

Clunbury Parish Council

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Annual Meeting of Clunbury Parish Council

7 May 2026

MINUTES

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

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

Meeting opened: 6:30pm

1. **Election of Chair for 2026/27.** It was RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr Davies, who was proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Wall.
2. **Election of Vice Chair for 2026/27:** It was RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr Harding, who was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Jones.
3. The Chair waived the **Chair's Allowance** for expenses incurred.
4. **Apologies for absence:** None, all in attendance.
5. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None.
6. More than one eligible parishioner expressed an interest in filling the **vacancy on the parish council** (PC). It was RESOLVED, following proposals and then a vote by members, to co-opt Alister Thompson to fill the vacancy. Cllr Thompson then joined the meeting. The Chair thanked all candidates for coming forward.
7. **Appointments to PC sub-committees and other roles** were agreed unanimously. Cllrs Davies, Lewis, Harding and Morgan now form the Personnel Sub-Committee.
8. The **Minutes** of the PC meeting on 4 March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair with a revision to paragraph 6 to record that Cllr Wall does not use What's App or text messaging and will be contacted via e-mail.
9. There were no **matters arising** from the Minutes that were not covered in the agenda.
10. **Clerk's report:** The annual charge from Shropshire Council for street lighting is £184.87 plus VAT, and an invoice will be submitted in due course. Central government has assured local councils that the new English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill will not disempower them on neighbourhood governance and planning decisions. Shropshire Council Highways Maintenance are running a grant scheme for highways maintenance. £1,000 can be granted, but it must be matched by PC funding. Councillors will advise the Clerk if the PC is interested in participating. The AGAR internal audit report of the PC is positive, concluding that the council has conformed to the required standard. The Clerk is ready to take possession of the PC's filing cabinet, once delivery has been agreed.
11. **Public Participation:** A request for enhanced PC communications and publicity will be covered by an agenda item at the PC meeting in July.
12. The **Unitary Councillor reported** the appointment of Tanya Miles, an internal candidate, as the new Shropshire Council CEO; the Lib Dem transfer to Reform of the chairs of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees, reflecting the fact that Reform is the second biggest group on the council; Shropshire Council's devolved authority to Church Preen Parish Council to carry out highways maintenance, with support in the form of materials and training, not funding; his support for residents outside Clunbury who are not receiving a refuse collection service because Veolia deem the road to their property unsafe.
13. **Climate and Environmental Group**
 - a) **Report.** The group has engaged in a considerable number of activities over the year. The PC has resolved to support the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and report on delivery progress at

each meeting. A map of Positive Wildlife Works in the parish will be erected in Clunbury Village Hall. All the land within the parish that is visible from public rights of way has been assessed as part of a survey of wildlife habitats. Trees and shrubs have been replaced on Whinberry Hill and scythes and other equipment have been purchased with a grant to control the bracken there. The Hill featured in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Forum with a guided visit, and is a very popular spot for local guided walks. The annual Whinberry Pick-nic will resume this year after a cancellation last year because of heavy rain. A fascinating and thorough history of the Black Hill is available on the PC web site.

b) See a) above on the **Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Plan**.

c) The **Shropshire Hills Forum** on 29 April included a very successful field visit to Whinberry Hill to learn about the restoration of heathland habitat there.

d) Cllr Morgan attended the Clun Catchment Partnership Meeting, which highlighted Shropshire Hill Natural Landscape activities and the availability of DEFRA grants.

e) Cllrs Davies and Harding did not receive any volunteer interest in clearing and seeding the area adjacent to the river by Clunton Bridge.

14. Planning

a) Applications received:

i) It was RESOLVED unanimously to make no comment and no objection to [26/01363/FUL Hillend, Clunbury](#): Erection of single storey, rear extension, single storey front extension, and existing double garage to be renovated with new pitched roof.

ii) It was RESOLVED unanimously to make no comment and no objection to [26/01486/FUL Cottage Farm, 32 Clunton](#): Conversion of existing outbuilding to form a self-contained annex.

iii) The PC noted [26/01652/AG1 Cwm Farm, Cwm](#), on which comments are not invited. Erection of a new agricultural building for use as a fodder and machinery store.

b) The PC noted applications decided: Approved - [26/00386/FUL | Erection of a single storey extension to the north \(side\) elevation | Ladye Bank Clunton Coppice Clunbury Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 0HL](#)

15. Highways

a) Twitchen road speed restrictions: no update from Shropshire Council.

b) The supplier is repairing the VAS to the north of Kempton, which remains inactive. The VAS at Clunton will remain there for the time being, but the Clerk will draft a risk assessment and method statement, consulting residents who have expertise in this area. The Clerk will also research solar panels as a method of power generation and the use of tripods to improve the range of places that a VAS can be sited. Shropshire Council have still not responded on installing posts for the devices at Twitchen and Clunton. Cllr Walmsley will advise on the potential to achieve this via Shropshire Council support schemes enabling parish councils to deliver highway-related projects themselves.

16. **Emergency Response:** The PC approved a poster for local notice boards with revisions. Cllr Lewis will laminate. First Aid provision in the parish will be included on the agenda for the July meeting.

17. **Kempton Phone Box:** BT have confirmed that they will not replace the box that they removed in error. The PC will pursue Shropshire Council's suggestion to escalate in partnership with Llanyblodwel PC, which also had a phone box removed in a similar way.

18. **Agricultural Fields East of Clunton:** The PC remains focused on this issue, while it awaits a report from Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement.

19. **Local Hunt trespassing on private land:** The PC will request plans of land ownership from those parishioners that have said they do not want the hunt on their land, but a lack of response may mean it is not worth proceeding.

20. **Insurance:** It was RESOLVED unanimously to continue with Zurich Insurance as the PC's insurance provider following a review.

21. **Financial Matters**

- a) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the latest financial report and reconciled bank statement, which were signed by Cllr Harding. Cllr Lewis will join Cllrs Davies and Harding as bank signature authorities for the PC.
- b) The first 2026-27 Budget report was approved.
- c) It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the AGAR 2025/26 Certificate of Exemption, Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement. All were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

22. **Councillors' submissions and items for the next meeting:** The Clerk will take possession of the PC's filing cabinet once a means of delivery has been agreed. Communications and publicity and First Aid Response will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

23. The **next meeting** is at 6:30pm on Thursday 2 July in Clunbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

Signed:

Date: