

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

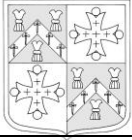
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 3rd March 2026 AT 7.30PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	
Ms Sue Roberts (Assistant Clerk)	

There were 5 members of the public present

	Agenda item	
22-2026	1.	TO RECORD PERSONS PRESENT
		Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance.
23-2026	2.	APOLOGIES
		Shropshire Councillor Sam Walmsley
24-2026	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.
25-2026	4.	MAYOR'S REPORT
		The award of Free Woman of Clun was presented to Joan Kerry.
26-2026	5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
		The minutes of the meeting held on Feb 3 rd 2026 were approved. Proposed by Cllr. McVicar, seconded by Cllr. Bowles , approved unanimously.
27-2026	6.	PUBLIC SESSION
		(i) Shropshire Councillor Report EFS loan facility has been approved by the government, this means that Shropshire Council can deliver a legal budget and the commissioners will not need to be called in from Westminster.



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The 2026-27 budget was passed at a full council meeting last week. There's a lot within it, but for most people the item of most interest was the 8.99% increase in Council Tax. This will help plug the gaps that have resulted from previous budgets and has been a factor in ensuring the commissioners do not need to be called in to run the Council. Shropshire Council has pulled together a range of information on support available for people who struggle to afford the rise, please share this page with your network [Council tax assistance | Shropshire Council](#)

At the same meeting the North-West Relief Road was officially cancelled. As there was no viable route to funding this road, the decision was more of a necessity than a choice. Discussion with the government on how much, if any, of the costs that have already been incurred will have to be repaid by Shropshire Council is ongoing.

In the last Town Council meeting it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Andy Wilde about funding for the Clun Vision project. I spoke to him last week and reminded him that the TC meeting was tonight, and he said he would arrange for a response to your questions. Hopefully this has been received by you, if it has, it would be useful if I could see a copy. If no response has been received let me know and I'll chase it along.

(ii) **Police Report**

The Bishops Castle area now has 15 local policing officers

During the evening of 10th February and into the early hours of 11th February, officers from across South Shropshire carried out another phase of Op Whitebeam including around Clun and the nearby parishes. This proactive policing approach focuses on identifying and disrupting criminals' intent on targeting our local communities. Alongside enforcement activity, officers visited vulnerable locations to offer crime-prevention advice, discuss protection tactics and provide reassurance through high-visibility patrols. We don't post about every operation we run, but we do want our communities to know that this work is ongoing, consistent and something we are fully committed to. We continue to work closely with partners and the public to prevent offences and keep our rural areas safe.

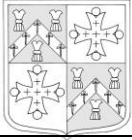
Crimes since start of Jan 2026:

- Theft of motor vehicle – stolen from near new Invention, later located hidden thanks to the tracker
- Assault x 4
- Theft from motor vehicle – wiper blade stolen
- Harassment
- Malicious communications

Local concern: There were a number of reports of a suspicious male hanging round the town in Nov and Dec. This transpired to be a male who had been bailed to an address near the town. This person has now been recalled back to prison while awaiting court and is unlikely to return to the town.

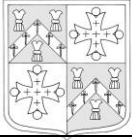
(iii) **Public comments**

A member of the public asked whether, given current financial pressures, making a provision in the Council's budget to make grants to local organisations was a good use of tax payers' money. Cllr McVicar responded that the Council had agreed a provision in the Budget and thus, in its opinion, it was.



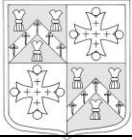
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28-2026	7.	CASUAL VACANCIES
		Poster not yet received.
29-2026	8.	INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES
		<p>Cllr. McVicar reported that he has contacted an experienced potential speaker for a public meeting on Dark Skies who has indicated that he would be willing to speak. Council updated the Actions List.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Limond to contact SC regarding the registering and emptying of the new bins at the Bridge car park.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Limond to contact SC regarding the refilling of a new grit bin at Chapel Lawn, were the town council to purchase one.</p>
30-2026	9.	CLERK'S REPORT
		None.
31-2026	10.	PLANNING
		<p>To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26/00330/FUL AND 26/00331/LBC Application for the installation of heat pump, solar panels and storage battery at Hackney Barn, Guilden Down, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8NZ Supported unanimously. 26/00584/LBC Installation of up to 13 solar panels on the south-facing slope of the roof and a battery storage system located in the cellar at St Catherine's, 15 High St, Clun, Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 8JB Supported unanimously.
32-2026	11.	ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS
		<p>Cllr. Limond: the public toilets are open again and the plumbing issue repaired. He has met with Rob Andrews to discuss the suggested re-establishment of the greywater system and will carry out a cost-benefit analysis before proceeding.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to send water bills to Cllr. Limond.</p> <p>Cllr. Morris: has discussed with Highline and TRT the current streetlights and the costs and benefits of possible changes. This information will form part of the upcoming discussion regarding the council possible adoption of a dark skies arrangement.</p> <p>Cllr Morris reiterated the need for the clerk to contact the power company to arrange for the required underground work at Buffalo Lane, Newport Street and the entrance to Clun Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles: has asked 2 local contractors to quote for the task of fixing the electrical cable and box to the wall of the Town Hall.</p>
33-2026	12.	CIVIC AWARD SYSTEM



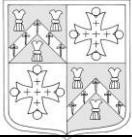
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		Cllr. McVicar described possible civic award system that council might wish to adopt. It was agreed to defer until next meeting, so that the Clerk can add information about the BC current system.
34-2026	13.	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
		Council agreed that a working group would be useful, if volunteers are found. Action: Cllr. Jones to advertise a meeting for volunteers from the local community to get involved.
35-2026	14.	TOURISM
		Cllr. Martin: has recently attended a useful meeting with Destination Partnerships regarding tourism in Shropshire. Action: All councillors to respond to Cllr Martin's tourism document if not already done so.
36-2026	15.	COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND LINKS
		A vote was taken and passed to defer the Personnel Committee report to the end of meeting as it required no public to be present. No further reports. Meeting suspended at 8.15pm for 5-minute rest break.
37-2026	16.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING
		Cllr Bowles asked for suggestions on ways council can alleviate issue of the lack of affordable housing, particularly rented, in view of many apparently empty properties. Discussion of previous actions in this matter which were unsuccessful. Agreed that a survey of which houses are unused would be useful and suggestion that a representative from Shropshire Council could help with this. Action: Cllr Bowles to contact Shropshire Cllr Walmsley for information of contact details of relevant SC department and for advice. Action: Cllr Martin to contact Connexus housing association to ask for information about their plans for housing in Clun.
38-2026	17.	CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE
		Cllr. McVicar spoke on his previously circulated document of the proposed Terms of Reference for a Churchyard committee. The establishment of the committee as described was proposed by Cllr McVicar, seconded by Cllr Bowles and approved unanimously. The committee to consist of Cllr. Bowles (chair), Cllr. McVicar and Cllr. Morris, together with the Church Warden and an invited member of the public. Proposed by Cllr. McVicar, seconded by Cllr. Martin and unanimously approved.



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39-2026	18.	WEBSITE																					
		<p>Cllr. McVicar reported that the new website is now ready to go live to the public and that the new council emails are now functioning.</p> <p>Council expressed appreciation for Cllr McVicar’s large amount of work on and successful achievement of these matters.</p>																					
40-2026	19.	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED																					
		None.																					
41-2026	20.	FINANCE																					
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Amount</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Reason</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£968.45</td> <td>Staff</td> <td>Salaries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£551.19</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax and employer’s NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£76.99</td> <td>G.J.Rippon</td> <td>Expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£48.00</td> <td>Sign and print</td> <td>Award printing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£60.00</td> <td>Parish Online</td> <td>Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1704.63</td> <td>Total</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation – approved. 2. To discuss 2 grant applications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Clun Young Farmers Club Council approved unanimously the payment of £1000. Proposed by Cllr. McVicar, seconded by Cllr. Morris. Cllr. Limond recused himself. (ii) Clun Memorial Hall Council approved unanimously the payment of £1500. Proposed by Cllr. Bowles, seconded by Cllr. Limond. 3. To approve the following invoices for payment – see schedule of payments. Approved with the exception of the payment to Parish Online, pending further information about it. Proposed Cllr. McVicar, seconded Cllr. Martin. Action: Assistant Clerk to contact Parish Online to request information on this payment. 	Amount	Payee	Reason	£968.45	Staff	Salaries	£551.19	HMRC	Tax and employer’s NI	£76.99	G.J.Rippon	Expenses	£48.00	Sign and print	Award printing	£60.00	Parish Online	Website	£1704.63	Total	
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42-2026	21.	CORRESPONDENCE																					
		None.																					
43-2026	22.	INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS																					
		<p>Cllr. McVicar showed a document available annually to all councils from Shropshire Council on Adult Care and Support Services in the Marches area.</p> <p>Action: Cllr McVicar to add electronic version to council website.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to request annual copies of the document from Shropshire Council.</p>																					



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44-2026	23.	AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civic Awards – deferred from this meeting• Tourism• Review of grant application form and procedure
		Public were requested to leave for the deferred report from item 15 and did so.
45-2026		<p>Cllr McVicar as chair of Personnel Committee presented the report on the Clerk's recent appraisal. Following discussion the council comment was approved, proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr McVicar.</p> <p>The Action Plan was proposed by Cllr. Limond, seconded by Cllr. Martin and approved unanimously.</p> <p>A vote was taken and it was approved unanimously that Cllr. McVicar as Chair of the Personnel Committee sign off the Clerk's Appraisal.</p>
46-2026	24.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
		Next meeting to be on Tuesday 7 th April 2026 at Clun Memorial Hall at 7.30pm
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 9.37pm