

Clunbury Parish Council

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Ordinary Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council
15 January 2026
(re-scheduled from the original date of 8 January 2026)

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Davies (Chair); Cllr Bailey; Cllr Bramah-Taylor; Cllr Harding; Cllr Jones; Cllr Lewis; Cllr Morgan; Cllr Wall.

In attendance: Unitary Councillor Walmsley; Richard Hunt, Parish Council Clerk; Nine members of the public.

Meeting opened: 18.30

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Croxton.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.
3. The **Minutes** of the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 6 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. There were no **matters arising** from the Minutes that were not included in the agenda.
5. **Clerk's report:** Shropshire Council have continued their pilot scheme designed to inform plans to delegate greater authority to town and parish councils in the county. The pilots feature Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance. SALC have invited town and parish councils to consider applying for accreditation under the Local Council Award Scheme. The PC's Website and e-mail systems meet the new Accreditation 10 technical standards for IT systems. The Winter Outreach Wellbeing Team is visiting Clunton on 12 February; the Clerk has advertised this event on the PC's website and informed the Parish Post.
6. **Public Participation:** Matters of interest were covered under Agenda items 9b) and 13). Please see below.
7. The **Unitary Councillor** has been instrumental in delaying the planned speed limit increase in Twitchin (Agenda item 9b). Shropshire Council is looking at a future £195 million budget deficit, with less money provided by central government for rural areas. Planning Application 25/03645/OUT (Little Brampton affordable dwelling) goes before the Shropshire Council Southern Planning Committee on 27 January. The PC is happy for the Unitary Councillor to represent its position. PC support was dependent on the Highways Officer being assured that road safety concerns have been addressed, which is not the case.
8. **Climate and Environmental Group**
 - a) The PC received the group's latest report. At its meeting on 28 November 2025 the group raised three issues for the attention of the PC:
 - concern at the dredging of the stream in Clunton and its impact on the white-clawed crayfish, which is a protected species;
 - reinstatement of a grassed public amenity area adjacent to the river by Clunton Bridge;
 - a lack of public consultation by relevant agencies in respect to the restoration of the Walcot Wiggle. This has been raised with the Environmental Agency.
 - b) In one of its activities contributing towards the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy the group conducted a Parish Hedgerow Ramble on 6 December, which looked at hedgerows and how best to maintain strong hedges and establish new ones. The PC is supportive of this, and Cllr Wall will invite the Campaign to Protect Rural England to survey the area and make recommendations that could be eligible for funding in late 2026/early 2027.

9. Highways

a) Road junction at Purslow

A No Parking sign is now in place at Hundred House to prevent obstruction of the visibility mirror to help traffic turning on to the main road.

b) Speed restrictions through Twitchen

The Unitary Councillor has obtained a cancellation of the planned increase in speed limit on a stretch of the B4358 from 30mph to 40mph, representing objections from both the PC and residents. The legal requirement to make the change has still to be addressed, but he will now pursue as a consolidated package a PC-endorsed request to leave the 30mph zones as they are, preceded by 40mph buffer areas, and with a 20mph limit in the centre of the village. Shropshire Council are examining ways to implement 20mph speed limits in specific areas on a fast-track basis. Residents are amenable to installing the PC Vehicle Activated System (VAS) on their land, where that meets operational criteria. This device is currently in use in Clunton, but can be moved. Cllr Bailey will determine if there is another VAS available locally to enable one to be operational in both Clunton and Twitchen simultaneously. Twitchen residents will form a Community Speed Watch team, with support from the Clerk.

c) VAS device at Clunton.

The device in Clunton is providing useful data on the speed of traffic. The Clerk has asked Shropshire Council to provide additional poles in Clunton and Kempton to enable the VAS to be located in different positions.

10. Emergency Planning and Flooding Response: It was agreed that each village in the parish needs its own contingency plan to ensure that all requisite actions are taken in an emergency and that vulnerable residents are protected. WhatsApp groups already provide effective coordination. The Clerk will liaise with local group leads and disseminate contact information to parishioners via the PC's website, local Facebook groups and the Parish Post newsletter.

11. Kempton Phone Box: Shropshire Council continue to be frustrated by BT's inability to provide an update on the box that was removed, or on plans to replace it with a new box. The PC will consult its counterpart in Llanyblodwel, which also had a phone box removed, to see if they are interested in a joint media release to hopefully stimulate a BT response.

12. Agricultural Fields East of Clunton: Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement have ruled that there is nothing they can do about the array of vehicles and containers stored in a grass sheep field, because the assets are mobile and will be moved temporarily if action is scheduled. Environment Agency and Highways rules have not been transgressed, and further options to remove the units are unavailable. The Clerk will contact the owner of the land to express the PC's concern and request remedial action.

13. Local Hunt trespassing on private land: There have been several instances of hunts with hounds trespassing on private land, despite being told not to enter. Complaints have been made to police, but no action taken. The PC will produce a map with land designated where the hunt is not welcome. This will be published in the Parish Post and sent to the local hunts.

14. Parish Council policies: Following a proposal by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Lewis, it was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the updated Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations.

15. Parish Council management and communications

a) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve terms of reference for the PC Personnel Committee, which will be reviewed at the Annual PC Meeting in May.

b) E-mail will remain the primary inter-PC communications medium, but the Clerk will create a WhatsApp group for disseminating time-sensitive messages. The Clerk will provide a deadline on messages that require councillor responses; inputs after this will not be considered. The PC's methods for communicating with the public have been extended to include local Facebook groups and the Parish Post as well as e-mail and the PC website. Responsibility for posting PC meeting agenda and notice of meeting on local notice boards

is assigned to Cllr Harding for Clunton, Cllr Lewis for Clunbury and Twitchen and Cllr Wall for Kempton.

16. Financial Matters

- a) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the latest financial report and reconciled bank statement.
- b) The latest 2025-26 Budget report was approved.
- c) It was RESOLVED unanimously to increase the Precept for 2026-27 by 5% to meet anticipated expenditure and account for inflation.

17. Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting: The Unitary Councillor will contact the Forestry Commission and Shropshire Council about the problem of fallen trees on Coppice Lane in Clunton. The trees on one side of the lane are on Forestry Commission land, and Shropshire Council bin collection has been affected by the obstacles in the road.

18. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 March 2026 at 6:30pm in Clunton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:58pm

Signed: **Date:**