

# Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

## MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

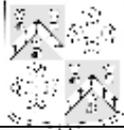
**HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 AT 7.30PM**

| <b>PRESENT</b>  | <b>APOLOGIES</b> |
|---|------------------|
| Cllr. R Davies<br>Cllr. D. Morris<br>Cllr. R. Bowles<br>Cllr. J. Limond<br>Cllr. M. Jones<br>Cllr. C. Page<br>Cllr. A. Martin | Cllr. J. McVicar |

| <b>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE</b> |
|---------------------------|
| Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk) |

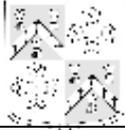
There were 2 members of the public present

|                 | <b>Agenda item</b> |  |
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| <b>156-2025</b> | <b>1.</b>          | <b>ATTENDANCE</b>  |
|                 |                    | Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance   |
| <b>157-2025</b> | <b>2.</b>          | <b>APOLOGIES</b>   |
|                 |                    | Please see above.  |
| <b>158-2025</b> | <b>3.</b>          | <b>DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING</b>  |
|                 |                    | All members have an interest in the Clun Memorial Hall. No others.   |
| <b>159-2025</b> | <b>4.</b>          | <b>MAYOR'S REPORT</b>  |
|                 |                    | Firstly I'd like to apologise that I've been a bit distracted with the farm sale, but hopefully everything is now going through at a bit of a quicker rate and I'll have more time to commit, going forward.<br>A lot of what I have to say is within the report by Sam Walmsley, so I will keep it brief!<br>Its concerning that Shropshire Council has issued a warning regarding their budget and the threat of a section 114 looming if they can't raise £60m from UKG. What impact this will have on us is yet to be seen.<br>It's good to see that the Waterloo phase one has been sorted.<br>A reminder that the Remembrance Day service is taking place on Sunday at St George's and would be good to see councillors in attendance.<br>Looking forward to December we have the Christmas lights switch on and I've been invited to attend the annual Advent Service at Kings Guard Chapel London. |



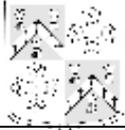
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|                 |           | Also congratulations to Fiona Gibson Archdeacon of Ludlow who has been given the role of Bishop of Taunton.  |
| <b>160-2025</b> | <b>5.</b> | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>   |
|                 |           | Approved.  |
| <b>161-2025</b> | <b>6.</b> | <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  |
|                 |           | <p>(i) Shropshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Perhaps unsurprisingly, finances are the biggest news story at the Council. Every time we dig deeper, we find more problems and it is now clear that without a loan from the government the Council will run out of money before the end of the financial year. We have put in the formal request for a loan of approx. £50m under the Emergency Financial Support scheme and are now waiting to hear whether this will be awarded. The loan will allow us to do two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet our financial obligations this year</li> <li>• Allow us to put plans in place so the Council remains solvent in the coming years</li> </ul> <p>The second point is non-trivial. Even delivering our statutory obligations is difficult with current funding. Our ability to raise council tax is limited, and with inflation relatively high even the maximum increase doesn't significantly increase our spending power. We are waiting to find out whether the ongoing central government review of council funding will give us more money, this will be a key factor in our long-term financial situation. We are also looking for ways in which we can increase revenue e.g. ensuring all existing council tax is collected.</p> <p>We are doing everything we can to avoid a section 114 notice being put in (effectively declaring the council bankrupt), although the situation is very difficult the Council is at least being run by people from Shropshire. If the 114 notice does go in, the Council will be run from Whitehall and there are very few obligations for the commissioners to consult with local people about changes that they want to make.</p> <p>Jenny Knoll Farm</p> <p>I did put in a request for this application to be considered by the planning committee, I haven't yet heard whether it has been accepted. My assessment is that many of the concerns that led to rejection of the 2017 application have not been addressed, it will be interesting to see whether planning officers are of the same opinion.</p> <p>Waterloo Ford</p> <p>All repairs now complete.</p> <p>Streetlight on High Street</p> <p>There is a Shropshire Council owned streetlight on the high street that isn't working and hasn't been since last winter. This is unacceptable I have been chasing this and will continue to do so.</p> |



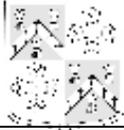
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|                 |           | <p>Flood sensor base station – Chapel Lawn<br/>A project is in progress to install some river level monitoring on the Redlake. This will help warn local residents of flooding, and help with flood defense planning. Last month I put in a tentative request for the TC to approve the mounting of a base station for flood sensors on their street light in Chapel Lawn, the base station collects data from the river instruments and transmits it to ‘the internet’. The project is moving along, there will be a detailed survey to confirm sensor locations in the next couple of weeks. Assuming the street light location is still needed, I will share more information with the TC so they can confirm if they’re happy for work to proceed. Please note that there will be no cost to the TC for any installation work.</p> <p>Grit Bin – Chapel Lawn Road<br/>A resident contacted me saying they would like a grit bin at Bryncalled, at the lower end of Chapel Lawn road (in Clun TC area). They submitted a request to the TC using the form, but haven’t heard anything back. The location they are suggesting seems sensible, I know Bucknell PC have been funding grit bins and hope Clun TC will consider doing the same (I emailed Ryan/Gwilym about this a couple of days ago, so hopefully it will appear in correspondence received section</p> <p>Footpath sign<br/>I have seen the email from Jack and will action/respond.</p> <p>(ii) Police Report - none</p> <p>(iii) Public comments<br/>Concerns raised about lack of improvement achieved in quality of River Clun and in particular the effects from the sewage outlet in Clun.<br/>Local resident passed on to council for information his concern regarding the poor condition and lack of use of the Buffalo Inn and his intention to contact the owner and possibly the Georgian Society on the matter. Council supported.</p> |
| <b>162-2025</b> | <b>7.</b> | <b>INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES</b>  |
|                 |           | <p>Cllr. Bowles reported that concrete bases are now in place for bins in bridge car park and bins will be installed soon.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles reported that Forestry England, in collaboration with the Clun P3 group, plan to replace the signpost on the way to Bury Ditches later this month. Council updated the Actions list.</p>  |
| <b>163-2025</b> | <b>8.</b> | <b>CLERK’S REPORT</b>  |
|                 |           | Request received from Carolyn Lewis for use of Town Hall as Christmas grotto on 30 <sup>th</sup> November.   |
| <b>164-2025</b> | <b>9.</b> | <b>PLANNING</b>  |
|                 |           | To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters   |



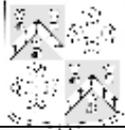
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|                 |            | <p>1. 25/03981/FUL<br/>Application for the demolition of existing dwelling, garage and associated works, replaced with new dwelling and associated works at Riverdale, High Street, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire.</p> <p>Unanimously supported.</p> <p>2. 25/03882/FUL<br/>Application for the installation of roof mounted solar arrays of (total) 166 p.v. panels on two existing agricultural buildings Lower Weston Farm Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8QB.</p> <p>Unanimously supported.</p>  |
| <b>165-2025</b> | <b>10.</b> | <b>ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL</b>  |
|                 |            | <p>1. Town Hall<br/>Cllr. Bowles reported that the electrical work to replace fuseboards and install arc fault detection system is complete. A quote for installation of smoke detectors has been requested. Suggestion of solar panels on roof discussed.</p> <p>2. Public Toilets – no issues.</p>  |
| <b>166-2025</b> | <b>11.</b> | <b>WEBSITE</b>  |
|                 |            | <p>Cllr. Bowles reported that the website group looked at site suggested by Clerk and agree that it would be an improvement to use Vision ICT.<br/>Cllr. Martin suggested Hugo Fox as an alternative provider.</p>  |
| <b>167-2025</b> | <b>12.</b> | <b>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED (and consider recommendations)</b>   |
|                 |            | <p>Cllr. Bowles reported to council a request made from CCEG to Clun P3 for help from the Community Payback (CP) organisation with verges work. This would require council to provide insurance for the CP workers. Council approved the request, subject to insurance being readily available and its cost.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles reported on meetings held in the castle grounds on 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October with representatives from English Heritage, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shropshire Hills National Landscape, Clun Parish Pathways Partnership, Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn and local volunteers. A draft Clun Castle Management Plan has been produced by English Heritage for comment. A “Friends of Clun Castle” group with representatives from the above organisations is proposed. Council approved Cllr. Bowles as council representative on this group.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles reported from CCEG on the recent Clun in the Future event and summarised the previously circulated report including suggested actions. Council supported the actions as suggested.</p> |



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|                 |              | <p>Cllr. Martin suggested including activities to involve families and young people above primary school age.</p> <p>Cllr. Page reported on a meeting organised by Caring For God's Acre and Middle Marches Community Land Trust, with particular regard to the environmental importance of verges and to the use of pesticides and herbicides.</p> <p>Cllr. Limond reported from the Christmas Lights group. The system will remain the same for this year but it is hoped that a new system will be organised for next year. The lights event will be on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.</p>   |
| <b>168-2025</b> | <b>13.</b>   | <b>FINANCE</b>  |
|                 |              | <p>1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation Approved.</p> <p>2. To approve the following invoices for payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. HMRC £450.12p (Tax £446.36 Employers NI 3.76) (S 112 Local Government Act 1972)</li><li>b. HMRC underpayment £150.93 (S 112 Local Government Act 1972)</li><li>c. G. J. Rippon £121.99p (home working allowance, mileage SLCC subscription and printing) (S 112 Local Government Act 1972)</li><li>d. MRT Electrical £1896.00p (101 Local Government Act 1972)</li><li>e. Poppy wreath £50.00 (101 Local Government Act 1972)</li></ul> <p>For information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>f. Jon Churchett £600.00 Cleaner (S 111 Local Government Act 1972)</li></ul> <p>All approved.</p> |
| <b>169-2025</b> | <b>14.</b>   | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |
|                 |              | <p>Cllr. Davies reported on request received for council to provide a grit bin at a location in Chapel Lawn.</p> <p>Replies by Cllr. Davies to previous correspondence received from Atlas have not had a response..</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles reported an email from Tom Wall, informing the council that the Strategic Clun Liaison Group have agreed to a meeting with the environment lobby on 15<sup>th</sup> December in Clun regarding the river.</p>  |
| <b>170-2025</b> | <b>15.</b>   | <b>INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS</b>   |
|                 |              | <p>Cllr. Morris reported that Andrew Wallace will be retiring from street cleaning post in January and will be replaced. Council expressed gratitude for Andrew's excellent and longstanding contribution to the town through this.</p>   |
| <b>171-2025</b> | <b>16. *</b> | <b>STAFFING</b>   |
|                 |              | <p>Clerk reported that the contract for Assistant to Clerk is ready for approval.</p>   |



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|                 |            |   |
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|                 |            | <p>Council agreed requirement for replacement minutes secretary, as recommended by Personnel Committee.</p> <p>Cllr. Davies requested that Freeman of Clun award be presented at Carol Service at St George's Church on 16<sup>th</sup> December and passed on request from recipient for confidentiality until then.</p> <p>Council approved.</p>  |
| <b>172-2025</b> | <b>17.</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</b>  |
|                 |            | <p>Cllr. Page requested an agenda item of a discussion regarding the sending out of the agenda, which the clerk declined, the content of the Agenda was the responsibility of the clerk .</p> <p>Cllr. Page requested that the agenda be sent out earlier in the day in order that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligation to have it put on noticeboards on the Thursday prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Discussion and decision on the grit bin at Chapel Lawn.</p> <p>Discussion of possible council actions supporting Tourism.</p> |
| <b>173-2025</b> | <b>18.</b> | <b>DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</b>   |
|                 |            | <p>Date of next meeting to be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at Memorial Hall at 7.30pm</p>   |
|                 |            | <p>Signed by the Chair.</p>   |
|                 |            | <p>Meeting closed at 8.53pm</p>   |