

CLUNGUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

Thursday 15th May 2025 at 6.00pm in Clungunford Parish Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Roberts (Chairman and acting clerk), Cllr Mary Bason, Cllr Anne Gledhill, Cllr Michael Jones, Cllr Rob Rees, Cllr Christine Tinker, Cllr Keith Arbery

Visitors: Mr & Mrs Hickleton, of Abcott House.

Business of the meeting:

1.Election of Chairman:

Cllr Roberts was proposed to remain in the post of chairman by Cllr Rees, seconded by Cllr Jones. In the absence of any other nominees, Cllr Roberts was elected unopposed.

2. Election of Vice Chair:

Cllr Tucker had expressed his agreement to continue in this role. He was hence proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Bason and was duly elected.

3.Co-option of councillor:

Tricia McHaffee had expressed willingness to continue as a council member and it was agreed that she should be co-opted.

4. Apologies. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Tucker.

5. Minutes of the last meeting:

A slight adjustment to the minutes of the meeting of March 12th 2025 was made, to clarify that flooding at Spring Pools affected the garden only and not the house. The minutes were then duly accepted.

6. Matters arising.

- no further information had been forthcoming from Mr Disley relating to his proposed new dwelling at Abcott.
- there had been some jetting of drains done at Abcott but it was not clear just how much had been achieved. This is the responsibility of Shropshire County Council (SCC) and it should be left to them to sort out. However, there appears to be a collapsed drain that is the cause of some of the problems and it was suggested that a possible way forward would be for CPC to contribute towards the repair costs to speed up a resolution to the problem. Cllr Roberts will contact SCC Highways department and also Mr Holmes who had visited previously to discuss options.

Mr and Mrs Hickleton reported on how badly damaged the road surface is near the farm entrance at Abcott and that repairs are needed before winter, otherwise it will become a serious hazard.

- some of the spoil heap at Shelderton previously reported has been moved away but about half still remains. The road up Shelderton bank has not yet been repaired and it is still barely navigable. Major work is needed to repair the road surface and the deep gullies on either side.

7. Annual Financial Statement and AGAR 2 Form.

The Financial statement for the year had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts drew their attention to the fact that receipts were greater than expenditure again, despite our precept from SCC not having increased since the previous year. A surplus of £590.04 was carried forward into the current FY, increasing the council's bank balance to £12,107.75. The low expenditure is undoubtedly due to the fact that the council is without a dedicated Clerk at present and so is not paying any allowance. The search for a clerk continues.

It was agreed that the Chairman can submit the financial report to HMG and also sign-off the AGAR report form.

8. Superfast Broadband: progress report.

It is thought that around 60% of broadband users in Aston-on-Clun and Clungunford have now agreed to sign up to the new service, when it becomes available. There still seems to be some confusion amongst some of the community that by signing-up they will automatically have to sign up to using BT as their service provider. This service is being promoted by Openreach, who work for all broadband companies and they do not promote one above the other: All subscribers will be free to choose their own service provider.

A representative from Openreach will be holding another question-and-answer session on the proposed service in Clungunford VH on 21st May which will be open to all interested members of the public.

9. Parish Matters.

- the Village Hall has submitted a bill for £70 to CPC for use of the hall for PC meetings for the year. The Chairman will arrange for payment.

- Cllr Bason reported on the deep gullies that have been formed by erosion alongside Beckjay Lane, in several places. They are, potentially, a serious hazard to traffic. Cllr Roberts said that he would raise this with SCC Highways at the same time as the issues at Abcott were raised.

- Cllr Tinker asked if it might be possible for the PC to pursue the issue of "reopening" the public footpath along the Clun to Aston-on-Clun. Cllr Bason commented that although it had been used as a right of way in the past, it was not at all clear if the route had ever been designated as a public footpath. Some old maps had it marked as a footpath but more recent ones did not. Cllr Roberts felt that if individuals wish to pursue this issue, they have every right to do so, but it is not the responsibility of the PC to engage in the debate and the PC should remain neutral. As it is likely to be a contentious issue, it was suggested that it

might be more productive to approach the landowners individually, to ask for the creation of a permissive path, which can be cancelled at any time, rather than pursue the idea of establishing a permanent right of way.

10 Date of next meeting.

Wednesday, 9th July 2025 at 7.00pm at Clungunford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.