

CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

VENUE - THE MARKET HALL

WEDNESDAY 25th MAY 2011 AT 6.00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr K Woodfield – Reason Working

Cllr K Reynolds

Cllr J Griffiths

2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 26th MAY 2010.

Voted all in favor RESOLVED.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

Mr. R Skelhorn asked for an update on the Parish Plan.

Cllr G Butler stated that the next Toolkit meeting was 9th June which was corrected
by Cllr D Brown as the 2nd June.

4. Guest Speaker – Mr. Glynn Barratt (Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust)

The Chairman introduced Mr. Barratt to speak.

Mr. Barratt introduced himself and with the aid of slides he talked in depth about the
history of the hills surrounding Clee Hill and also about the mines that were located
around the area explaining the minerals that were located in them.

After which the coffee, tea and biscuits was supplied while the projection equipment
was packed away ready to proceed with the meeting.

5 To receive reports for 2009/2010 from:

5.1 Cllr G Butler / Cllr M Shingleton - Shropshire County Councillor.

Cllr G Butler gave a report about the Unitary Council including the Market Towns
regeneration programme and the Rural Challenge.

He explained about the restructuring of local schools with a press release on the 5th
June.

Mr. Skelhorn asked about Farlow School.

Cllr Butler suggested he go to Farlow and Oretton meeting.

Cllr M Shingleton gave the following report.

There has been considerable changes and progress during the last twelve months.

Savings Capital

There has been a Government reduction in capital grants of £39.7 million, therefore the equivalent amount has had to be found and this was deleting some low priority schemes across County.

Revenue Savings up to 2011.

The County had to find savings during the financial year 2010/11 of £36+ million this has been achieved by the Reorganisation & Transformation programme which is nearly complete. Part of this was the restructuring of all senior staff which resulted in the deletion of 30 senior posts providing a saving of over £2m a year. The remaining Management review has already identified the deletion of another 50 posts which will give savings of £4m per year. The objective is to reduce overall management costs by 20%.

This current year 2011/12 we need to find further savings of £32.3m 2012/13 £20.25m 2013/14 £9.1m as far as we have information for.

There is a Staff pay freeze for two years from 2011.

PLANNING

The Core Strategy has come into being and the only remaining Bridgnorth District policies left which are relevant to us are S1 Development Boundaries; S2 Areas of minimum change; S3 Green belt; D10 Art and Development; D14 Telecommunications; D16 Directional Signs; RD6, 7, 8, 9 Location of Caravan, Camping and Chalet sites ; H4 Residential Development in smaller settlements; H14 and H15 Agricultural Workers Accommodation.

The whole lists of remaining policies are on the planning web site.

Applications

The biggest change is the pre-application advice which is available. Initial enquiries are free, more detailed advice is charged on a sliding scale.

Parish Councils as Consultees

If the information from the Parish can be resolved by officer/applicant negotiation the application will not go for Committee decision.

Shropshire Members will still be able to request Committee decision with appropriate reason.

Place Plans

These are a combination of Parish Plans and Parish Design Statements which are being trailed currently. The principles are there but we have some way to go with the practical implications.

Build your own Affordable Home on Exception sites.

This policy encourages local people to build their own home if they comply with certain rules. These are ; the size cannot be larger than 100 sq.metres gross internal floor area which includes any attached garage; Normal permitted development rights are removed so that express permission has to be sought for any future extensions; A Section 106 legal agreement has to be entered into which ensures that future sale of the property will be capped at a % of Market value for ever [;usually around 60%]; The house must meet the water and efficiency targets [level 3]; The site must be near a recognised cluster of houses; The applicant must be in housing need and have very strong local connections.

Sustainability, Environment & Climate Change Policy.

This wide ranging policy aims to bring all the strands together and to be taken into consideration when determining planning applications. Out for consultation until April 21st, is on the website.

Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging.

This is out for consultation now until April 21st and be brought to the June Cabinet meeting then to an independent Examiner with the results by October.

Statement of Community Involvement

This document set out how the Council will involve Community in its widest sense in planning decisions.

Transport Strategy

This is ongoing as a number of Bus contracts are up for renewal in August and September. Consultation ended March 31st.

Pavement Permits

From April 1st Businesses need to apply to Council for a permit to put equipment including Tables and Chairs on the pavement a yearly fee of £50 will be charged.

Highways

Government has given Shropshire £3.6m extra for highway repairs. Our Area Director is reviewing the maintenance plans which I hope we shall know the result with in the next two weeks.

Traffic Management

Before the Highways can introduce traffic regulations. They have had to consult with 28 different informal consultees. This will be reduced to 10 consultees who will bring the total to 16 to include the Statutory Consultees. This will start in May 2011.

Library Services

There have been some changes to the service. The Libraries at Cleobury Mortimer and Highley will remain but there are some alterations to the mobile stops. Ring 0345 6789034 or visit web site.

Market Towns Revitalisation Programme

Cleobury Mortimer is part of this programme and a number of projects have been put forward initially.

For the more rural parishes there is funding from Rural Challenge Capital Fund which will have to have economic benefits to the area to qualify.

Local Enterprise Partnership

This is to replace Advantage West Midlands. Shropshire Herefordshire and Telford have joined together to form the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership. The Chairman and officers have been elected/appointed. A bid has gone into the Regional Growth Fund for the creation of private sector employment and businesses.

Feed In Tariffs

These apply to renewable technologies which produce heat, P.V's Ground and Air source heat pumps and Bio-Mass . There may be grants available to help with installation.

5.3 The Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr G Butler as Vice Chairman gave a report.

He offered a vote of thanks for Cllr K Reynolds as chairman in the last twelve months which was a challenging year but still more to do and raised the following points.

Have donated in money to CM Sports and Social Club to cover shortfall of Grant.

Obtained 75% of £10,000 for new bus shelters in grant, saving us £7,500.

Continuing support for Youth and Bus to Worcester for parish.

Put in bid for Churchyard regeneration of £15k.

We welcome more public to come to meetings.

With amount of work being put on Parish Council we have to get more professional.
Formally thank Clerk for all hard work over the past year.
The newly elected Chairman Cllr S Thorogood then introduced himself, first thanking Cllr K Reynolds for the last year.
He explained that as a Chairman he wanted things to be different with the Parish Council more open and working with the electorate of the Parish.
The following points were raised.
Less subjects under the line.
Website kept up to date.
Clerk's office opens 9am to 2pm to help, pop in and make suggestions or for help.
All need to work together.
Work with the Police to help cut crime.
Mrs. S Murrel asked for an update on the public toilets.
Cllr G Butler explained that Shropshire Council had frozen the money allocated but the Parish Council was fighting to get it released. Also while out to tender for new toilets we would open Market Hall for use while Clerk there.
Mr. R Skelhorn was disappointed that elected councilors were not at the meeting suggested that 6pm may be too early and 7pm would be better.

5.4 The Cleobury Mortimer Playing Fields Group

Mrs. Rachel Neaves introduced herself and thanked the last committee who left everything in an excellent shape and Ingrid Purslow who had done an excellent job. Last year had been an eye opener with the ROSPA report which brought up some problems that were dealt with in the first month.
There has been damage due to vandalism with four wooden posts ripped out, graffiti and broken glass and bottles.
PC Tony Sewell has done litter picks and there is a need for another litter bin.
Would like to thank the Clerk for all his help with all issues and Parish Council for help with maintenance.
Would like to get some new equipment and busy getting quotes for a new See Saw.
Talking to all the mothers to help with committee also looking at possibility of a Craft and produce fair.
We need to sort out who should be cutting grass and hedges.

5.5 The Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall Committee.

Mr. G Carter said he has to thank all the committee for their hard work most days. Flicks in the Sticks are quite successful with the film the Kings Speech having 104 people attending.
The Kitchen has been re vamped with new equipment funded by a grant of £2,500 thanks to Debbie and Gwilym with us adding £2,500.
Now re decorated cottage number 2 spending £2,000 to make it more habitable. The two cottages are a constant spend.
There is a need for more volunteers to help with the running of the Parish Hall.
Would like to invite the councilors to come and look around.
Cllr M Reiner asked how money was raised.
Mr. Carter explained about an upcoming race night on the 7th with the hall also rented out for events but after a previous disco the doors had to be repaired.
Mrs. Marion Griffiths has continued to raise funds but we do need a caretaker and would like the help of the Parish Council, if it can be put on their next agenda.

5.6 The Market Hall Trustees.

Cllr S Thorogood explained that there is now a Sub Committee who is making good progress helped with friends of the market hall.

The acoustics are bad in the upstairs room which is being looked at as well as CCTV.

The Market Hall has good rates for renting the rooms and we have to work together to promote it.

Cllr B Davies pointed out that the toilets are now used for the public while the Clerk is in the building, due to the closure of the old ones until the new toilets are built.

Mr. R Skelhorn suggested that the Parish Hall and Market Hall could work together.

5.7 The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Cleobury Mortimer.

Ryland Robertshaw, the church warden explained that the church has been open to the public for 900 years and they have social groups and youth projects and hear the bells regularly. St Mary's is flourishing with lots of people enjoying a Grade 1 listed building.

It takes £250 a week to run and has had some recent vandalism of the rear window which had to be repaired.

The bell tower has had to be rewired after a 5 year inspection and the Bells dating from 1757 was last overhauled in 1975 are now due.

The friends of St Mary's like Mrs. Murrell have fundraising events to help like mad potters tea party, wine walk 17th June, fashion show and gardens open. A lot of social things also Cleobury Mortimer Youth project, our leaders of tomorrow, Mark Greaves has 8 volunteers to help. In 2010 we gained a full time youth worker at St Mary's and have 11-14 year old meeting in parish hall and 15-18 year olds on a Friday evening in the Methodist hall. All young people can be involved and appreciate the Parish Council support. We support Mark in what he is doing working in both Secondary and Primary schools who struggle with bullying as an issue.

St Mary's is open 7 days a week for the community.

Mr. G Carter asked if the church had insurance on the stained glass window that was vandalized.

Ryland said yes it cost 12 thousand to put right and extra mesh wiring has to be put on back of church.

Cllr M Shinton said that St Mary's youth group is trying to bring all youth together and also have the South Shropshire Youth forum that walk around Cleobury on a Friday night talking to the youth; also a hole in the wall musical event is planned for local musicians.

5.8 The Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society

Flo Hadley read out the following report.

The Society has two objectives that are of particular interest to the Parish Council:

- to promote interest and knowledge of horticulture and gardening.

To further this objective, the Society holds an annual Cleobury in Bloom event, the format of which changes annually in order to stimulate and maintain the interest of local people in gardening and horticulture more broadly. We are particularly keen to

enthusie young people and, building on the success of last year's initiative, we have a competition this year for local primary schools with an award for the one that demonstrates good practical abilities and the sound development of knowledge of seeds, plants and gardening. We are also holding a competition for the 20 or so pupils at Lacon Childe School who achieved such remarkable results last year in setting up their allotments and turning a grassed area into productive plots. In addition, there will be a spot prize competition for a garden or container or hanging basket belonging to a local resident whose achievements have been spotted by one of our members and entered into the competition. The award event on 9 July is open to all and we will again have a display of our members' work and produces as a backdrop.

- to promote increased awareness of the local environment and to seek to improve it.

The society's members continue to plant and maintain the flower trough outside The Talbot Hotel. We also weed and tend the borders around the seventeen lime trees that gracefully stretch the length of the town and which were planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The lime trees were pollarded until about ten years ago, when members of the Society put in the ropes in order to create the current pleached shape, inspired by a visit to Bruges Cathedral where a similar effect has been created. The Society continued to prune them annually until two years ago when the size of the trees meant that it was no longer a job for members to undertake safely; Shropshire Council stepped in to do the work in 2010 and, despite significant budget cuts, agreed to do the work again this year. The contractors have done an excellent job - the decaying ropes have been replaced and eventually, the framework will sustain itself and the ropes will no longer be needed.

From next year, Shropshire Council will pay only half of the cost and so the Horticultural Society is planning to make a request to the Parish Council to meet the shortfall. The Society intends to make an annual donation itself and is seeking donations from other bodies and people in the town: donations have already been received and there is further advertising in the Cleobury Clarion and Vital Link. Hopefully, together, we can secure sustained funding to ensure that these trees remain safe in the town's hands – they are a feature that is unique in Shropshire and one that other towns are seeking to emulate elsewhere in the country, so we should be proud of them. The Society is asking permission from Shropshire Council to put a plaque on the trees giving their origins, as well as applying for a Tree Preservation Order to ensure that the trees' future is secured. The Society is grateful to David Robinson, a well-known local farmer, who currently leases part of his land to us to accommodate a number of allotment plots. We have been successful in securing money to increase the number of allotments by a further four full plots, which should remove the waiting list. David Robinson's support and generosity is considerable and he is to be congratulated on embarking on a scheme with us that surrounding towns and villages are seeking to emulate.

5.9 Cleobury Country

5.10 Any other report relevant to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Flo Hadley read out the following report as PC Tony Sewell would like to open the police station more often so are getting support from the Neighbourhood watch.

- The objectives of the newly-formed NHW are:
 - to promote awareness of, and prevent wherever possible criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in Cleobury Mortimer by watching and informing the Police
 - to be aware of vulnerable and elderly people within the community and if necessary offer or obtain assistance
 - to be a social neighbourhood watch committee promoting good relations within the community.
- Currently over 100 households signed up in the five areas – pink, green, blue, yellow and grey. The NHW in the area is unique, extending to a whole town rather than the more usual structure of just a few streets at most. Work is underway to resurrect Rural Watch.
- Over 60 residents attended the inaugural meeting of the NHW. PC Tony Sewell and Chief Inspector Alan Edwards emphasised that Cleobury Mortimer is one of the lowest crime areas in the country and they looked forward to working with NHW members to keep it that way. Between April 2010 and March 2011, there had been 49 crimes in the area, comprising 41 burglaries (involving 20 houses, 15 of which had been entered) and 8 vehicle-related crimes. Most of the burglaries had been committed by the same person or persons, most likely having travelled in to the area. It is particularly pleasing that there have been no burglaries in the last two months. Residents have a key role to play in observing strange vehicles and people in the street, especially if their suspicions are aroused. There is a need for the community to help the police work effectively so that, together, people can be protected and community spirit strengthened.
- Over 700 residents have joined the Facebook site out of a population of 3200 in Cleobury Mortimer and this is possibly the most effective way of registering intelligence on which the police can act – car registrations, descriptions of suspicious people and so on.
- A number of residents are taking advantage of being able, through NHW, to purchase Smartwater packs at reduced cost to mark their property.

5. Presentation of the Parish Council Accounts

The Budget and Precept was explained by Cllr G Butler and that the Clerk was in the middle of the Audit even though he should be on bereavement leave.

The Clerk explained that no clerk would be able to take it over at this stage.

Mrs. Ingrid Purslow thanked the Parish Council for their work and well done for winning the Clean Britain Award.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25 PM

The minutes were approved at the Annual Parish meeting on 18th April 2012.