

# **Cleobury Mortimer Annual Parish Meeting**

Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.00pm in The Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.

## **Present:**

Chaired by Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Chairman Cllr Sean Thorogood.

## **24 Public**

**Minutes taken by Cllr D. Brown**

**Guest Speaker: Cleobury Mortimer First Responders**

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **1. Minutes of last Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015:**

**To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

**Proposed by: Cllr Kirkby, seconded by Cllr Haywood that the minutes be signed as a true record.**

**Resolved to accept – Minutes signed by Chairman.**

## **2. Matters Arising: None.**

## **3. Guest Speakers:**

Liz Van de Quickenden and Stacey Powell who work with Cleobury Mortimer First Responders informed those present about the recent addition of a First Responder Emergency Scheme Vehicle. They will be able to carry emergency medications for pain relief etc. A request was made for funding locally to help support the upkeep of the vehicle. The first responder kit was demonstrated including use of the defibrillator. There are 4 first responders covering Cleobury and the hinterland area, they often cover more than the usual 3mile radius to cover into other areas. All responders also have full time jobs in addition to being first responders. Questions invited consisted of: Explanation of the on-call hours. Originally put capital receipt funding in for a vehicle which has now been purchased however now they need money for insurance at a cost of £597 and £3000 to purchase a satellite Navigation System of Ambulance Service Standard which is much more accurate – Advised to submit a Capital Receipt Application, advised about Facebook page which gives a link to a Just Giving Page.

## **4. To receive reports for 2015/2016 from the following who have been invited:**

### **4.1 The chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr. Thorogood**

#### **Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Annual Report - April 2016**

#### **Cllr Sean Thorogood**

#### **Play Area - Skate Park**

The Parish Council have taken over responsibility for the Play Area next to the Primary School which involves the maintenance and development plus securing it for the future. In addition to this we are currently in the process of working with Shropshire Council to transfer the Skate Park and surrounding area to the Parish Council for the community in order to maintain and protect open green recreational space for Cleobury going forward.

#### **Crime Reduction Group**

We set up a Crime Reduction Group which included Councillors and community volunteers which has been very successful and very well attended. Funding was secured and 'Smart water' was a great success making us the first 'We Don't Buy Crime' town. The CCTV is now going to be owned, maintained and monitored by the Parish Council and the group are working with us to enhance and expand our coverage with new technology. We have already appointed a supplier after three quotes and should be up and running this summer. This will also include other areas in the town which the group have identified as areas of concern that need monitoring, should there be any crime issues.

#### **Parish Council Employee**

Roger Potter has recently joined us to carry out ground work and maintenance around the town and we are working with Shropshire Council to secure some funding for Roger every year through a scheme. Roger's main duties are areas that we own, especially the Cemetery which we have had many positive comments already.

### **Talbot Car Park - The Wells**

We are pushing as hard as we can to have the Talbot car park resurfaced with new parking markings and new streetlights. In addition to this replacing all the old concrete columns with new ones and LED lighting. We are also looking at way to enhance the 'Wells' area.

### **4.2 Unitary Councillors – M. Shineton - Not present.**

#### **HEALTH.**

The long discussions about the Future of Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal hopefully are reaching a proposal to put out to public consultation called the Strategic Outline Case. The document should be in the public domain by December 1st. Both Hospital sites will remain, the usage of the buildings may well change. Each site will continue to provide essential services for the population, Urgent Care, Outpatients, Ambulatory Emergency Care, Diagnostics, and Midwifery Led Care. Either site will then provide Emergency Care or the majority of planned care. There will be debate continuing on the best location for other essential hospital services Women and Children's, Surgery, Cancer etc. the Trusts ambition is to develop Centres of Excellence. There are high capital costs whatever the final decisions £100 to £200million

#### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Shropshire is working with Telford to create a Care Partnership Board which will be responsible for bringing together health and social care. This is long overdue and Shropshire has already made considerable efforts to bring this about, through training and reorganisation of the way care is delivered. I pay tribute to the hundreds of Carers who go into people's homes to give support and all staff in this sector.

#### **AMBULANCE SERVICES**

There are still problems with response times and despite many efforts to resolve this problem we must recognise we do live in a scattered rural area. Our thanks to the many First Responders who provide valuable assistance until an ambulance arrives. Efforts to improve times are continuing.

#### **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

There have been considerable concerns about the poor provision of children's mental health care in the County and I am pleased to say an improvement plan is in place and will be monitored by the Health and Wellbeing board.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Cleobury now has a new GP Surgery, an enlarged Dental Centre, an Opticians, First Responders, Chiropody and various physiotherapists, and an excellent pharmacy. Together with the Brown Clee branch surgery at Stottesdon we are very lucky.

The Cleobury Country Centre have taken over the Library which has secured it for the area and fits in well with their training sessions, business mentoring Community Hub and the Farmers Market.

We still have a Bank and a Post Office and our many other shops in the area which gives us all choice.

#### **SCHOOLS**

I welcome the formation of the Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust will secure the future of The Lacon Childe, Cleobury, Clee Hill and Stottesdon Primary Schools.

Kinlet and Farlow schools are working together for the children's benefit.

#### **2L BUS**

The hoped for improvement in this service has failed to appear, at the Local Joint Committee meeting March 23rd the audience were very passionate to Diamonds representatives. Shropshire's Transport Manager has agreed to explore another way to provide a better service for the Route.

Bridgnorth Community Bus runs every Saturday morning from Cleobury calling at Barbrook, Stottesdon, Chorley to Bridgnorth. Bus passes accepted.

This is a member request stop, ring 01746 768539

#### **AREA YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

we are lucky to have a number of groups who provide activities for our young through the schools and independently. Brownies to Guides/ Scouts, Rich and Sandra outreach work, and Mark Who runs the Hub among other things. Many thanks to the Parish Councils who have donated to the Community Fund which has also received £3,000 grant from Shropshire.

Madge Shineton 2016

### **4.3 Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society – Flo Hadley. Report to be attached.**

### **4.4 Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall Committee – Not present. Report to be forwarded.**

#### **4.5 Police Business, Rural, and Cyber Crime Coordinator for Telford and Wrekin – Charmaine Wolley**

Explained the division and how it works with rural communities such as Smart water, Action Day- i.e. vehicle being here on Market days, Support residences and businesses – i.e. Cybercrime and how to safe guard yourself and introduced team member Max who will cover this area.

PCSO Nick Morris then gave a short report on local crime in the first 3mon the of the year, How Smart water is being used, Explained the community policing website and the Horse Watch Scheme.

**\*19:45pm – Cllr Butler joined the meeting.**

#### **4.6 The Parochial Church Council of St Mary The Virgin – Roger Skelhorn**

Informed us on: -

St Mary's Youth Project - How the project helps in building relationships with local young people to support them and give them guidance.

The Hub and how it supports local children with the Primary school breakfast club, Diocese has granted finance support to the youth group for the next 3 years.

Pastrol Case Group – Visit the elderly, Frail and Ill to provide support and prevent loneliness.

Bible stories – Readings take place in the local Primary School on a weekly basis.

Faith in the pub – Takes place monthly at the Kings Arms pub in Cleobury Mortimer.

Church Building – Friends of St Mary's raised enough money for the new chancel roof to be rewired.

Future Projects – These include to replace the pews with better seating, Upgrade the heating, to make the church building more available for other functions and to be the center of the community.

Stacey Powell then gave a report on behalf of Mark Greaves and talked about her experiences with the St Mary's Youth Project.

#### **(4.2) Cllr Butler then presented the Unitary Councilor Report – Report Attached.**

##### **ANNUAL REPORT CLLR Gwilym Butler April 2016**

The past year has yet again been another challenging year and post the General Election we have seen the ambitions of central Government come to light with major effects on the rural areas and Shire counties.

The Government in its agenda to devolve powers and cut the deficit has made a major policy decision in concentrating on the Metropolitan areas where services such as health and education can be delivered more cheaply per head of population than in the rural areas.

To enable the "power houses" as the government calls them the funding formula to local authorities has been changed dramatically. Historically the council would collect Business rates on behalf of the Government. The Government would then redistribute the monies back to local authorities as grants usually dictating how the money should be spent, central control. To date Shropshire has received grants from Government which were boosted by around £40 million as a revenue support grant RSG, more than we collected as we are a low Business rate county.

What the government has now decided to do is to withdraw the top up RSG over the next five years which will result in Shropshire losing a further £40million. The money the government saves will fund the Power Houses and deficit reductions, but also staff at Whitehall can be cut back as all future collection of Business rates will remain in Shropshire.

What effect will this have in Shropshire?

To date over the past 6 years we have reduced our overall budget by £120 million which has cut staff and services to the bone and has resulted in service issues in Planning and Highways. We have however maintained excellent education and other statutory services such as safeguarding adults and children and social care.

If we now have to find savings of a further £40 million are hands are tied outside statutory services it will mean that hard decisions will have to be made around, Libraries, Museums, Leisure Centres, Transport, Street scene, waste collection.

The council has now started an open and frank discussions with all residents via the Big Conversation, where we have already got over 2000 residents responding to hard questions. It has also opened an open conversation with Town and Parish councils and the Voluntary sector to understand if there are new ways of working or precept to maintain services.

The council's precept is again controlled by legislation in that we are not allowed to increase council tax by more than 2% per annum without holding a referendum at a cost of around £500K. The government is also allowing us

to raise a further 2% ring fenced for Adult Social Care. We are committed to raise our precept by 2% for the next 4 years to help the shortfall, but it will still mean shortfall of £25 million by 2020.

We are lobbying government to lift the 2% ceiling on raising the precept in consideration that they insisted that we froze it over the past 5 years, which if we had increased it moderately by 2% our budget would be £15million better off than today.

I believe we are seeing a major culture change by government to shrink local government and transfer responsibilities to individuals and communities. There will no longer be a uniform delivery of non-statutory services across Shropshire and it will be up to individuals and communities to decide and shape their lives and communities.

There will be no more "it's not my fault it is the council!" because the council will only be delivering statutory services such as Planning, Social Care, Licensing and Protection.

The big question now is how involved does the Parish Council want to be come in delivering services and looking at ways of working with Shropshire Council on maintaining and developing services if it is the wish of the local council.

We do understand that not all councils will want to engage and we will have those who are very proactive.

My biggest message is that this is not about now, but it is about how you shape and maintain your community for your children and grandchildren, and what type of infrastructure do you want for them? What type of place?

I believe it will get harder and harder to deliver statutory services Education, Health, and Care in the rural areas unless we have a strategy for growth and development alternatively we will wither on the vine and the rural areas will become an elite area for the wealthy. Unless we have a forward-thinking strategy for where the whole of society can live, be educated, have a healthy and developed life we will lose everything that is precious to us now in the way we like everything just the way it is.

An example of this is 16-18 education, and the lack of local facilities and cost of transport, will that deter people who have children from living in this area?

The immediate threats to our local area are the subsidies Shropshire Council gives to the Library £23500, Youth services, £3000, Leisure Centre £53620, Highways Maintenance, £3000 per parish signed up, and Transport yet to be calculated.

It would be unfair for the parish where the facility lies to fund it entirely when it is used by those in neighbouring parishes.

If we lost any of those facilities what effect would it have on your lifestyle or your children's lifestyle and how important would it be to maintain those services? Would people want to live here in the future?

The Council is not saying you should run any of those services unless you wish to, but if you wish to precept for any of those services and pay the council or whoever delivers in the future and share the burden to ensure we have a facility for the future.

What would be the impact to you if you paid an extra £1 or two a month on your precept knowing it was being spent on local things for local people. A parish council is a democratic body you would always have the opportunity to lobby for how any funds should be spent and attend any meetings to do so.

Now the SAMDEV has been adopted it will not be long before we have to look at building land supply up to 2036 from 2026. Increasing Economic development will be vital if we want to increase council income and create local jobs, with that and a growing population due to longer lives we have to have a share of development if we are going to survive as we are into the future. We have the opportunity to be proactive and shape our future rather than having it imposed.

Finally, with rising costs of running a Parish Council the Parishes may want to look at working more closely with neighbouring parishes, maybe federating like the schools or merging. As with everything else the cost of delivery and administration is the core cost of a lot of Parishes and would it make sense to work more efficiently?

This is a huge period of change but also of opportunity and it will be down to you to decide how we move forward. I will try and provide you with any information you may require and look forward to working with you on whatever you and your parishioners decide, it is down to you!

Gwilym

**4.7 Cleobury Mortimer Playing Fields Group – Report to follow.**

**4.8 Cleobury Country – Errol Dyer gave an update on Cleobury Mortimer Library and the services of Cleobury Country i.e. Training Centre, Internet Café, Website, Support to local groups such as the Farmer Market and Business Support – Report to Follow.**

**4.9 Cleobury Mortimer Primary School – Mrs. Mayfield, not present report to follow.**

**4.10 Lacon Childe School – Headteacher Mr. Darren Reynolds**

Mr. Reynolds presented information about the Academy Trust which includes Lacon Childe, Cleobury Mortimer Primary School, Stotteston School, Clee Hill School and the Shropshire Gateway Nursery and how there are now other areas wanting to replicate the Trust System that Lacon Childe has. Discussed Safeguarding issues and changes the school has made such as new fencing and funding issues. Lacon Childe is now the top performing high school in the Shropshire area.

**Report to Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
**Lacon Childe School (The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust)**

Mr D Reynolds, Headteacher.

This has been another very exciting and challenging year for all involved with Lacon Childe School and the Academy Trust we have formed with Cleobury Mortimer Primary School, Clee Hill and Stottesdon.

We now have a dynamic nursery provision for local children with a view to this extending to Clee Hill gateway Nursery becoming part of the Trust in the near future.

One of the exciting developments of our partnership is the ability to move our staff from one setting to another dependent upon needs for the children, something that we are looking to develop this term. All Trust staff can be deployed in any of the trust academies giving greater staffing flexibilities.

We have made some site improvements due to the increased government focus on safeguarding and protecting our children. Our school site is now fully enclosed with fencing with the exception of the driveway between the car park and sports centre. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of dog fouling on our fields and reduce the number of unwanted visitors on our school site.

We have been once again fortunate to receive a grant from the education funding agency to replace our old boilers. The efficiency savings will pay for their replacements over a 3-year period.

Our allotment project, started in conjunction with Claire Todd from the Country Centre continues to thrive and engage our students.

There has been a great deal of change recently following the schools white paper on education and the academies and adoption Bill being passed. Our students in Year 11 will be the last to receive the old-style grading system A\*- G for all of their subjects, which is to be replaced by the 9-1 system for maths and English this year (Year 10) and for all subjects next year (Year 9). There will be a new format for reporting the successes of schools based on a much fairer system which identifies progress. Last year Lacon Childe finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the County league tables based upon 5A\*-C grades (the old measure) but 1<sup>st</sup> in County under the new Progress 8 measure. This suggests that we make more progress with our students from when they join till they leave than any other school in Shropshire in their best 8 subjects.

We have retained, for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, our standing as the best English dept. for progress in the County and have also achieved this accolade in Science with our students making 3 levels of progress at the top of the County lists. We are very proud of our academic achievements and confident that we can maintain and build on this in the future.

Our exclusion rates and behaviour are once again outstanding and lowest in the County, and our attendance rate has improved for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. It currently stands at 96% which is nearly 2% higher than in 2012. We host a fully functional CHAT service and cannot underestimate the work that Mark Grieves has done with some of our most vulnerable students. He is an amazing asset to the school, the town and most importantly our students.

School admissions and pupil numbers continue to increase, although we have a very small cohort in Year 8. This has had a dramatic effect on our school funding, losing over £160,000 from our budget. The government's proposal to adopt a fairer funding policy is much needed to help us through the difficult years ahead. Shropshire is still one of the least well-funded authorities nationally and it is hoped that the new policy will address some of the issues we face.

We will be running 7 minibuses next year to meet the demands of our ever-increasing catchment area. These buses bring in students from as far away as Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Tenbury, Newnham Bridge and Bewdley. Without them our school numbers would be considerably lower.

We have continued to offer a variety of additional experiences for our students this year. They have visited Barcelona, Arthog in Wales, Paris, Poland and Auschwitz as well as visiting sites both locally and nationally.

We hosted our annual senior Citizens Christmas party to over 80 local residents and been involved in a variety of fund raising activities. Our yr11 24 hours of sport raised over £2500 for a local Hospice and Sport Relief this year raised over £1500. We have also made generous donations to chosen charities for each individual year group.

This term we will be supporting a charity run by a former pupil of Lacon Childe which looks to providing clean water to villages in Kenya.

Our school production of Carlotti's "Pinocchio" was seen by over 500 people and we are looking forward to our end of year Speech Day when we celebrate the successes of our students.

We have had continued successes in sport at Lacon Childe this year. Our show jumping team were the Midlands, Wales and North West District Champions, Emily Price (Yr11) has once again represented England and GB at golf and recently won 3 championships including 2 women's events and the Scottish Juniors Championships. Charlie Brown, Year 8, finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the national biathlon event held in London and has been selected for the elite performance squad. We have enjoyed County representative honours in golf, rugby, football, volleyball and hockey.

One of the conditions of becoming an Academy was the added responsibility for the Sports Centre at Cleobury Mortimer within the first 3 years of operation. There has been a funding review by Shropshire Council who are not keen to maintain some of its non-statutory responsibilities, one of which is leisure provision. This could mean that they will cease to make any funding available to run Cleobury Sports Centre. This could leave the town with no community sport and leisure provision. As a school, we are desperately trying to find a solution to this problem and hope that we can come to some agreement with the Local Authority and possible management groups, i.e. Teme Leisure, to make sure that the provision for community sports and leisure is maintained in our town. We cannot do this without financial support.

Last year I was asked about 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at Lacon Childe and explained that it just was not viable. This year, our students went to 17 different post 16 providers including schools, sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and work placements around the whole of the Midlands. We have the distinction of being in only a handful of schools nationally who had 0% NEET figures last year. (NEET – Not in Education, Employment or Training).

DJR

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**4.11 Cleobury Mortimer Royal British Legion – Mr. D. Taylor, not present report to follow.**

**4.12 The Market Hall Trustees – Cllr Thorogood,**

**CLEOBURY MORTIMER MARKET HALL**

**Annual Report 2015-16**

The Market Hall remains financially sound with a steady income stream from office leases as well as from regular and casual bookings.

This year we are pleased to report a 21% increase in our income which has been achieved through additional bookings and leases. We are pleased to be the venue for local community groups such as the weekly Craft Group, Community Choir, Girl guiding and the WI as well as for coffee mornings and table top sales. We host a range of casual bookings for meetings, presentations, training sessions, parties and events. We also gain some income from the monthly craft and gift markets and hiring out equipment. We will continue to promote the Market Hall as a chosen venue for local groups especially due to its central location in town, wide range of facilities and its favorable room rates.

We have undertaken minor repairs and maintenance during the year and now have permission from the Conservation Officer to replace the upstairs windows with double glazed units. This will primarily improve energy efficiency but will also help improve acoustics.

As a community building we are happy to host some of the art work by Walter Pullan which continues to draw interest from visitors across the West Midlands. We have been pleased to accommodate art work from students at Lacon Childe School in our front window as well. We are extremely grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Todd for continuing to maintain the Visitor Information Point which offers a wide range of information including our community Notice Board.

We are proud of the growing success of the Market Hall and thank everyone for their support. We will continue to work hard to maintain this community building and welcome any feedback on how we can improve our facilities. Thank you.

Dorothy McBride

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**5.0 There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:56pm**

**Signed: Chairman**



**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**