

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

MINUTES OF CLUN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 3rd May 2022 AT 7.30PM

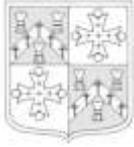
PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr. B. Angell Cllr. M. Duffee Cllr. Bill Shepherd Cllr. M. Wooldridge Cllr. S. Harris Cllr. R Davies Cllr. D. Morris Cllr. R. Andrews Cllr. J. Limond (from 7.15pm)	N.Hartin

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk)

There were no members of the public present

	Agenda item									
001-2022	1. <u>THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN / MAYOR</u>									
	Cllr. R. Davies was unanimously elected as Chair									
002-2022	2. <u>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</u>									
	Please see above									
003-2022	3. <u>DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING</u>									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Item</th> <th>Personal</th> <th>Prejudicial</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B. Angell</td> <td>11 (d). ESWS</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Item	Personal	Prejudicial	B. Angell	11 (d). ESWS	✓		
Name	Item	Personal	Prejudicial							
B. Angell	11 (d). ESWS	✓								
004-2022	4. <u>DISPENSATION REQUESTS</u>									
	There were no requests for dispensations.									

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005-2022 5. **TO ELECT THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. M Duffee was unanimously elected as Vice Chair

006-2022 6. **COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

Cllr. R Andrews gave a synopsis of his working life and what qualities he brought to the Council.

Cllr. R Andrews Was unanimously accepted as a co-opted councillor

007-2022 7. **MINUTES**

The Annual Council meeting on 10th May 2021 was noted

008-2022 8. **MAYORS REPORT**

This will be my last report as Chair and Mayor having stood down as required by our Standing Orders. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Councillors here present and former Councillors for their support over the past three years. Also I would like to thank the Two Clerks who have been working for us over that time.

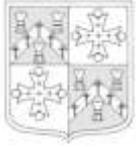
This past three years has been a very challenging time to serve, with almost two years subject to COVID restrictions. However, it has been a very productive time too and the hard work of everyone is appreciated by residents in the area as they frequently tell me. Nevertheless, there have been other challenges in developing new policies and procedures, working groups, advisory groups and committees that now make us a stronger council, along with delegated responsibilities for specific areas of work.

The past month

Turning to the last month I have been involved in helping to set up and chair the meeting about how the community may provide ongoing support for the Ukrainian refugees. You can read more details regarding this meeting and another Joan Kerry was at in Bishops Castle in this months Chronicle. We have now been asked to lead on developing a welcome pack for refugees and new people to our community which we can discuss later.

I have hosted a further half day visit from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire Katherine Garnier. We visited the Fire Station, Trinity Hospital and met with representatives of the Women's Institute. Katherine is most impressed with the volunteering and other community activity that goes on in our small community, and the dedication of those involved.

At the Fire Station we met serving officers some who have been retained firemen for over 35 and over 40 years. We also met our newest recruit. It was evident from these discussions not only the dedication of officers and



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frequency of call outs, but also the challenges of recruitment and the state of our rural roads. Their community service in helping community events also did not go unnoticed.

At Trinity it was helpful to get a much better understanding on the history and how the Trustees manage the facilities and their ongoing plans for the future.

In our discussion with the WI, who now have approaching 40 members and growing, their role in helping members develop new skills, support other charities and as a focus for community integration for new residents came across strongly.

I am still in touch with Katherine regarding other matters relating to awards and in which context she is very supportive of the freeman initiative.

She will be present at the Jubilee celebrations at the Sunday picnic.

I attend the ESWS board who now have the new co-working space up and running and are now developing their plans to attract new clients for the space, the Enterprise Initiative and other services, as well as the new Tourism Website for the area.

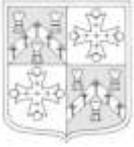
I attended the Highways meeting at Newcastle organised by Cllr Hartin. All parishes bar one in the area were present. We had input from Cllr Dean Carroll Portfolio Holder for Highways and Head of Highways Andy Wilde. Highways is now definitely a tripartite partnership of Shropshire Council, WSP (their consulting provider) and Kier (their construction and maintenance provider). Andy Wilde and Dean Carroll explained the changes to their ways of working including the ongoing recruitment of engineers and technicians in-house so more of the smaller jobs can be carried out under direct management. There have been significant changes to the way the Kier contract is managed, and we do see some better outcomes from this although they admitted there is much still not going right.

One key point to come out of the meeting was the recognition across the area of a lack of clear and accurate communication by Shropshire Council. Both in terms of agreeing which roads have the most priority for immediate attention and in relation to road works and diversions. They promised to find ways of addressing this.

Also this month I have been involved in correspondence and work associated with the Public Toilet maintenance and bills, reading up regarding the state of play in Shropshire Council regarding the Pearl Mussel issue, Street Lights, Recreation Trust and complaints regarding the state of the roads. I have also had discussions on the issue of community land ownership on which I will report later.

Recap over the past year.

The challenges of running meetings over zoom or in hybrid form have convinced me that for small tactical meetings they can work, but for our general business meeting face to face is far to be preferred.



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Now we have finances all able to be managed and approved online, issues relating to payment are more efficient.

We have made great progress on the Town Hall thanks to the steadfast work of Cllr Shepherd. However, I remain frustrated we have not made sufficient progress on getting the water and other maintenance matters at the Public Toilets on a better footing. We also have some way to go in getting the Council Office in the square up and running and bringing about the improvements to the historic Council records in the Town Hall.

The burial records have now been digitised. I look forward to hearing the analysis and recommendations regarding the capacity of the Cemetery including the forthcoming changes in relevant environmental regulation.

Work on Highways has again featured strongly. We have, after over 4 years, got the key elements in place and the community engagement delivered. I am endeavouring to secure a date for a Partnership meeting to hear the outcome of that and the plans going forward. The overall comments I have had back have been very positive with the caveat that the proof is in the pudding.

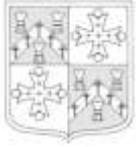
It is just over a year we sat down with The Rt Hon Phillip Dunne MP regarding our frustrations over planning and the Freshwater Pearl Mussels. In addition, following letters to the Chairs of Natural England and the Environment agency at last some communications has opened up around the issue. We have had two meetings with officers and key leaders of the EA, NE and SWT. We await formal feedback in July. I have in the past two days seen a copy of papers by Shropshire Council Consultants Royal Hastening DHV and setting out the various ways mitigation can be done and incentivised and a scheme put in place to make things happen. I am hoping soon we will learn more. It is though more than disappointing we have to find out about this progress via third parties and through serendipity. I am hopeful we can soon meet again with Shropshire Council to take this forward.

Through our interest and discussion with local environmental groups they applied for and for and are recognised by Shropshire Wild Life trust to collect a range of data on the Water Quality of the river Clun. This enables us to be informed in any ongoing discussions.

We have had ongoing discussions and meetings with English Heritage and informed them of local grants that might help them develop their management plan for the site. We await further detail. I am involved in the Bioblitz being led by the Clun Branch of the Shropshire Wild Life Trust and the Clun Climate and Environment group that advise Council.

I have attended a number of SALC regional and Rural Market Towns group online meetings. These are very informative, and I have found it useful to know how others tackle similar conditions to our own.

Finally we now have the Freeman scheme, Website and Lengthsman projects fully underway and in development so by next year we should see the outcome of this work.



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Looking Forward

Should Council wish, I am willing to continue to lead on the Highways Partnership work and other highways related matters and to Chair our own working group on these matters. The informal feedback over time, and from the engagement process, has raised the issue of off-street parking to a high priority and this is something that, once we see the current work begin, we should turn our attention to.

In regard to Planning, you will be aware we have an approved terms of reference for a Planning Committee. With the Pearl Mussel issue very much in play, and the Neighbourhood Plan proposal coming to the Parish Meeting, I would suggest we consider reviewing those terms of reference and consider whether we should point members and co-optees to this committee to work on the strategic matters. All specific planning applications would come to the full council as we do currently.

Whilst we now have good leadership on some of our assets such as the Town Hall, Cemetery and Street Lights. We need to take greater leadership in securing the future and efficiency of the public toilets and street furniture for which we are responsible.

Similarly, we need to ensure that the full range of council responsibilities is fully understood and communicated.

For example: As Custodian Trustee for the Clun and District Memorial Hall and Playing Fields Charity this should appear in asset register. Also, we should enter discussions with the charity on how we as the Custodian Trustee can assist them in securing this community asset for the future.

Similarly, according to the Terms of reference on the Clun Town Trust the Town Council has a role in helping them to secure trustees as and when new trustees are required.

As the Burial Authority responsible for the Town Cemetery, we need to ensure we have sufficient reserves to re-roof the lychgate in the relatively near future. The tiles are well past their normal life and degrading fast. In addition, once we have the report from those assisting us with the Burial Records, we need to review the future capacity of the Cemetery. Depending on the outcome of this review we can decide whether we need to consider more widely the future of burials in the Parish.

I am sure there will be other matters to take forward like the ongoing renovation of the Town Hall, replacement of streetlights, securing ownership of the “rose garden” triangle, development and use the office among other things.

009-2022

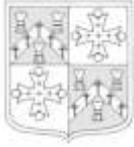
9. **APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

a) Personnel committee (4 members)

The following councillors were appointed

Cllr. Wooldridge, Cllr. Duffee, Cllr. Andrews and Cllr. Shepperd

b) Planning



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- This matter was deferred until the June meeting
- c) Highways working group (councillor representatives)
Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Shepherd and Cllr. Limond

010-2022

10. APPOINTMENTS TO BE LEAD MEMBERS FOR:

- a) Street lights and street furniture
Cllr. D. Morris was appointed as lead for the above
- b) Freeman of Clun
Cllr. Harries was appointed as lead for the above
- c) Town Hall
Cllr Shepherd was appointed as lead for the above
- d) Website
Cllr. Duffee was appointed as lead for the above
- e) Lengthsman
Cllr. Duffee was appointed as lead for the above
- f) Cemetery and burials
Cllr. B. Angell was appointed as lead for the above
- g) Toilets
Cllr. Andrews was appointed as lead for the above
- h) Council Office
Cllr. Limond was appointed as lead for the above

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATION

011-2022

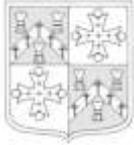
11.

- a) Clun Memorial Hall and Playing fields Trust
Cllr. R. Harris was appointed for the above
- b) Chapel Lawn Redlake Valley Village Hall
Cllr. Duffee was appointed for the above
- c) Clun climate emergency advisory group
Cllr. Mark Cllr. Ryan and Cllr. Wooldridge was appointed for the above
- d) Enterprise Southwest Shropshire
Cllr. Angell was appointed for the above
- e) SpArC
This appointment was deferred
- f) Tree warden
This was deferred

012-2022

12. PUBLIC SESSION

- (i) Shropshire Councillor Report
Cllr. Hartin gave the following update:
Shropshire Council has scaling back on Capital Spending Plans by £1000M by 2025/6 due to concerns over debt servicing cost (down



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from £405M to £279M) – borrowing cut from £16M down to just under £6M a year by 2027/8. There remains a ‘hole’ of £126M which needs to be found from alternative sources.

Overall revenue budget from 2022/3 balances BUT from next year Shropshire Council has a £50M funding gap.

Highways:

Last weeks Highways presentation in Newcastle on Clun by Cllr. Dean Carroll and Head of Highways Andy Wide was reasonably well attended with 35+ in attendance presentation to parishes, as unfortunately the transcription software used has garbled the recording of the meeting so that isn't possible to forward the recording to include councillor Carols presentation all the Q&A session which followed.

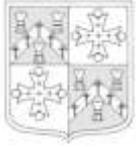
However some key points:

We need:

- accurate and more informative notifications of work and diversions
- establish better knowledge on how the network is used now in the 21st century
- accurate identification of assets like gullies, ditch's and culverts
- immediate and 12 month priority for repair or full rebuild/ reservicing.

Some comments like:

1. keep talking to the local parish council to ensure that any budget that you do half goes to the right roads. The fact that 30% of your audience will local councillors highlights that this has not been happening before.
2. please phase out ‘temporary repairs’ from the options available as soon as possible. Nothing upsets the locals more than a pothole to be ‘repaired’, only to need replacing again in a few months later.
3. Please fix everything when a road gets closed. Can you imagine the frustration when I when a commuting Rd is closed for a few days, to find out only 5% of the faults have been fixed.
4. Add lastly give a little more information on which road ahead is being fixed and over what date and



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take the signs away when the work is completed.

Other highway issues:

I am meeting nick Newton from Shrewsbury council traffic management, including tomorrow Wednesday the 4th morning to look at some issues recently highlighted by residents and council Ranger is joining me for the morning.

(ii) Police Report

The latest newsletter had been circulated.

(iii) Public comments –

There were no member of the public in attendance.

013-2022 **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 5TH April 2022 were agreed that they were a true record of what transpired.

014-2022 **14. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES**

The clerk reported that several items that were agenda items
The Clerk reported that he did not have any update on the following items as he had not received any replies from the Officers

1. Progress on clarifying ownership of Rose Garden
2. Waste bin for the Car Park from Shropshire Council have emailed zoe Mortimer

015-2022 **15. CLERK'S REPORT**

The clerk reported that he had been in touch with waterplus with regards to the large water bill and would be progressing it over the next few weeks.

016-2022 **16. PLANNING**

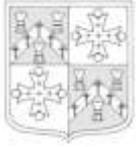
22/01445/FUL

Application for the installation of log burner and flue | Hackney Barn
Guilden Down Shropshire SY7 8NZ

This was discussed by Council by council

Resolved

That Council makes 05no comment.



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017-2022

17. FINANCE

1. To receive the Bank Reconciliation
The Bank Reconciliation was noted
2. To consider and decide on the following grants
 - a. St Georges Church £400 grass cutting
 - b. Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Crucial Crew £60.00p
RESOLVED
Both grants were agreed to be paid.
3. To approve the following invoices for payment
 - a. HMRC £164.98p S1-8 Localism Act 2011
 - b. J. Churchett £500.00p (toilet Cleaning) S1-8 Localism Act 2011
 - c. G. J. Rippon £89.94p (home working allowance, mileage and Zoom subscription) S1-8 Localism Act 2011
 - d. J. Limond £23.00 reimbursement of licence fee
 - e. GWR £1412.92 Materials for play area
 - f. SALC £540.63 Affiliation Fees

For information

- g. Hampshire Flags £1033.20p Jubilee celebrations

The clerk was instructed to pay all invoices

018-2022

18. REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Website
This was deferred
2. Lengthsman
This matter was deferred pending further information
3. Freeman
There has been publicity in the Chronicle and nomination to the clerk.
Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Harries were appointed to the working group.

019-2022

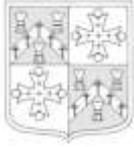
19. CORRESPONDENCE

There was an invitation from the Mayor of Bishop's Castle for the Mayor making on the 17th May 2022

020-2022

20. INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS

Jubilee



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There has been a donation which will cover the cost of the mugs
There is a full four days of entertaining covering the whole Parish.

Welcome pack for Ukrainian refugees

These were now available. It was thought that this could be made available for all who moved into the area.

NDP (*Neighbourhood Development Plan*)

This was discussed at length it was agreed that this was important subject the way forward was to discuss .

021-2022

21. *Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item.*

Land use

1. To discuss land for community use.
This was discussed and it was
RESOLVED
That two members would approach the land owner to explore matters and bring it back to council with possible recommendations.

Contracts

To discuss the following contracts

1. The toilet cleaning (variation)
It was agreed that there should be an extra payment when the contractor had to deal with cleaning up after the floods.
2. The Churchyard contract

022-2022

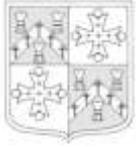
22. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Twinning
Police to next meeting
NDP

023-2022

23. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Council Meeting Tuesday 7th June 2022 7:30 PM Clun Memorial Hall



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Signed by the Chair.

Meeting closed 9.40am