

Clunbury Parish Council

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Ordinary Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council

2 July 2026

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Richard Hunt, Parish Council Clerk; five members of the public.

Meeting opened: 6:45pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Bramah-Taylor, Lewis and Morgan; Unitary Councillor Walmsley.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.
3. The **Minutes** of the Annual PC meeting on 7 May 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. There were no **matters arising** from the Minutes not in the agenda.
5. **Clerk's report:** The Clerk has taken possession of the PC's filing cabinet, and started to review the documents therein. No further action for the PC. Shropshire Council are cutting verges that parishioners have identified as impairing traffic visibility; the Clerk will add verges raised by the PC. A change in the law means that local authorities must not publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in local authority registers of interest unless the member has requested otherwise. To aid transparency, public registers of interest will still state that a member has an interest, the address of which is withheld. The exact address details are still declared to the monitoring officer, remain available internally to authorities and will continue to prevent conflicts of interest.
6. **Public Participation:** The possibility of Clunbury joining the Parish Road Warden Scheme was raised. See the third bullet in paragraph 7.
7. The **Unitary Councillor** was not present, but provided an e-mail input.
 - SCC are working on the Twitchen speed limit. The current plan is to produce the paperwork needed to retain the existing 30mph limit (as shown on existing signposts) and add 40mph buffers on either end. SCC are trying to find funds to complete all this work in the current financial year.
 - The speed limit signs at the south (Hopton Heath) end of Twitchen are covered by overgrowth and are barely readable. Contractors have been tasked to clear this.
 - A Clunbury parishioner requested more information on the Parish Road Warden Scheme, which is an agreement between SCC and town or parish councils that enables the latter to deliver minor road works at or near the public highway. SCC are looking for suitable locations to expand the trial that started in Church Preen, and the Clunbury area could be a good candidate for the next phase. Involvement would need PC approval and oversight. The PC will consider this at the meeting in September, having consulted the Unitary Councillor and obtained more information in the interim.
 - Other SCC highlights included measures to live within budget and options for the future of the former HQ in Shrewsbury.
8. **Climate and Environmental Group**
 - a) Activity since the last PC meeting included: a visit to the parish land at Whinberry Hill as part of a Bishop's Castle Walking Festival; scything training in Kempton, with the course paid for by a PC grant from the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund (SHCF); two cuttings of bracken at Whinberry Hill, the second using scythes and scythettes, and again paid for by the SHCF grant. The Walcot Wiggle restoration project, led by Severn Trust and involving local landowners, is complete. Group activities scheduled for the next two months are: 11 July - Nightjar Ramble; 26 July - third cutting of bracken on Whinberry Hill, followed by fourth annual Parish Whinberry Pick-

nic; 23 August (to be confirmed) - fourth cutting of bracken on Whinberry Hill. It was also noted that the Shropshire Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England has secured funding for more hedgerow planting and gapping up next winter. The PC will encourage landowners to propose planting sites as requested. Cllr Jones expressed his interest. A Shropshire Wildlife Initiatives map is on display in the entrance corridor to Clunbury Village Hall.

b) Actions carried out in Clunbury Parish since May have contributed to the following elements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

A3.4 Restore streams and rivers

A11.2 Restore heathland

A16.1 Enhance access to nature-rich sites

A16.3 Enhance people's connection with nature.

c) The PC agreed unanimously to arrange and support a public showing of the film produced by the National Emergency Briefing team. This will be held in September (date and time to be confirmed) in Clunbury Village Hall. Cllr Wall will lead.

9. **Planning**

a) No applications received since the last meeting:

b) Applications decided: Approved - 26/01363/FUL | Erection of single storey rear extension and replacement single storey front extension, alterations to existing garage | Hillend Clunbury Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 0HE

10. **Highways**

a) Twitchen road speed: The meeting welcomed the SCC update provided by the Unitary Councillor (see the first bullet in paragraph 7).

b) SWARCO have finally repaired the Vehicle Activated System (VAS) in Kempton. The PC agreed to delay a move of the device in Clunton to Twitchen until the autumn after hedgerows have been cut and traffic visibility improves. The PC thanked Jean Muttitt for her advice and expertise in drafting a VAS Risk Assessment and Method Statement. These will be considered for adoption at the next PC meeting as will the composition of a VAS Working Group. The Clerk has scoped the cost of purchasing a VAS solar panel and tripod, and will consult Cllr Morgan about device compatibility to enable a PC decision at the next meeting on whether to proceed.

c) The PC expressed its thanks to SCC for fixing the potholes on several roads in the parish.

11. **Emergency Response and First Aid Response/Training.** Councillors will post Emergency Response information posters across the parish. The PC agreed to purchase Emergency First Aid at Work training for 12 people at a cost of £450 plus VAT. The delegates will be representative of the parish as a whole. The PC also approved unanimously the purchase of a First Aid kit for use as required.

12. **Kempton Phone Box.** Llanyblodwel PC are considering Clunbury's suggestion of joint action in response to BT's wrongful removal of telephone kiosks in each parish. The PC will refund a parishioner for the materials needed to repaint the kiosk in Twitchen.

13. **Agricultural Fields East of Clunton.** The PC has received an update from the landowner on steps taken to improve the landscape appearance. The Clerk will ask SCC Planning Enforcement Office (via the Unitary Councillor) for a copy of their latest visit report and also if they will send a representative to the next PC meeting to explain the latest position.

14. **Local Hunt trespassing on private land.** The Clerk will send the hunt a map identifying land owned by parishioners that they do not want the hunt to enter.

15. **Parish Council communications and publicity.** Some of the notice boards in the parish need repair or replacing. The PC will confirm ownership of these boards, and pursue options to complete the work required.

16. The Clerk will ensure that the PC remains apprised of SCC's development of the next **Shropshire Local Plan** and inject the PC's views on spatial development which were last captured in a revised Parish Plan in 2014.

17. **Withdrawal of 745 bus service:** The PC agreed unanimously to emphasise to SCC on behalf of Clun Valley residents that, as a minimum, a scheduled service with the same frequency as the

current one is contracted as soon as possible. This could involve a smaller bus and start from Bishop's Castle, not Pontesbury, to Ludlow.

18. 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 Clerk is pursuing the addition of Cllr Lewis to the PC's bank authorisation signatories.

19. Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting: The Clerk will obtain quotes for two initiatives suggested by Cllr Thompson. The first to install a fingerpost sign to Clunbury Village Hall, and the second repair of the stonework on Clunbury Bridge

20. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday **10 September** 2026 (and not 3 September as originally scheduled) at 6.30pm in Clunton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm