Clunbury Parish Council

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Ordinary Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council
10 Sep 2026

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Unitary Councillor Walmsley; Richard Hunt, Parish Council (PC) Clerk; ten members of the public; Severn Trent Community Flood Officer Phil Mark.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Bramah-Taylor.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.
3. The **Minutes** of the PC meeting on 2 July 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. On **matters arising** from those Minutes and not on the agenda, the PC will consider quotes for installing a fingerpost sign to Clunbury Village Hall, and the Clerk will continue to investigate the possibility of heritage grant funding to repair the stonework on Clunbury Bridge.
5. **Clerk's report:** The PC is supportive of Shropshire Mental Health Services ambition to hold mental health support sessions in the parish, providing there is a confirmed need. The Clerk will promote this initiative and canvass interest via the Parish Post. The Clerk and Unitary Councillor will seek clarification from Shropshire Council (SCC) Street Lighting & Traffic Signals Team on their request for a PC 24-hour emergency contact in the event of a street lighting fault.
6. **Public Participation**: No input from parishioners, but it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Severn Trent Community Flood Officer will deliver two short presentations in the parish covering the key flooding-related topics of (i) property flood resilience and (ii) the different sources of flooding and responsible agencies. He will agree venue, date and time through the Clerk, who will post the Severn Trent emergency contact number on the PC's website. The Clerk will also invite SCC and the Environmental Agency (EA) to deliver similar presentations after the Severn Trent event on their roles and responsibilities in flood response.
7. The **Unitary Councillor** urged parishioners to use the Clun Valley Rural Rider Bus, which is a dial-a-ride service operating on Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays. It complements the Three Castles Shuttle, which has replaced the 745 service. Briefing notes for electronic circulation and posting on notice boards are being prepared. SCC's finances remain difficult, but the council is on track to remain within this year's budget. The cost of children's social care remains the most expensive item and the biggest challenge. SCC are reviewing their verge cutting system. The contractor is behind schedule, and a different approach will be needed next year. Similarly on potholes, where requests to fill holes are taking too long to process, or disappearing from the system altogether. When repairs are carried out, they invariably do not last long. SCC recognise the problem; more money is being allocated, but it needs to be accompanied by operational change. SCC Highways have carried out work on the roads in Clunbury that were deemed inaccessible by the refuse bin collection service.
8. **Climate and Environmental Group**
   a) Activity since the last PC meeting included a Nightjar Ramble on 11 July, and the third and fourth cuttings of bracken on Whinberry Hill on 26 July and 3 August respectively. Planned activities are a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing film (see Agenda item 9) and a visit to the Walcot Wiggle with the Severn Trent Rivers Trust in November, courtesy of the landowners.
   b) The actions in 8 a) carried out in Clunbury Parish since early July have contributed to the following elements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

A11.2 Restore heathland
A16.1 Enhance access to nature-rich sites
A16.3 Enhance people's connection to nature.

9. The **National Emergency Briefing Film** will be shown in Clunbury Village Hall at 2.30pm (assemble from 2.00pm) on 24 October. Cllr Wall will arrange.
10. **Planning**

a) No applications received since the last meeting:

b) The PC noted applications that have been decided since the last meeting. The Clerk will ensure that councillors are informed if a planning application is made to form a forestry track to facilitate a woodland creation project in a field to the north of the B4385. An application 26/02854/AG1 to form the track under ''permitted development" rights and prior notification procedure was rejected, and full planning permission is required.

c) The government's new National Planning Policy Framework is the biggest revision of the document since its initial publication. Policies aimed at delivering new development have been strengthened, and the presumption in favour of sustainable development is now mandatory. There is a default yes to development within settlements, and more categories are now allowed outside settlements.

11**. Highways**

a) Twitchen road speed: The PC and parishioners welcomed the SCC plan to retain the existing 30mph limit (as shown on existing signposts) and add 40mph buffers on either end. SCC are optimistic that funds will be available to complete the work in this financial year.

b) The PC approved a VAS Risk Assessment and Method Statement, with provisions. Issues to resolve include whether the latter document should include the use of vehicles within the working zone to help protect workers and provide additional visual impact, and whether people can work on or near the highway without having attended a NRSWA course, especially relating to signing, lighting and guarding. Legislation requires one trained operative to be on site at all times and that training must be relevant to the ongoing work. A supervisor must also be available to oversee works, but they don't have to be on site all the time, so this could be a trained SCC employee or contractor.

12. **First Aid Response/Training.** The PC approved the Safe Haven Training Limited's one day First Aid in the workplace course that will take place on 9 October. There are three people from each of Clunbury, Kempton, and Clunton and one from Twitchen, Clunton Coppice, and Little Brampton on the course. The Brity First Aid online training module is a useful precursor to, but not a substitute for, the more comprehensive Safe Haven course.

13. **Kempton Phone Box.** Llanyblodwel PC have not responded to Clunbury's suggestion of joint action in response to BT's wrongful removal of telephone kiosks in each parish. The Clerk will complain to Ofcom about BT's maladministration and failure to resolve the issue. Cllr Thompson will send a questionnaire to Clunbury residents to see if they would object to the unused box in their village being moved to Kempton. A parishioner has the materials needed to repaint the kiosk in Twitchen, for which the PC is thankful.

14. **Agricultural Fields East of Clunton.** SCC Planning Enforcement are aware of the continued concern at the blot on the landscape caused by the parking of vehicles and siting of various units on the fields. A lack of planning officers and the complexity of legal proceedings militate against an early resolution. Since the initial groundwork for a barn was completed a considerable time ago, there appears to be no sign of actual construction, which is pertinent as SCC maintain they cannot take action until construction of the barn is complete.

15. **Local Hunt trespassing on private land.** The Clerk will send the United Pack in Bishops Castle a map identifying land owned by parishioners on which the hunt is not welcome. The Clerk will also post an invitation on the PC website to parishioners who may want to add their land to this request.

16. **Parish notice boards repair/replacement.** The PC approved a quote for repairing the notice board in Kempton, and will consider further options for replacing the board in Twitchen. The PC

will obtain quotes for repairing/replacing the board in Clunbury village centre. Clunbury Village Hall's committee have agreed to fund the work needed on their notice board.

17. **Clunton footpath.** As a matter of public interest, the PC will ask SCC to submit the Clunbury Parish 2024 Modification Order to the Planning Inspectorate as a matter of urgency.

18. **Parish Road Warden Scheme.** The Clerk has not received a response from Church Preen PC on their pilot with SCC. The Unitary Councillor will help to obtain information on Church Preen's experience.

19. The PC will assist A**ston on Clun Community Shop** fund raising efforts through local media advertising, including on the PC's website.

20**.** An **infestation of lesser mealworm beetles in Kempton** has impacted considerably on residents and their properties**.** The Unitary Councillor will liaise with SCC to try and ensure that conditions and a complaints procedure related to planning approval for a local poultry unit and its manure field heaps are enforced in future; these heaps are a likely source of the infestation. Cllrs Davies and Harding and the Unitary Councillor will arrange a visit to the farm owner in an effort to resolve.

21. It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve updated PC **Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations**.

22. **Financial Matters**

a) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the latest financial report and reconciled bank statements.

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

c) The bank has not yet added Cllr Lewis to the PC's bank authorisation signatories despite approving the request. The Clerk will pursue.

23. **Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting:** As part of its Emergency Response procedures the PC will require access to a First Aid-trained WhatsApp group (see para 12). Public participants and guest speakers will be reminded before each PC meeting of the time limit for their input. The Chair has discretion to allow more when needed.

24. The **next meeting is** scheduled for Thursday **5 November** 2026 at 6.30pm in Kempton Village Hall. Cllr Lewis will book the hall.

Meeting closed at 9:35pm

Signed: …….. **Date: ……..**