



Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 7th November 2023 AT 7.30PM

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

| ALSO IN ATTENDANCE |
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| Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk) |

There were no members of the public present

| | Agenda item | |
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| 100-2023 | 1. | ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES |
| | | Please see above. The Mayor thanked all for their attendance |
| 101-2023 | 2. | DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING |
| | | a) All members have an interest in the Clun Memorial Hall b) To declare any personal interests – none |
| 102-2023 | 3. | MAYOR'S REPORT |
| | | Since our last meeting Clun and the surrounding areas have been subjected to quite a large degree of turmoil in various guises. We started October with torrential rainfall which in Clun tradition, creates flooding across the boundaries of the river. But, residents remain as resilient as ever and seem to just 'take it on the chin.' This has created a bit of damage to Council assets in terms of street furniture which will need to be addressed as soon as possible. This comprising of bins in the wrong |

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place and park benches uplifted. This has led to an idea to start a resilience network comprising of neighbouring parish volunteers, so we all have an idea of what is going on further afield, this mainly to help drivers trying to get to a certain area and allow a more robust flow of information to help divert cars.

No sooner had the flood waters resided, Shropshire Council appeared to start work on the drainage issues around the town. I think its fair to say communications weren't exactly accurate as mixed messages were coming from Shropshire Council which differed from various teams within the contractors, Keir. I would ask Nigel Hartin if he could pass that on up the chain. That said, the contractors have done their up most to keep residents as happy as it is safe to do so, and I would like to thank them for this. Work is still being undertaken but I am confident they will try to keep disruption to the minimum. At the end of the day, a week or so's disruption will hopefully benefit the community for years to come and will again, hopefully, help decrease the pollution issues within the river.

Since the last meeting it was interesting that although we made quite big reference to agricultural pollution, there wasn't much backlash, actually, none at all – something that I wasn't expecting!

Speaking to residents around the town, streetlights remain a big issue especially as we now enter the gloom of winter hours and I think as a matter of urgency we need to make sure that where we can, all lights are operating sufficiently so people can safely go about their business.

The office is now functioning, and we've agreed with the Clerk this would be open on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm, however not on the first week of the month as this clashes with our meetings and wouldn't represent good value in terms of the Clerk's time.

It was good to meet Philip Dunne MP last week alongside his successor in order to talk through the big issues we face in this remote corner of the constituency. I think they remain somewhat impressed that for a small town, we have so much going on.

Last month we had a few issues with the accuracy of Planning Applications coming forward from Shropshire Council. In respect of the Trees in Conservation Areas (TCA's) this is notification rather than application. This Local Authority in these cases are not looking for grant consent for works, rather more they are looking at whether a Tree Preservation Order should be applied. However, they have acknowledged the detail coming forward last month was extremely poor.



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| | | <p>With regards to Ford Street, the rear windows which were not part of the application were of a more modern construction therefore not included. Where works are deemed minor, a proportionate approach is taken.</p> <p>Matters arising: Cllr. Angell reported that during the current road closure serious verbal abuse was directed at the contractor. Council agreed a letter to be sent to contractor apologising for this and thanking for their efficient work and minimising of disruption.</p> |
| 103-2023 | 4. | PUBLIC SESSION |
| | | <p>(i) Shropshire Councillor Report – not present</p> <p>(ii) Police Report None</p> <p>(iii) Public comments – no public present</p> |
| 104-2023 | 5. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES |
| | | <p>Minutes from meeting on 3rd October 2023 were approved. Proposed by Cllr. Angell and seconded by Cllr. Shepherd</p> |
| 105-2023 | 6. | INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES |
| | | <p>Cllr. Angell asked for clarification regarding Powell's Lane streetlight.</p> |
| 106-2023 | 7. | CLERK'S REPORT |
| | | <p>From Task sheet: Police invited to Council meeting and have agreed will try to attend. Buffalo Lane – Shropshire Cllr. Hartin to be asked New Council office in Square – sign is on window and notice on website, Clerk is there on Tuesdays from 12-2pm Planning appeal by Mr Gwilliam on 6/12/2023, Cllr. Davies aims to attend Candidates for minute clerk post to be invited to next council meeting Dec 5th and to interview Dec 12th at council office 12.30pm with Personnel Committee and Cllr. Bowles Cllr. Duffee suggested web admin post might also suit either candidate. Cleaner of public toilets John Churchett completed 10 hours of extra work as consequence of recent serious flooding in town, ex gratia payment of £90 suggested. Proposed by Cllr. Limond, seconded by Cllr. Duffee. Passed unanimously.</p> |



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| 107-2023 | 8. | PLANNING |
| | | <p>To consider the following planning applications and other planning matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">23/03896/LBC Application for replacement of 3no windows to first floor front elevation and 3no modern windows to the rear elevation affecting a Grade II listed building Ford House, 22 Ford Street, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8LD Already approved23/04649/FUL - Llanhedric Farm Erection of upper walls and roofs over existing slurry store and hardstanding. Council response: support. Proposed by Cllr. Wooldridge, seconded by Cllr. Limond.23/04766/FUL Pump House, Purlogue, Clun, Shropshire, SY7 8LT Conversion of first floor of attached barn into additional residential accommodation, to include erection of external staircase and balcony, plus alterations to existing vehicular access. Council response: support. Proposed by Cllr. Duffee, seconded by Cllr. Wooldridge.Update about proposed trees work in castle grounds: details of which trees are involved have now been obtained and sent to Tree Warden, who will report to Clerk to respond to Shropshire Council. All agreed. <p>Clerk confirmed that we are including in our responses our standard paragraph concerning the use of appropriate materials etc.</p> |
| 108-2023 | 9. | ASSETS OF THE COUNCIL |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none">Town Hall Cllr. Shepherd reported on finding potential contractors for West wall re-rendering. Not in a position yet to recommend. 7 contractors were asked, 3 busy, 4 sent quotes, 2 later withdrew. Of the 2 remaining both say will take 12-14 weeks. Possible road closure or traffic lights may be needed. Cllr. Bowles has submitted grant application for approx. £60,000 to Community Ownership Fund (run by Dept of Levelling Up) on Oct 11th. Included fantastic local support: 253 signed petition and 319 supported on FaceBook poll by Cllr. Davies. Cllr. Bowles thanked Cllr. Andrews for invaluable thorough Business Plan and Cllr. Angell for detailed advice and support throughout process. Not known when will get response, will chase |



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| | | <p>at end of November. If unsuccessful will apply to National Lottery Heritage Fund when reopens in Jan.</p> <p>2. Public toilets update on maintenance Blockage recently cleared. Steve Richards has agreed to be go-to plumber. Next year Cllr. Andrews intends to explore costs/benefits of bringing rainwater tank back into use</p> <p>3. Street lighting Action: Clerk to contact Highline about purple light at bottom of Newport Street, specifically whether colour can be easily altered. See also earlier action in item 6</p> |
| 109-2023 | 10. | CLOSED CHURCH YARD |
| | | <p>Clerk reported that Tree Warden's report confirms that there are trees in churchyard that require an arborist.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to contact Nicky Tranter for emergency work on trees near neighbouring house. Proposed: Cllr. Angell, seconded: Cllr. Limond.</p> <p>Cllr. Angell emphasised that it is essential to have clear record of our exact legal responsibilities and insurance implications of taking on churchyard.</p> |
| 110-2023 | 11. | CLUN MILL |
| | | <p>Cllr. Duffee reported that Mark Limbrick attended the agent's Sale Day and also wrote to the Chronicle to raise awareness. Recent public talk by Tony Martyr attracted a large audience of 75 including a potential purchaser who would keep the Mill as a youth hostel. Discussions continue between Mark L and potential purchaser, both frustrated by slow response of agents. Mark L providing information to him about managing hostels. The Council has not yet applied to Shropshire Council for the Mill to be registered as an Asset of Community Value.</p> |
| 111-2023 | 12. | TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM GROUPS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED |
| | | <p>Cllr. Angell reported regarding current road closures that the contractors have been extremely efficient at minimising disruption.</p> <p>Cllr. Davies has been keeping on top of the mixed messages coming in regarding times and places of closures and keeping community informed on social media. It has been complicated by the BBC reporting inaccurate information and rapidly changing information from Shropshire Council, in</p> |



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| | | <p>addition to the natural adjustments to projects once underway in light of physical situation and weather considerations.</p> <p>All agreed that although inevitably disruptive, it is a major success that these works are taking place, with substantial future benefits for the community.</p> <p>See also action in item 3.</p> <p>Cllr. Limond requested Council's permission to use The Square for the Christmas Lights switch-on, to use the Town Hall for the grotto and for Council to make donations to those local residents who put up the lights and for Santa's gifts. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr. Limond reported from the Clun AED Scheme. The shop has made impressive £9000 in the 1st year. AEDs have been installed in many places including the White Horse Inn, the Memorial Hall, Mainstone, Bucknell, Leintwardine among others. Approx 30 now installed. Ongoing effort to find position for one at Chapel Lawn. Possibility of using streetlight. Council agreed unanimously to allow device to be strapped to lamppost. Future possibility mentioned of using solar power for more remote locations.</p> |
| 112-2023 | 13. | CLUN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP |
| | | <p>Cllr. Bowles reported from October CCEG meeting: pleased to note Council's actions on River Clun; have plans to tackle Himalayan Balsam along Clun and Unk rivers; using Council website for publicising local events and information.</p> <p>Cllr. Bowles proposed that Council write to Shropshire Council, as other Parish Councils have already done, to urge them to push forward the motion they passed in 2020 that Shropshire Council Pension Fund should divest themselves of fossil fuel investment.</p> <p>Passed by majority with one abstension.</p> <p>Cllr. Davies reported that the planned meeting between Tom Wall and representatives of EA and NE had to be postponed owing to flooding issues but will be rearranged and Cllr. Davies will attend. If this meeting does not seem to resolve or progress matters, Cllr. Davies will arrange for the Clun Liaison Group to meet with Council.</p> |
| 113-2023 | 14. | FINANCE |
| | | 1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation |



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| | | <p>Received and agreed</p> <p>2. To discuss and decide on the purchase of regalia for the Mayor.</p> <p>Discussed importance of the role of regalia in the recognition of Clun as a town, taking pride in showing ourselves as a town when represented at official events, showing aspiration and as an asset for the future. Previous mayors would be represented on named bars attached to the ribbon, this record to be added to in the future with further named bars. Particular choice of regalia was discussed and decided upon.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr. Limond, seconded: Cllr. Shepherd</p> <p>Passed by majority, with one vote against.</p> <p>3. To discuss and decide on applying for a Unity Trust Multipay charge card</p> <p>Passed unanimously</p> <p>4. To approve the following invoices for payment</p> <p>a. J. Churchett £500.00p (Toilet Cleaning) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>b. HMRC £357.43p (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>c. G. J. Rippon £76.99p (home working allowance and mileage) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>d. Highline £474.00p (Light Powells Lane) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>e. A Wallace £20.00p (Grass cutting) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>f. DGL Environment £40.00 (tree survey) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>g. PKF Littlejohn £378.00p (External Audit) (S1-S7 Localism Act 2011)</p> <p>All approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Duffee and seconded by Cllr. Angell</p> |
| 114-2023 | 15. | CORRESPONDENCE |
| | | Cllr. Davies reported that Council have received an invitation for all Councillors to the Clun Fair Trade 10 th birthday celebration on 27 th November 6-8pm at Haslehurst. |
| 115-2023 | 16. | INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS |
| | | Cllr. Bowles reported that the Clun Walking Group (CWG), who produced and sell the book “Clun valley & borders 33 favourite walks” are currently working on a new updated version to be available in Spring 2024. All the profits from the 5,000 copies sold have been and continue to be donated to local charities and good causes and this will be the case for the new |



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| | | <p>version. CWG are now looking for donations or sponsorship to fund the printing of the new version and Cllr. Bowles asked Council's view on this. It was agreed that CWG will apply for a grant from the Council following the opportunity for other donations and sponsorship to have been made.</p> <p>All discussed plans for the award of the Freeman of Clun.</p> |
| 116-2023 | 17. | AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING |
| | | <p>Cllr. Angell Grant policy update</p> <p>Cllr. Angell Nature Recovery Strategy which should be coming to us via SALC and on which CCEG can advise Council on issues and possible responses.</p> |
| 117-2023 | 18. | DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING |
| | | Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 th December 2023 at Memorial Hall |
| | | Signed by the Chair. |
| | | Meeting closed 9.55pm |