

# The Parish of Clunbury

## Annual Parish Meeting

7 May 2026

### Draft Minutes

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

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

*Meeting opened: 6:00pm*

1. **Apologies** for absence. None.
2. The **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.
3. The Chair delivered the **Parish Council Report** for the year 2025/26. It was a very sad end to the year with the death of the parish council's (PC) Chair John Croxton, a long serving member and an esteemed figure in the local community. John will be sorely missed, and the PC is extremely appreciative of his many years of dedicated service. The PC contributed to several road safety measures including the installation of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS) in Kempton and Clunton and a no parking sign at Hundred House, Purslow to enable drivers to benefit fully from the visibility mirror at this dangerous junction. The PC have prompted the supplier of the VAS in Kempton to repair it, following a malfunction. Planning applications have been few, but in considering these the PC has tried to achieve a balance between the parishioner need for affordable local housing and other considerations such as environmental protection and traffic management. In this endeavour and others, the PC has benefitted from a very close and positive collaboration with the new Unitary Councillor, Sam Walmsley. Sam has been very active on the PC's behalf on several road safety matters, representing the need to Shropshire Council for repairs to local roads and obtaining a delay to an unwanted road speed increase in Twitchen to allow time for further consideration. It was a transitional year in terms of Parish Clerks. Nancy Adams left at the beginning of the year and was replaced by a Locum Clerk, Paul Mulligan, for a few months. Paul then handed over to Rich Hunt, who has been on board for the last six months. The PC's Climate and Environmental Group has been a hive of activity throughout the year delivering several successful outcomes (see paragraph 5).
4. The Clerk provided a report on the **PC's Accounts** for the year ended 31 March 2026 and observations on the finances for the current year. The PC finances remain stable. At the end of the year to 31 March 2026 the accounts showed a positive balance of £6,422.16. The budget of income and expenditure for 2025-26 was reviewed at each meeting by the PC and came in close to that forecast. The 2026-27 Budget anticipates a close match between income and expenditure, with the PC successful in obtaining grants for nature and environmental projects. The Precept was raised by 5% to match an increase in the cost of essential services.

5. Cllr Wall presented the PC's **Climate and Environmental Group** report. The group 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.
6. No reports were received from **Parish Organisations & Community Representatives**. The Clerk will reach out to village hall groups and other local organisations before next year's meeting.
7. **Parishioners requested** a PC focus on publicity and communications, employing all means available locally. The Clerk will ensure that the Parish Post and What's On co-ordinators are informed of PC meetings and significant events in advance.

***Richard J P F Hunt***

Richard J P F (Rich) Hunt, Clerk, Clunbury Parish Council