Clunbury Parish Council

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Ordinary Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council
5 Nov 2026

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Unitary Councillor Walmsley; Richard Hunt, Parish Council (PC) Clerk; one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.
3. The **Minutes** of the PC meeting on 10 September 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising** from those Minutes and not on the agenda. The Chair and Unitary Councillor visited the owner of the poultry unit whose manure heaps are thought to have caused the infestation of lesser mealworm beetles in Kempton, which still continues at a lower level. The owner maintains that he has done nothing wrong and the link between the unit's manure and the beetles is unproven. Planning approval for the unit did not include regulatory conditions, but Cllr Wall will ask Shropshire Council (SCC) why a complaints procedure that was included has not been established. The PC also notes that the owner's agent wrote to the Planning Officer on 23 February 2015 stating that field heaps of manure from the poultry unit would be sheeted and stored in a precisely mapped location; this is more than three quarters of a mile from the village, rather less than two hundred yards as was the case this year. The rotation of locations for the manure should avoid a reoccurrence of the infestation in the next few years, but the PC will continue to monitor the situation and hopes that the owner recognises his responsibility to the community's well-being.
5. **Clerk's report:** Severn Trent's Community Liaison Officer's visit to the Natural Flood Management works will be delayed until water levels are sufficiently high. SCC have formally commenced the process to prepare the next Shropshire Local Plan, by passing through a gateway that marks the start of the 30-month plan-making period. This plan will inform the planning process and housing supply in the county.
6. **Public Participation**: Nothing to report.
7. The **Unitary Councillor's** report included an update on local transport options. The Clun Valley Rural Rider is an on-demand pre-booked small bus that offers flexible travel. It runs along the Clun Valley, from Anchor to Craven Arms on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, but also includes many villages to the north and south such as Clunbury. The Three Castles Shuttle is also operated by Shrewsbury Dial-a-ride, and runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Bishops Castle to Clun and then Ludlow. A new standard X81 bus service between Newtown and Craven Arms has just been introduced, which may force a review of the Three Castles Shuttle service. Consultation on the Shropshire Local Transport Plan ends on 16 November, with SCC keen to offer communities the service they need. SCC are bringing highways maintenance services back under their direct control working with local contractors, instead of employing Kier as a central contractor to manage this.
8. **Climate and Environmental Group**

   a) Activity since the last PC meeting. A litter pick has been arranged for the morning of 14 November, with the meeting point at the Hundred House. The year's work at Whinberry Hill is complete apart from the need to replace failures among the trees planted under the felling licence in 2023. There is an underspend of £111.64 of the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund grant which may need to be returned or used on future Whinberry Hill expenditure. Cllr Wall will submit a report to the Conservation Fund, which is a requirement of the grant. He will also

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submit a brief report to the Clun Chronicle.

b) There has been little activity in the parish recently that contributes directly to the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery (SLNR) Strategy, but the PC will be represented at the SLNR Conference at Norbury on 20 September, and the following background work and events are planned:

A11.2 Restore heathland: meeting the grant requirements as in paragraph 8.a).

A16.1 Enhance access to nature-rich sites: arranging a visit to the Walcot Wiggle.

A16.3 Enhance people's connection to nature: as in A16.1.

9. The **National Emergency Briefing Film** was shown in Clunbury Village Hall on 24 October. The key areas to address are a need to: plan for emergencies by building community cohesion and networks to prepare for future adversity; mitigate by reducing individual carbon footprints through the use of public transport and car sharing; improve resilience by planning for food shortages, flooding, power outages, fires and extreme weather; promote nature recovery, working with the farming community. The PC decided against establishing specific councillor-led action groups at this stage, but has already begun to address emergency planning with the allocation of councillors as initial response points for each village and a commitment to first aid training. The Chair will present a pre-prepared PC letter to the local MP on 27 November, and the Climate and Environment Group will consider how to take ideas forward at its meeting on 7 November. The Clerk will initiate communications with the SCC Emergency Planning Office, to ascertain what material is available and whether their attendance at a PC meeting would be beneficial. He will also find out what other parishes are doing on this topic.

10. **Planning**

a) (i) 26/03559/FUL – Street Record, Clunbury: formation of track. The PC RESOLVED unanimously to object to this application. It welcomes the intention to plant trees, but does not believe that this justifies or warrants the creation of a track as described.

(ii) 26/03746/AG1 – Walcot Farm, Lydbury North: erection of roof structure over existing cattle handling facility (Prior Approval, comments not invited).

b) No applications were decided since the last meeting.

11**. Highways**

a) Twitchen road speed: A request to extend the planned 40mph buffer zone past the Clunton Coppice junction is being considered by the SCC traffic highways design team. The scheme is still expected to go ahead, but it is now likely to take place in FY 2027/28. The Unitary Councillor will provide updates.

b) The VAS Risk Assessment awaits confirmation from SCC on whether people can work on or near the highway without having attended a NRSWA course, especially relating to signing, lighting and guarding. A quarterly review of the document is considered to be too frequent.

c) Clunton Coppice Lane is suffering from a lack of SCC maintenance. There are numerous potholes and part of the road is subsiding. The Unitary Councillor's advice is to report defects individually to ensure they are included on SCC's Highways Maintenance's work programme, but there is a large backlog of tasks and insufficient funds to effect timely improvement.

12. **First Aid Response/Training.** The Safe Haven Training Limited's one day First Aid in the workplace course took place on 9 October. The Clerk will obtain quotes to purchase first aid kits for each of the twelve trained first aiders. Councillors contact details will be added to a WhatsApp group for the first aiders to ensure a coherent response to a medical emergency.

13. **Kempton Phone Box.** The phone box in Clunbury will not be moved to Kempton as residents wish to retain it. Cllr Wall will draft a letter for the PC to ask the local MP to write to the Chief Executive of BT. He will also consider with Cllr Lewis how best to raise media visibility of the wrongful BT removal of the box in Kempton.

14. **Agricultural Fields East of Clunton.** SCC Planning Enforcement continue to review the parking of vehicles and siting of various units on the fields, but their options are limited. The PC will review the issue in six months' time and it will be dropped from the meeting agenda until then.

15. **Local Hunt trespassing on private land.** The Clerk has produced a map which identifies land owned by parishioners on which the hunt is not welcome. Forestry land and woodlands will be

added before the map is sent to the United Pack in Bishops Castle. Action is then complete, and the PC will not consider the issue further.

16. **Parish notice boards repair/replacement.** Cllr Thompson will examine the board at Twitchen before a decision is made on how to proceed with its repair and that of the board in Kempton. He will also look at the condition of the millennium benches in the parish. The PC will not pursue the installation of a directional sign to Clunbury Village Hall, attached to the current cross roads finger post, as the Village Hall Committee feels it is unnecessary.

17. **Parish Road Warden Scheme.** The Unitary Councillor for Church Preen will attend the PC meeting in January to provide information on that area's pilot with SCC.

18. It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the PC's updated **Assets Register, Risk Assessment, Reserves Policy and Information Technology Policy,** with the proviso that the Clerk includes PC-owned scything equipment, first aid kits and benches on the list of assets.

19. **Financial Matters**

a) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the latest financial report and reconciled bank statements, which were signed by the Chair.

b) The latest 2026-27 Budget report was approved. Figures are in line with expectations.

c) The PC RESOLVED unanimously to increase the 2027-28 Precept application by 5% based on a budget estimate.

d) Cllr Lewis has still not been added to the PC's bank authorisation signatories. Both she and the Clerk will follow up again with the bank.

e) The PC approved a salary rise for the Clerk of one pay band on the local government scale.

20. **Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting:** None.

21. The **next meeting is** scheduled for Thursday **7 January 2027** at 6.30pm in Clunbury Village Hall. Cllr Thompson will book the hall.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

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