

Clunbury Parish Council

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Ordinary Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council

4 March 2026

(re-scheduled from the original date of 5 March 2026)

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Unitary Councillor Walmsley; Shropshire Council Traffic Engineering Project Manager D'Vali; Richard Hunt, Parish Council Clerk; nine members of the public.

Meeting opened: 6:30pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Lewis.

2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.

3. The parish council (PC) stood for a **minute's silence in respect for its Chair John Croxton**, who died recently. John was a tremendous advocate and servant of the PC and the area for many years.

4. **Twitchen speed restrictions:** This item was brought forward to facilitate the input of Traffic Engineering Project Manager D'Vali. He understands the concern over an increased speed limit of 40mph on a designated stretch of the B4358 at the northern end of the village, and believes that 30mph is the appropriate limit. Mistakes were made in enacting the change to 40mph, but irrespective of this there is a legal order in place that needs to be enforced. It will require a new legal order following consultation to reverse the speed limit back to 30mph, which will cost several thousand pounds. Project Manager D'Vali and Unitary Councillor Walmsley will consider funding options. A new order can include other speed curbing changes such as 40mph buffer zones and a 20mph area in the middle of Twitchen, if these are deemed appropriate. Project Manager D'Vali will examine and report back to the PC.

(Project Manager D'Vali and all members of the public left the meeting).

5. The **Minutes** of the PC meeting on 15 January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. On **matters arising** from the Minutes not in the agenda. Paragraph 15 b: The Clerk has created a WhatsApp group for the dissemination of time-sensitive messages to and between councillors; Cllrs Bailey, Bramah-Taylor and Wall are not on the system and will be contacted by text messages in the case of Cllrs Bailey and Bramah-Taylor and e-mail in the case of Cllr Wall. Paragraph 17: Forestry England have conducted some work on their area of woodland adjacent to Clunton Coppice Lane. Unitary Councillor Walmsley is trying to obtain a list of roads from Shropshire Council Highways that are earmarked for resurfacing which can be shared with the public to manage their expectations. Many roads are in a very poor condition and temporary repairs are insufficient.

7. **Clerk's report:** The process to fill the vacancy on the PC left by Cllr Croxton's death will not begin until after his funeral on 13 March out of respect for his family. This will involve a 14-work day Notice of Vacancy period when parishioners can request an election. If the criteria for an election are not met, the PC can co-opt a new member on to the council. The next meeting of South Shropshire Area Local Council will take place on 10 March at Ludlow's Mascall Centre.

8. **Public Participation:** Matters of interest were covered under Agenda item 4.

9. The **Unitary Councillor** informed the meeting that central government have approved Shropshire Council's Exceptional Financial Support, some of which will be used to repay costs on the North-West Relief Road, which has been cancelled. The council's 2026-27 budget has passed, and includes an 8.99% increase in council tax; potential savings are only included where there is

confidence these can be achieved. Some capital spending lines are on hold to save money, but the government has provided funds for highways projects through to 2029-30, which will enable Shropshire Council to plan a roads maintenance programme with confidence.

10. Climate and Environmental Group

- a) The group meets on 6 March, with a talk on biochar, and its next litter pick is on 14 March. Its report included a summary of the parish walk on 7 February, work on Whinberry Hill, and hedge planting next winter. The PC ratified its approval of the application to Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund which was decided at the meeting in November 2025. The PC expressed its appreciation of Cllr Wall and the group's work on Whinberry Hill.
- b) In activities contributing towards the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy the group replaced 20 shrubs and trees that were planted in a corner of Whinberry Hill but perished in the drought last year, and conducted a Parish Walk on 7 February. Hedge planting in the parish can also be included.
- c) The Shropshire Hills Forum on 29 April will include a field visit to Whinberry Hill to learn about the restoration of heathland habitat there.
- d) Cllr Wall will consult the group, but believes that the reinstatement of a grassed public amenity area adjacent to the river by Clunton Bridge is for the PC to pursue if it wishes to do so. Cllrs Davies and Harding will consult locally to see if there is volunteer interest in clearing and seeding the area.

11. Planning

- a) Applications received since the last meeting: [26/00386/FUL - Ladye Bank, Clunton Coppice, Clunbury](#): erection of a single storey extension to the north elevation (road facing). It was RESOLVED unanimously to make no comment or objection to this application.
- b) Applications decided: [25/03645/OUT | Erection of affordable dwelling and detached garage North of Little Brampton](#) has been approved with conditions by Shropshire Council Southern Planning Committee.
- c) Cllr Wall highlighted a decrease in the number of low-cost rental properties in Kempton, which has a negative impact on the ambition to create a social mix in the village.

12. Highways

- a) Twitchen road speed was covered under Agenda item 4.
- b) The VAS to the north of Kempton isn't working, but is covered under the supplier's product warranty. The batteries in the VAS at Clunton need recharging every two weeks, and the Clerk will provide a quote to add a solar panel for the PC to consider. This VAS will be redeployed to Twitchen once a suitable location is agreed with someone who is also prepared to recharge the batteries. Residents there have provided several options and the Clerk will obtain a handover date. Cllr Walmsley will pursue the PC's request to Shropshire Council for poles on which to place the VAS.

13. Emergency Response: The Severn Trent Community Flooding Officer is reporting back to the PC on the availability of community funds for bridge clearing to alleviate flooding. The Clerk will produce a poster for PC approval that contains salient information for parishioners in the event of an emergency. The PC leads for each village are: Cllrs Bailey and Morgan for Clunbury and Twitchen; Cllrs Lewis and Wall for Kempton; Cllrs Davies and Harding for Clunton.

14. Kempton Phone Box: It was RESOLVED unanimously to pursue Shropshire Council's suggestion to expose BT's inability to resolve the removal of the box via media releases and through local MPs, in partnership with Llanyblodwel PC, which also had a phone box removed,

15. Agricultural Fields East of Clunton: The Clerk will obtain an update from Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement following their visit to the site. The Chair and Clerk have asked the landowner for a suitable date to visit and discuss the PC's concerns.

16. Local Hunt trespassing on private land: The Clerk will ask via the Parish Post that landowners identify areas that they do not want the hunt to cross. This will enable the formation of a map designating these areas.

17. **Parish Council policies:** It was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the updated Assets Register and an Information Technology policy.

18. **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. Figures are in line with expectations.

19. **Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting:** The Clerk will take possession of the PC's filing cabinet which has been held by Cllr Croxton, and send a letter of thanks to Project Manager D'Vali for his contribution to the meeting.

20. The **next meeting** is scheduled for Thursday 7 May 2026 at 6.30pm in Kempton Village Hall. This is the Annual Parish Council meeting and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6:00pm.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Signed:

Date: