



# Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

## MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 4th February 2025 AT 7.30PM

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

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk)  
 Tracey Amass (Minute taker)  
 2 members of the public

	Agenda item	
001-2025	1.	<b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b>
		The Mayor welcomed attendees and thanked those in attendance. Apologies received from Nigel Hartin and Cllr. Jones.
002-2025	2.	<b>DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING AND WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS</b>
		(Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer). <i>Please note that all members need to complete a new declaration of pecuniary interests register for the Council term, whether previously a councillor or not.</i>  No declaration were made.



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003-2025	3.	<b>MAYOR'S REPORT</b>
		<p>Apologies for the lack of meeting in January, weather stopped play and finding another available date proved to be a problem. However, it was a fairly quite month.</p> <p>'Unfortunately,' that doesn't look to be the same going forward.</p> <p>It's good that the signage has been sorted directing HGVs away from the Town, however how successful this is going to be is yet to be seen. It may be worth bringing this up with the MP when he visits in the Spring.</p> <p>River quality remains a growing issue with planning yet again being frozen and no signs of any let up. How this will impact on HM Government's push to allow planning will an interesting story to follow.</p> <p>This month, as stated looks like it may be fairly busy with various events taking place. Notably the following:</p> <p>High Sheriff's Reception – myself and members of the Butty Van team will be travelling to Telford to a reception hosted by Brian Welti, High Sheriff.</p> <p>South Shropshire Mayors Forum – Again we are set to meet this month with a number of topics to discuss. I'm guessing a lot of this will be firmly on the current financial situation faced and lack of funding being seen this end of the county. Trying to get a dialogue with Portfolio holders is very challenging...!</p> <p>SpArC – an invite is in circulation to attend an event to celebrate the achievements in raising £250,000 for the redevelopment of the swimming pool. This will be on Friday 7th March at Bishops Castle with Oliver Morgan as Guest Speaker. I'm sure the more the merrier!</p> <p>Reopening of the Town Hall – provisionally booked for 17th April. The Lord Lieutenant has agreed to attend, and we are working to build a programme on how this event will run alongside the Clun Town Trust.</p> <p>VE Day Celebrations – this will take place on 8th May and we'll be meting RBL colleagues to see how we all work together to take this forward. Currently Clun has been provisionally registered to undertake a beacon and church bells and there has been calls for a street party. Any ideas of volunteers will be gratefully received.</p> <p>We've also got the Council AGM looming in May. The usual first Tuesday of the month may be problematic due to 'other commitments' so whether we can move to the following Tuesday would be welcomed!</p>
004-2025	4.	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>
		(i) Shropshire Councilor Report – You will probably have read my Clun Chronicle article this month detailing the difficult situation that Shropshire Council finds itself



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		<p>in over Planning matters, with the next stage of the Draft Local Plan enquiry halted whilst the Inspectors await Shropshire Councils reply to some fundamental changes they require, the acknowledgment by Shropshire Council that they no longer have a 5 Year Land supply due to changes made to the National Planning Framework &amp; the method for calculating Housing need, which have left the Council having to find almost double the amount of Housing Land than is in its current draft local plan.</p> <p>Also related to Planning Policy the Council has responded negatively to Government consultations on speeding up the planning system which propose more delegation to officers &amp; other measures designed to speed up the planning process by removing quite a lot of member involvement in all of the 3 options proposed by Government.</p> <p>Also in the Clun Chronicle I pointed out that Shropshire Council has received a poor settlement from Government for next year, which deepens its financial crisis still further. The Council has written to protest the removal of a number of rural grants which have nationally left four out of five Unitary Councils worse off than expected.</p> <p>We have almost completed the move from the Shirehall to the Guildhall in the centre of Shrewsbury &amp; will be holding our first Full Council meeting there at the end of February. Our redundancy program is, I'm told progressing, with our target of cutting 500 staff nearing completion.</p> <p>Despite some concern expressed that the Council may not hold elections as planned in May, this is not the case, Government is asking smaller Councils like Shropshire to come up with plans to amalgamate with other authorities to achieve a set population figure, but this does not affect elections in May, although it may result in future election timing having to be changed.</p> <p>(ii) Police Report – None received.</p> <p>(iii) Public comments – A member of the public from Clunton raised concerns with the visibility of the Clun Valley to Shropshire Council, again asking if a meeting could be arranged to discuss these issues. Cllr. Davies expressed empathy with the views and said no reason had been given for the cancellation of the previous meeting. Frustrations were clear from all sides but communications were not coming back from Shropshire Council.</p> <p>John French on behalf of Clun Community Cars thanked the council for the financial support for the phones. He raised that delay in responding to requests for funds to be released. Cllr. Davies said this would be addressed later in the meeting and gave assurance that these would be honoured.</p>
005-2025	5.	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
		Cllr. Davies proposed approval of the minutes of 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 and Cllrs Bowles and Angell seconded.



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006-2025	6.	<b>INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES</b>
		<p>Cllr. Bowles, the meeting referred to in item 4 would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell, regarding in item 6, the time pressure on a decision regarding the “switch” meant a decision was needed. Following a discussed between Cllr Davies and Cllr Angell it was agreed to proceed.</p> <p>Cllr Davies asked if there been any progress in finding an additional trustee for the Town Trust. Cllr. Bowles said someone was being considered and an update would be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. Limond asked if the Christmas lights could be on the March agenda.</p>
007-2025	7.	<b>CLERK’S REPORT</b>
		<p>The Clerk raised the matter of his car being damaged whilst being parked in The Square by the office and noted that this supports moving the office to the fire station.</p>
008-2025	8.	<b>Water monitoring system connection for the toilets</b> <b>Email attached</b>
		<p>To see whether the council would be happy for us to connect the data logger that will be attached to the footbridge to the power at the rear of the public toilets. This was discussed earlier in the meeting. See item 6.</p>
008-2025	9.	<b>PLANNING</b>
		<p>a) To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>24/04747/LBC Application for the replacement of 8No. windows at Clun Mill Youth Hostel, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NY. This item has already been approved.</li><li>25/00114/FUL Application for the erection of replacement porch and alterations to existing sunroom at Knoll View, Ford Street, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire. This application was supported unanimously.</li></ol>
009-2025	10.	<b>ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL</b>
		<p>To update on the following and any action deemed necessary: -</p>



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		<p>1. Town Hall External Works Update as at 28/01/2025 Current position:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The works were inspected before Christmas and a “snagging” item has been attended to, hence the contract has been signed off as completed. However T R Associates have since identified an additional sandstone to be replaced, at an extra over cost of £735. Reynolds will be undertaking this work during w/c 3 February.</li> <li>b. So, apart from some modifications required to the Flag supports the Project should be finished.</li> </ul> <p>2. Other Items relating to The Town Hall:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clock Maintenance:- The clock has been serviced by Smiths of Derby at a cost of £1,284 Whether we engage them for regular services needs further investigation</li> <li>b. Stair Lift Maintenance:- Acorn Stair Lifts are due to service the stairlift in March approx. 5 weeks before the Museum opens. The cost is £414</li> <li>c. Electrical Condition Report:- The last inspection was carried out in November 2020 at a cost of £338 by EOM of Newtown. The recommendation from EOM is that this type of inspection is carried out at an interval of no more than 5years. Hence the next inspection is due to be carried out before November of this year. Incidentally PAT (or Portable Appliance Testing) is not a legal requirement.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr. Davies suggested the lease should be reviewed to make sure it meets current requirements. Cllr. Limond suggested consideration should be given to fire prevention and alarms. These matters will be added to the March meeting agenda.</p> <p>Cllr. Davies mentioned that the flags need renewing. A discussion on which flags should be displayed to be added to the March agenda. Action Bill to explore the costs of flags and poles.</p> <p>1. Public toilets: To discuss the rain water retrieval system. A local retired engineer has done further work on this. The integrity of the water tank is key. It is made of fibreglass, and metal banded. Its capacity is 2,500 gallons and there are no obvious signs of stress. Any failure would be likely to occur as a leak from a crack in the lower third of the tank but a catastrophic burst is unlikely due to its construction. Any water lost would flow directly into the river. Next steps. To test the integrity of the tank, it is proposed that 3 cargo straps with ratchet tension devices be put on the tank between the first 4 braces. Cost – under £50. The filters to be cleaned and the tank allowed to fill naturally, making regular inspections and the result observed. If all proves satisfactory, then a functional specification can be drawn up for the remaining work required, together with a cost/benefit statement for the project. Cllr. Angell noted that the tank had not been used for over ten years and when it was last filled it bowed. This could be observed as it fills with rain water.</p> <p>2. St Georges Closed Churchyard. To discuss and actions Cllr Angell had been unable to obtain an update from the consultant who is undertaking the survey.</p> <p>A new church warden is in post (Joan Kerry and contact would be made shortly.</p> <p>3. To discuss the Notice board at Chapel Lawn</p>
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		Cllr Shepherd said the quote of £1058 installed price seemed to be slightly lower than other options and recommended accepting this quote. Cllr. Limond proposed, Rob seconded, agreed unanimously.
<b>010-2025</b>	<b>10.</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</b>
		To discuss and decided on renting the Christmas lights for year 2027.  This item was deferred
<b>011-2025</b>	<b>11.</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>
		<p>To receive the Bank Reconciliation. Cllr. Angell checked that and surplus would go into reserves. Clerk confirmed that any reserves would go into earmark reserves and then general reserves.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the following invoices for payment. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. HMRC £265.21p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>b. G. J. Rippon £130.49 (expenses) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>c. HALLS £72.22 (toilet supplies) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>d. Edge £327.60 (Burial Systems) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>e. MRT Electrical £102.00p ( Town Hall) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>f. J. Limond £128.45p ( lunch for volunteers) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>g. S. Wallace £18.00p (Maintenance) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>h. NWS £51.24p (Maintenance) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>i. JD French £60.00p (Clun Cars) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>For Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j. Jon Churchett £500.00 Cleaner (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>k. Tracey Amass £89.88 Minute taker (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> </ol> <p>To ratify the following invoices which have been paid.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l. HMRC £265.21p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>m. G. J. Rippon £121.99 (expenses) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>n. St George's Church £90.00p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>o. Acorn Stairlifts £414.00p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>p. Reynolds Conservation £27978.32 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>q. Highline £2451.84 (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>r. Parish Online £480.00p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> <li>s. Parish Online £120.00p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</li> </ol> <p>For information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>t. Jon Churchett £500.00 Cleaner (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) (December)</li> <li>u. Tracey Amass £89.88 Minute taker (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011) (December)</li> </ol> <p>A discussion took place regarding the grant application for the Bowles Club. Based on the recent estimated quote provided it was agreed that £1500 was the amount being considered. Cllr. Andrews noted that they had made many improvements out of their own funds and so he proposed supporting and Cllr. Angell seconded. Agreed. Clun Cars to be given an extra £10 to cover unforeseen costs of phones.</p>



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012-2025	12.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>
		Cllr. Davies a complaint had been received about the decision to employ a deputy clerk but this decision is supported by good practice.
013-2025	13.	<b>INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS</b>
		<p>Cllr. Davies said that the current street cleaner is coming up for retirement. The Clerk suggested a discussion with Bishops Castle mayor would be a good idea as they will be facing the same issue and a joint solution might be possible.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell said that the role was clearly necessary due to the nature of the road layout. A local person being able to react to needs had been appreciated with the current post holder. Also consideration should be given to a joint effort to recognize the long service and contribution of the incumbent.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell reminded the meeting that there is still an outstanding action regarding new bins.</p> <p>Cllr Angell had requested highways as a standing agenda item and noted that an update on drainage from Shropshire was still outstanding despite chasing.</p>
014-2025	14.	<b>CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP</b>
		<p>Cllr. Bowles said that the group continues to follow developments about planning in the River Clun Catchment and noted the Environment Agency response to SC's draft local plan. A follow up event to the successful Clun in the Future event of 2021 is being planned with the focus being actions from Clun's Biodiversity Action Plan. The group is participating in Shropshire Council's Nature Recovery Consultation. The River Monitoring Group are involved with a new data collection system set up by the River Severn Partnership including remote phosphate and particulates measurements. Litter picking 1 staking place monthly.</p> <p>Under the Environment Act 2021 it is incumbent to have a plan. CCEG are doing a good job with getting a plan in place. Now there is a need to take action such as raising awareness and getting input from public. An event is planned for the autumn. Support from council has been requested, Cllr Bowles will attend. There may be a request in the future for money for hall hire etc for the day.</p>
015-2025	15.	Agenda items for the next meeting
		<b>MEETING AS TRUST TO BE COVERED BY CLERK</b>
		Declaration of interest from Cllrs Andrews and Bowles. Cllr Andrews noted that the paper had been circulated with the papers for the January meeting along with a request for the balance of the fund to be given to the Memorial Hall for improvements.



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		<p>Cllr. Davies asked for views on the proposal. Cllr. Angell said he was not in favour of using the entire fund but did support providing some funds. This was because there might be other groups who would wish to call on this fund. The Clerk said that the aims of the fund are to be available to a wider range of recreational activities. Cllr Davies agreed and said perhaps consideration could be given to whether the annual grant could be increased to address ongoing improvements. The Clerk suggested an annual precept for the Memorial Hall from 2026 onwards. Cllr. Angell suggested awareness of the fund should be raised so smaller clubs can call on the fund. Cllr. Limond asked if the fund would be replenished if the full amount were to be given to one applicant. The Clerk said a small quarterly amount is received. Some of the smaller groups using the hall might make applications for funds.</p> <p>All agreed.</p>
<b>016-2025</b>	<b>16.</b>	<p>Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under Section (1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item.</p>
<b>017-2025</b>	<b>17.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
		Date of next meeting to be held 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
		Signed by the Chair.
		Meeting closed at 9.30