

DRAFT

Clunbury Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2020
In Kempton Village Hall at 7.30pm**

PRESENT

Cllr J Croxton (Chairman), Cllr D Hill, Cllr M Jones, Cllr P Harding, Cllr N Morgan, Cllr L Lewis.
Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.
1 member of the public.
Mrs Barbara Freeman.
Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Davies (Vice Chairman), Cllr K Bailey, Cllr S Morgan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 28.11.19

Clerk reported that the following payments were omitted from the Minutes:

G Jones (cutting burial ground hedge)	£300.00
Clunbury Village Hall (hire for meetings)	£27.00
D Hill (website domain registration)	£15.06
Clunton Village Hall (hire for meeting)	£5.50.

Subject to the above the Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

Clunton Brook. Some dredging had been done, more was required. Cllr Hartin would try to find out the riparian owners.

BT Telephone boxes. Cllr Lewis had spoken to Lois Dale at Shropshire Council who had confirmed that all phone boxes in our parish were safe from closure. Kempton's was to be repaired. Clunton's needed repair as the door did not open, Clunbury's was in good working order. Cllr Bailey had removed the ivy, etc at Twitchen's phone box, it was thought it was not working.

Smartwater. Article was needed for the Parish Post to establish interest from parishioners. The full price per household was £85 but with an 80% takeup the price reduced to £10. Cllr Hill to draft an article to circulate to Cllrs for comment.

REPORT FROM RURAL WATCH

Mrs Freeman had attended a recent meeting at which Police & Crime Commissioner John Campion and Graham Donaldson, Shropshire Rural and Business Crime Officer, had stressed the importance of Smartwater as a deterrent, as were the accompanying free stickers for houses and posters for notice boards.

Suspicious vehicle movements in the early hours of the morning. If parishioners signed up there would be a WhatsApp set up for their use. A piece would be put in the Parish Post.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Freeman, who then left the meeting.

REPORT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Cllr Harding confirmed this was an advisory group set up to report to the Parish Council.

An Open Day was planned for Saturday 25th January at Clunbury Village Hall from 10.30am to 4pm. There would be experts and displays. Flyers and posters to be distributed.

PLANNING:

Application No. 19/05360/VAR. Variation of conditions (operating hours) at M & J Travel, Lower House, Clunton. It was understood there were complaints from neighbours about vehicles operating early in the morning. It was thought No Comment would be appropriate, but Chairman and Cllr Harding to speak to M & J to assess the situation.

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

PURSLOW WAR MEMORIAL

Chairman reported that the hedge had been cut back. It was thought one more bollard may be required on the Twitchen road end.

No information yet re: possible Grade II listing.

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE PLACE PLAN

This was now out for consultation.

Report from Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.

Shropshire Council was very short of funds. There was a new Councillor at Bishops Castle following a by-election. At a recent meeting a proposal for a mandatory 20mph speed limit in all residential areas was defeated. However, a 20mph limit past all schools was formally adopted.

Adrian Cooper was the Climate Change Manager, and Shropshire Council had been judged the 5th best for carbon capture in the UK.

The new arrangements for two planning committees in place of three seemed to be working well.

There was still a Highways office in Craven Arms, but with only two engineers rather than the previous six. They had no budget and could only refer problems up to Shrewsbury who allocated jobs on a priority basis.

Kier had not been a success. The condition of the county's roads had never been so bad.

ROADS:

Purslow crossroads to Beambridge. Cllr Hill had reported very bad pot holes on this stretch of road more than once.

Giles House. Dangerous tree still not trimmed. Cllr Hill had reported it to Shropshire Council again.

Redwood Lane sign. It was unlikely Shropshire Council would provide this in view of its financial constraints. It was considered a hand made sign by a local workman would be sufficient.

Signs at Twitchen. David Gradwell, Highways, had said the speed limit signs would be moved to the agreed positions in the next financial year.

Radar speed signs. Following another demonstration in Bucknell, the Chairman proposed that Clunbury share the cost of the spare unit from Bucknell with Clungunford Parish Council. Shropshire Council would put in the posts in the next financial year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Harding, and approved on a show of hands. Further details were to be decided, including a list of names of people who would help to move the units.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from Cllr N Morgan. Cllr Morgan had circulated an email raising several points which were discussed as follows:

Communication by WhatsApp. Not suitable owing to poor mobile phone coverage.

Change of start time of meetings. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Harding that Parish Council meetings start at 7.30pm, seconded by Cllr Lewis and approved on a show of hands. There could possibly an earlier start if there was a speaker.

Cllr S Morgan's absences. In view of Cllr Morgan's lengthy absence from meetings due to ill health, Chairman to speak to her regarding future participation in Parish Council matters.

Spurious conversations at meetings. Cllr Morgan considered that only Parish Council business should be discussed at meetings and this should be strictly adhered to. However, the majority of Councillors felt that meetings should be enjoyable and that more general discussions could be helpful.

Climate change group. Cllr Morgan suggested that the Parish Council be more involved with this, but after discussion Councillors thought it would work better with the present independent group reporting to the Parish Council.

Tree planting initiative by the Woodland Trust. The Parish Council had done nothing although parishioners had wanted and expected some action from Councillors.

Health & Safety item on the Agenda. After discussion it was decided this was not necessary.

Financials, and doing things correctly. Specifically waiting for a Parish Council meeting to approve the expenditure for the new street lights, and allowing a contractor to go ahead with cutting the burial ground hedge. Clerk replied that the replacement of the lights was a considerable sum of money and needed specific approval. The cutting of the burial ground hedge had been approved in principle, and the contractor had done work for the Parish Council in the past. Also, it was difficult to get the required three quotations for small jobs such as this.

Parish Post. Cllr Morgan suggested that the Parish Council should be more involved. After discussion it was decided that the Parish Post should remain independent.

FINANCES:

Account balances were reported as:

Community current account	£5,228.47
Business Savings account	£1,322.38
Sports & Recreation account	£395.37.

It was agreed unanimously to pay the following:

Ms N Adams (salary November and December))	£376.74
HMRC (PAYE December))	£2.40
Mr I Davies (burial ground maintenance)		£75.00
Kempton village hall (hire for meetings)		£30.00.

Precept for 2020/21 financial year

Various financial documents were tabled and after discussion it was decided to apply for a Precept of £4,500.

PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

New issue of Financial Regulations. To be discussed next time.

Clerk's Gmail/email. Windows Mail to be installed next week.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th March 2020 in Clunton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.