p>
189-2025	17.	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS
		None
190-2025	18.	AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
		<p>Tourism to be an agenda item for the February meeting.</p> <p>For January meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current council working groups and committees • Streetlights and dark skies <p>Scllr Walmsley reported that he is still pushing for the repair of the SC streetlight on High St.</p>
191-2025	19.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
		Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 th January 2026 at Memorial Hall at 7.30pm
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 9.03pm