

Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council

Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 7.00pm in The Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Chairman Cllr Sean Thorogood, G Hainsworth, D Brown, B Davies, D Gregory, M Shingleton, R Neaves, D Griffiths, G Carter, B Duley, B Haywood, B Richards, A Williams, J Reynolds, S Murrell, M Reiner, F Hadley.

Locum Clerk: Mrs Freda Morris

Guest Speaker: Keith Barrow, Leader Shropshire Council

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

Rachel Neaves (will arrive late), John Shaw.

2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2011:

Proposed by Cllr Butler, seconded by Cllr Davies that the minutes be signed as a true record. **RESOLVED to accept – minutes signed by Chairman.**

3. Matters arising from the minutes:

None raised.

4. Guest Speaker – Cllr Mr Keith Barrow Leader of Shropshire Council (30 mins):

Cllr Barrow pointed out that when Shropshire went Unitary in 2009 it was not popular with everybody. With cuts the smaller District Councils struggled to exist and Cllr Barrow explained what cuts were needed which resulted in lost jobs and redundancies.

Very little money now left in reserves and are trying to build this up to £13m.

Have to work within budget and financial controls have been brought in and this was explained.

Will re-invent way Council does business in next 2/3 weeks – sell services to other Councils for profit – new structure for delivering services.

Cardboard collection ceased – this was due to the print on the cardboard, although cardboard banks are working quite well.

Costs £169,000 to collect cardboard and consideration is being given regarding collecting this in winter instead of the green waste.

Provision of lunches for members has been stopped except for Annual/Christmas meeting – members pay for their own lunch.

Questions were asked which Cllr Barrow answered.

Empty properties – loss of money from Council tax etc. Cllr Barrow confirmed that SC only collect Business Rates they don't set them (Government sets them). A short explanation was given.

Cardboard collection withdrawal queried. SC can't provide all answers – collection point at School. £70 per ton received for paper but if cardboard mixed in only receive £20 per ton.

Salary/expenses all published on SC website.

SC working closely with Health and Social Care to enable people to stay in their own homes wherever possible. £5m a year is saved if 2 people are kept at home rather than in care.

Public Health – a lot of work is carried out with Public Health i.e. obesity in schools.

Health most important.

Changes will save and make a lot of money.

Chairman thanked Cllr Barrow for being 'straight talking and open'.

5. To receive reports (if available) for 2011/2012 from:

5.1 Cllr G Butler / Cllr M Shingleton - Shropshire County Councillors:

Cllr Shingleton reported the following:

- PHC – long overdue to bring agencies together.
- Care at Home – opportunity, personal budget to do what they want.
- Shortage of Consultants – distance to travel between Telford and Shrewsbury is minimal.
- Hopton Wafers School to close – 10 children on roll.
- Photovoltaics being installed at Lacon Childe School – green energy.
- Olympic Torch to come through Cleobury, 24th May – 1300 children will be in Cleobury.

Chairman thanked Cllr Shingleton for the report.

Cllr Butler gave the following report:

The Market Town Regeneration programme has committed £45000 to Cleobury Mortimer. This has been identified to support further employment land and infrastructure at the Tenbury Road business park and will hopefully create a site which will support up to 16 new businesses as starter units or larger businesses as required. The other project is a Revitalisation of the closed church yard to create a paved area for events and activities adjacent to the Market Hall, which has full support from the Diocese.

The Rural Challenge fund has bought substantial funding into the ward. The fund is for £500 k over the whole of Shropshire and we are hopeful that our division will have received around £70 k supporting the Hydro scheme at Neen Sollars, the new Nursery in Cleobury Mortimer, the shop at Stottesdon and further development at the rehabilitation centre at Stottesdon.

The importance of the Community Infrastructure Levy has now commenced and communities are now in control as to whether they obtain investment or not.

By April 2013, £82 million pounds will have been saved out of an annual budget of circa £660 million. We are also aware of proposals for further cuts between 2014/15 which we are estimating of another £80million. It will be a huge challenge to deliver these cuts without effecting services.

NO increase in council tax for the past three years and no increase projected for next year with the old South Shropshire area receiving a 4.7% reduction if all goes to plan. This will be a realignment of all the old district and boroughs to the lowest charge in 2009. The council has also delivered a balanced budget for the end of this financial year. This year the council has achieved a collection rate of council tax and NNDR of 98.1%. Unemployment in Shropshire has dropped 3% year to date.

The council is leading the national field on Localism working closely with the Voluntary and Community sectors and the Town and Parish Councils and the development of both their roles.

There will be a place plan meeting in the early autumn which will look at Cleobury Mortimer and all its hinterland and the needs and aspirations of each of the parish areas, all are welcome to attend. It will look at infrastructure provisions, education, leisure and health etc.

Economic development is seen as a key priority to enable us to climb out of recession and the current austerity measures, with local job creation being paramount with the increasing cost of oil and transport.

Broadband is a key factor to our future sustainability and the need to have faster access in our area is paramount. Shropshire council is looking at demand for faster broadband and has got £8.2million towards the process. Everyone should register their need for faster broadband by going to the Shropshire Council web site or www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

A question was asked regarding the closed churchyard. Nothing proposed for the back at the moment only the front part. Residents will be consulted.

Broadband – parishioners were urged to support the Broadband campaign on the SC website.

Chairman thanked Cllr Butler for his report.

Shinerton as they never miss meetings.

5.3 The Chairman of the Parish Council:

- Toilets – site/services/funding approved – waiting for official plans then tenders can go out.
- Eagle Lane toilets – being signed over to the PC – then up for debate as to what happens to them.
- Medical Centre – thanks to everyone for their help and support. PC have done all they can for this.
- Parish Plan – keen to get people involved.
- Parking Review – up to residents – do nothing or put things in place.
- Councillors – time a premium – opportunity to get involved, takes commitment. Need to look at taking Cleobury Mortimer forward but struggling to get people involved.
- Clerk – thanks to Matt Sheehan.
- Heidi Steele arranges litterpicks.

A parishioner asked what was happening about the parking review. Chairman explained that this was just a 'toe in the water' and would put this on the next PC agenda. An addendum would also be added to the Parish Plan questionnaires re: parking.

Disabled toilets were queried – new toilets would include this provision.

Mr Duley thanked the PC in 'rescuing this project'.

It was suggested that litterpicks should be advertised to encourage parishioners to join in.

A suggestion was made for the PC to provide banners 'welcome to Cleobury Mortimer – shop here' and also to support a loyalty scheme.

Mrs Murrell mentioned that the 'Walking for Health' group encounters dog mess whilst out walking with a particular problem at the primary school.

It was suggested that photographs are needed of the dogs which can result in prosecution of the owners.

Owners need educating about the dangers of this and it was suggested that posters could be put up.

Mr Reynolds pointing out that the primary school is not doing sport due to dog fouling.

5.4 The Cleobury Mortimer Playing Fields Group:

Rachel Neaves gave a very detailed report and confirmed that the key objective is to get new equipment for a wide age group.

Problems of dog fouling, litter, glass etc was highlighted. PC Sewell regularly visits the park and suggested a sign be erected welcoming people to the park but stating no glass bottles and giving a closing time as most damage is caused after 5pm – this would then help him as use after the stipulated time would be trespassing. Residents had been questioned regarding this suggestion and they were supportive of this.

A suggestion of age 13 and under to use the equipment had been made.

Funds were still healthy with £1500 in the kitty and will hopefully purchase another price of equipment with this. The main goal is to get the park used.

A parishioner commented that the primary school could not use the field due to dog fouling and broken glass from alcohol bottles and wondered if this could be 'an alcohol free zone'.

Rachel thanked Matt Sheehan for his work, Cllr Hainsworth who is on the committee and the PC for their support.

It is appreciated that it is not the younger children causing the problems but the 18+ age group.

Mr Reynolds suggested better fencing/locked gate.

Chairman thanked Rachel for her report.

5.5 The Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall Committee:

Mr Carter reported of a fairly encouraging year. The kitchen had been refurbished including a new microwave and warming oven.

Flicks in the Sticks providing good entertainment.

He thanked the PC for their help in finance with the new maintenance man putting chairs/tables out etc.

There is a small amount of people on the committee and the next project is the ceiling, which had been lowered, and is now starting to show defects.

An architect is working on this project and details of the work required are awaited – it is a major project and funds will be required.

Parish Hall continues for use of the town.

Chairman thanked Mr Carter for his report.

5.6 The Market Hall Trustees:

Chairman confirmed that there was little to report.

With the Playgroup moving from the Market Hall to the school this has left a dent in revenue. This is a concern and the Trustees are to look into what can be done.

It was felt that the Parish Hall and Market Hall are not being used to their best and suggested that this could be developed together – Parish Hall for open space and Market Hall for perhaps offices to rent.

The 2 halls are just 'ticking over' and fresh ideas are needed in order to generate funds.

A parishioner commented that many organizations liked the position of the Market Hall.

The cost to hire rooms is very competitive and should be booked through Dot McBride. There is a lift to upstairs rooms in the Market Hall.

It was suggested that hire charges should be displayed on the information boards.

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

Annual Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council

In 2011 the outreach work of the church continued to develop whilst various repairs and improvements to the church fabric took place.

Church Ministry

The ministry of the church was further strengthened by Kelvin Price's ordination as he takes on further responsibility within the benefice.

The role of our youth worker, Mark Greaves, has continued to grow. Mark now works in Cleobury Mortimer Primary and Lacon Childe schools for ten hours a week as well as leading the Youth Groups. Detailed information of the work of SMYP is in their annual report.

St Mary's Sunday Club continues to grow with the dedicated commitment of Jenny Rand and her team.

The monthly men's group, Faith in the Pub, has attracted the interest of more men and now has a regular attendance of up to fourteen men.

Sunday evening services are now held twice a month and the bi-weekly study groups continue to develop.

The first "Open the Book" assembly was held at Cleobury Mortimer Primary School in September 2011 and has received positive comments from pupils, staff and parents.

The Church Fabric

The Quinquennial report on the structure of the church was received and an action plan drawn up to highlight the most urgent areas for improvement or repair. Below is a brief summary of the most urgent recommended works;

Priority A

Reinstate missing and damaged roof tiles.

Routine maintenance of gutters and downpipes.

Chancel re-roofing/ceiling repair.

Repairs to windows, including masonry repairs, additional or replacement bird guards

Re-pointing generally

Replace electrical wiring

Suggested Action Plan

In order of priority

Replace wiring

Replace light fittings

Maintenance of gutters

Chancel ceiling renewal

Repairs to windows/guards

Repointing

The lighting requirements and rewiring of the church have been reviewed and a redesign has created a more affordable solution. The project has now reached faculty stage and it is hoped that it will reach fruition by the end of 2012.

A number of more minor repairs to the church fabric have taken place. Broken tiles on the north side of the roof have been replaced, the broken drainpipe repaired and the gutters cleared. A new floodlight has replaced a broken one and will be more energy efficient. New lapel microphones were purchased with the generous donations from two members of the church community.

The church has been working with the Parish Council to develop a Historic Core Project in the historic centre of the community from funds for such developments from Shropshire Council. The proposal is to improve and

enhance the area around the church to include re-surfacing the paths and paving the grassed area to the west of the porch. The Parish Council has also donated money for a new notice board and repaired the steps leading up to the porch for which we are very grateful.

Our beautiful church continues to be used more flexibly and by many sections of the community. An event booking form is now in place and can be obtained from the Church office.

We continue to appreciate the fund raising efforts of the Friends of St. Mary's as well as all those in the church community who give so generously of their time helping to raise funds and helping to make the church look beautiful and function smoothly.

Jayne Brown.
Ryland Robertshaw.
(Church Wardens)

5.8 The Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society:

Flo Hadley Chair of the Horticultural Society gave 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 has held its annual Cleobury in Bloom event, 2011, since the last meeting. Once again, there was a competition for local primary schools with awards for the winners and runners up who were able to demonstrate good practical abilities and the sound development of knowledge of seeds, plants and gardening. Kinlet CofE Primary School won, with Stottesdon CofE Primary School the runners up.

For the first time, we ran a competition for the 20 or so pupils at Lacon Childe School who have set up allotments on the school site and turned what was a grassed area into productive plots. This was great success.

Additionally, we had a spot prize competition where we presented awards to the residents whose gardens we had 'spotted' as being worthy of reward for their owners' supreme efforts. We had a great variety of gardens, large and small, as well as containers and vegetable plots. The talent among Cleobury's gardeners is enormous and the competition drew in people who would never have thought of showing off their talents under normal circumstances.

It was great that so many people turned up to the prize giving in July to celebrate the achievements of local children, teenagers and adults who have the gardening bug and amazingly green fingers.

This summer, the primary schools' competition and the Lacon Childe allotment competition will once again form part of Cleobury in Bloom. In addition, we are writing to the many local clubs and societies in the area to encourage them to enter their members for one of five categories – front garden, back garden, fruit/vegetable garden, garden created from scratch in the last two years and containers. We are hoping this will bring together local organisations and also encourage gardeners in newly-built homes to show what they have achieved with what started out as bare plots – and maybe a load of builders' rubble!

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

Lime tress:

The Society's members continue to plant and maintain the flower trough outside The Talbot Hotel. We also liaised with Shropshire Council, CM Parish Council and local residents with regard to the pleaching of the seventeen beautiful lime trees in the town, which everyone knows by now, were planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

We are indebted to Shropshire Council who has paid the full cost of this year's pleaching that took place in March. In return, CM Parish Council and local residents will reimburse the Council (as soon as possible!) by contributing half the cost. We should note that a number of local residents, between them, have pledged £425 annually to contribute to the pleaching, thus reducing the contribution that the Parish Council will need to make. The Society is grateful to all concerned in financing the pleaching: it has been an excellent piece of collaboration between local councils and residents, which we hope will continue for many years to ensure the health, appearance and impact of these unique trees. Once

again, the specialist contractors have done an excellent job - more decaying ropes have been replaced, others tensioned and the branches pruned to produce, over time, a framework that will sustain itself so ropes will no longer be needed.

One of the members of the Horticultural Society had paid for the manufacture and fitting of a metal dibond plaque, which now sits around the base of the tree closest to the bus shelter, explaining the trees' origins. This is a truly fitting gesture in this Jubilee year. I hope residents will agree that the trees look magnificent and will provide a great backdrop to events in the town this summer.

Allotments:

Thanks to David Robinson who owns the land, there have been 22 plots on the Greens Barn site since 2004. The Society bid for, and was successful in securing, a grant of £350 from the Local Joint Committee this year to purchase the materials to extend the allotments, creating a further 6 plots. The work was done by our members, amounting to about 70 hours of labour. Some are divided into half plots to give more people the opportunity to 'grow their own'. All the new plots have been taken by local residents and there is no-one on the waiting list: those interested in being put on the list can contact our allotment co-ordinator via our website.

Chairman thanked Flo for this report.

5.9 Cleobury Country:

The following report from Chris Dimond was read out.

'I am very pleased to be able to deliver my 5th report to the AGM of Cleobury Country Ltd after the first full year of operation in our new home at the Cleobury Country Centre. After the struggle, which is well documented to raise funding for the building, it was a real surprise to be awarded one of the Civic Trust Awards in 2011 not just for the architecture but for the community and partner input into the design and layout to produce an energy efficient, flexible building.

A building is of course a start but it needs staff that are flexible, hard working, able to deal with people with a variety of concerns and questions in a friendly and helpful manner and support and work with the volunteer board - we have been really lucky to have had such staff.

It is a major disappointment which leaves a revenue hole that one of our partners-Lacon Childe School - who helped design and fund the main training room specifically to deliver one of the vocational diplomas for the South Shropshire Forum of schools has had to cancel the course after just two years. The board is still in negotiations with the school to consider other alternatives which could fit.

A major focus for the company continues to be the support for local business. With the reductions or cancellation in support from other organisations we have taken a more proactive role in trying to put together alternatives particularly to help start-up businesses.

More courses have been organised by the staff and use made of three local training companies who all have delivered excellent courses.

Personnel have travelled from outside of the Cleobury Country area to take advantage of the facilities. Discussions are underway with departments within Shropshire Council to use Cleobury Country facilities for training in South Shropshire.

Two of the original partnership theme groups which focus on tourism and local goods and the environment continue to do excellent work supported by the company. Events such as the Food and Ale trail and the Tastes of Cleobury promote local food businesses and the tourism leaflets publicise accommodation and food suppliers. The environmental group have focused on the use of renewable energy and the Tetstill Mill project is an example whereby renewable energy can be produced using local resources. This has been supported financially by CC Ltd and also through funds allocated by Shropshire Council to CC Ltd on the proviso that all dividends and the returned capital are used for future environmental community projects.

In April 2011 we were awarded the Social Enterprise Mark as a commitment to the ideals of a social enterprise and to try to establish relationships with other like minded companies.

Cleobury Country Ltd supports the work of the Broadplace and still runs classes for the community for those who want to gain or improve their IT skills. In addition the wi-fi installation is used by many business people for hot desking and therefore is a valuable asset for those whose broadband service is either not available or slow.

The company continues to assist other community groups who have aspirations to set up similar business models for example Bridgnorth, Broadway and Shifnal.

Cleobury Country Ltd has a seat on the Local Joint Committee and administers the Community Chest grants on their behalf.

The staff continue with their efforts to attract new clients to use the facilities and during the last year this has included many new businesses and Sure Start children's group who have benefited from a room that can be used by children and a separate room that can be used by parents undergoing training.

The Cleobury Country staff continue to work in partnership with Shropshire library staff to ensure that the library is open to all the community five and a half days per week. In addition they facilitate the valuable Tellytalk facility to enable residents to communicate with Shropshire Council over a visual computer link to obtain for example bus passes.

We are indebted to all who have helped make this venture a success and hope that, with the addition of an additional five new board members, Cleobury Country Ltd can go from strength to strength to the benefit of the community and the environment we all cherish and enjoy'.

5.10 Police report:

PC Sewell sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. Don Gregory (Volunteer) reported that the Police Station is open for a couple of hours each morning and provided a copy of crime statistics (attached) etc for the area.

Mr Gregory thanked all concerned for their help and support especially PC Sewell who had been here for 15 months.

Flo Hadley gave the following Neighbourhood Watch report on behalf of co-ordinator Betsy Pratt:

It is one year since Cleobury Neighbourhood Watch was established, initially as a group for the Eagle Lane area, but almost immediately thereafter encompassing the whole town.

Cleobury Neighbourhood Watch is divided into five areas – the co-ordinators of those areas bringing the concerns of its residents to our quarterly meetings.

With the increase of petty thieving and burglaries in late 2010 / early 2011 the focus for our first year was 'protecting property'. Following the very interesting and informative talks and slide shows on 'Smartwater' we have been able to purchase home, farm and car kits at discounted prices for our members. Marking property and valuables with Smartwater means that the item is immediately identifiable with its owner. The take up on these kits has been tremendous and may be one reason for the decrease in incidents of petty thieving – perhaps it has had the desired effect. We have also had talks from a locksmith, which sent us all home to check our home insurance policies for the specifications for external locks.

Dog fouling is another of the town's main concerns. Bags are available from the police station, and we are continuing to aim to ensure that dog owners clear up after their dogs.

The general anti-social behaviour in the town has diminished considerably over the last year – this is largely thanks to P.C. Sewell who has worked tirelessly within the local community: with businesses; becoming actively involved with schools and youth clubs; and supporting neighbourhood watch, thus giving residents, young and old, the opportunity to make Cleobury a better place for everyone.

At our last meeting – our second AGM - we had a talk by Sandra Cole (St. Johns Ambulance), who is also co-ordinator of the Grey area, and her colleague on resuscitation after a heart attack. As members of neighbourhood watch, one never knows when an emergency is going to occur – the more people that have the knowledge of the action to take in an emergency the better. It may save a life.

Following the demonstration it was unanimously decided that the Cleobury Neighbourhood Watch should approach the council for a defibrillator for the High Street.

Our meetings take place two or three times a year in the Methodist Hall – we will be delighted to welcome anybody who may be interested in joining to come along.

Cllr Madge Shingleton asked if details could be provided of where the 1st Responders and any defibrillators are in the area

5.11 Lacon Childe School report:

No report received.

5.12 Cleobury Mortimer Primary School report:

The following letter was read out from the Primary School and it was agreed that this will be brought up at the next Parish Council meeting as an agenda item.

Dear Councillors,

Many thanks for taking the time to come and meet us at school in late October last year. The children, staff and governors were pleased to show you 'our side of the story', and we all thought that the meeting was productive and cooperative.

Subsequent to the meeting, we have met with the other main users of the playing field, who have also indicated that they would like to work in a spirit of cooperation.

Since all these meetings, we have been somewhat forced into reviewing our Grounds Maintenance agreement, because the maintenance contract that we held with Lacon Childe School has been stopped with very little notice due to redundancies at the school.

We have now entered into a new agreement with Alan Guest Ltd., who we feel as a local firm, will serve us well.

As discussed at the meeting in school, the current agreement as laid out in the deeds between Shropshire Council property and what we believe is your property was set up in 1972, and as discussed at the meeting with you, is widely seen as unfair to our Primary School.

We now have situation that we as a school are paying £4000 for the grounds maintenance. A very large proportion of this is spent on the grass and hedge cutting on the larger part of the playing field on which it is virtually impossible for the school to use due to the dog fouling which stems from the general community use of the field. We are not directly benefiting from the money that we spend on this field, whilst others are. This is money that at the moment, we feel could be better used elsewhere in the school, especially in an era of dwindling budgets.

We are asking for help with two issues:

- 1) **The council to take some element of responsibility (both economically and administratively) over the maintenance of a communal area, which benefits the whole town.**

- 2) **The issue of dog fouling to be taken seriously, so that the children of Cleobury Mortimer can use**

We understand that you have a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday night (18th April), and were hoping that you may find the time to discuss this letter in front of the full council. We would be happy to attend if you feel that it would help or you require further information.

In summary, we wish to work alongside all users of the field, to make it a pleasant place for our children and the general public to use. We do not wish to restrict the use of the field, however we find ourselves in an impossible situation over our use of it.

Please can you discuss this and respond with some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Barnes B. Williams
Vice Chair of Governors at CMPS Headteacher

To Sign.

5.13 Any other report relevant to the Annual Parish Meeting:

No further reports given.

6. Presentation of the Parish Council Accounts – year ending 31st March 2011:

Locum Clerk had a copy of the accounts but would be unable to answer any questions. This would be left until Matt is back to work.

7. Parish Matters:

Mr Duley reported that there are still a few shares left for purchase in the Neen Sollers hydro scheme – 10 days left to purchase these.

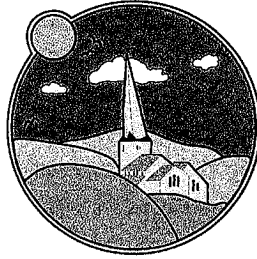
There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed: Chairman



Date:

17/4/13.



Cleobury Country™..

Chairman's Report 2010-2011

I am very pleased to be able to deliver my 5th report to the AGM of Cleobury Country Ltd after the first full year of operation in our new home at the Cleobury Country Centre. After the struggle, which is well documented to raise funding for the building, it was a real surprise to be awarded one of the Civic Trust Awards in 2011 not just for the architecture but for the community and partner input into the design and layout to produce an energy efficient, flexible building.

A building is of course a start but it needs staff that are flexible, hard working, able to deal with people with a variety of concerns and questions in a friendly and helpful manner and support and work with the volunteer board –we have been really lucky to have had such staff.

It is a major disappointment which leaves a revenue hole that one of our partners- Lacon Childe School - who helped design and fund the main training room specifically to deliver one of the vocational diplomas for the South Shropshire Forum of schools has had to cancel the course after just two years. The board is still in negotiations with the school to consider other alternatives which could fit.

A major focus for the company continues to be the support for local business. With the reductions or cancellation in support from other organisations we have taken a more proactive role in trying to put together alternatives particularly to help start-up businesses.

More courses have been organised by the staff and use made of three local training companies who all have delivered excellent courses.

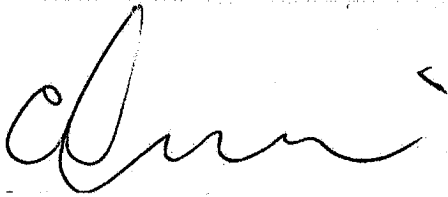
Personnel have travelled from outside of the Cleobury Country area to take advantage of the facilities. Discussions are underway with departments within Shropshire Council to use Cleobury Country facilities for training in South Shropshire.

Two of the original partnership theme groups which focus on tourism and local goods and the environment continue to do excellent work supported by the company. Events such as the Food and Ale trail and the Tastes of Cleobury promote local food businesses and the tourism leaflets publicise accommodation and food suppliers. The environmental group have focused on the use of renewable energy and the Tetstill Mill project is an example whereby renewable energy can be produced using local resources. This has been supported financially by CC Ltd and also through funds allocated by Shropshire Council to CC Ltd on the proviso that all dividends and the returned capital are used for future environmental community projects.

In April 2011 we were awarded the Social Enterprise Mark as a commitment to the ideals of a social enterprise and to try to establish relationships with other like minded companies.

Cleobury Country Centre,
Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE
01299 272 300

Cleobury Country Ltd supports the work of the Broadplace and still runs classes for the community for those who want to gain or improve their IT skills. In addition the wi-fi installation is used by many business people for hot desking and therefore is a valuable asset for those whose broadband service is either not available or slow. The company continues to assist other community groups who have aspirations to set up similar business models for example Bridgnorth, Broadway and Shifnal. Cleobury Country Ltd has a seat on the Local Joint Committee and administers the Community Chest grants on their behalf. The staff continue with their efforts to attract new clients to use the facilities and during the last year this has included many new businesses and Sure Start children's group who have benefited from a room that can be used by children and a separate room that can be used by parents undergoing training. The Cleobury Country staff continue to work in partnership with Shropshire library staff to ensure that the library is open to all the community five and a half days per week. In addition they facilitate the valuable Tellytalk facility to enable residents to communicate with Shropshire Council over a visual computer link to obtain for example bus passes. We are indebted to all who have helped make this venture a success and hope that, with the addition of an additional five new board members, Cleobury Country Ltd can go from strength to strength to the benefit of the community and the environment we all cherish and enjoy.



C R Dimond
Chairman Cleobury Country Ltd.

13th February 2012

Annual Report from St Mary's Parochial Church Council

In 2011 the outreach work of the church continued to develop whilst various repairs and improvements to the church fabric took place.

Church Ministry

The ministry of the church was further strengthened by Kelvin Price's ordination as he takes on further responsibility within the benefice.

The role of our youth worker, Mark Greaves, has continued to grow. Mark now works in Cleobury Mortimer Primary and Lacon Childe schools for ten hours a week as well as leading the Youth Groups. Detailed information of the work of SMYP is in their annual report.

St Mary's Sunday Club continues to grow with the dedicated commitment of Jenny Rand and her team.

The monthly men's group, Faith in the Pub, has attracted the interest of more men and now has a regular attendance of up to fourteen men.

Sunday evening services are now held twice a month and the bi-weekly study groups continue to develop.

The first "Open the Book" assembly was held at Cleobury Mortimer Primary School in September 2011 and has received positive comments from pupils, staff and parents.

The Church Fabric

The Quinquennial report on the structure of the church was received and an action plan drawn up to highlight the most urgent areas for improvement or repair. Below is a brief summary of the most urgent recommended works;

Priority A

Reinstate missing and damaged roof tiles.

Routine maintenance of gutters and downpipes.

Chancel re-roofing/ceiling repair.

Repairs to windows, including masonry repairs, additional or replacement bird guards

Re-pointing generally

Replace electrical wiring

Suggested Action Plan

In order of priority

- Replace wiring
- Replace light fittings
- Maintenance of gutters
- Chancel ceiling renewal
- Repairs to windows/guards
- Repointing

The lighting requirements and rewiring of the church have been reviewed and a redesign has created a more affordable solution. The project has now reached faculty stage and it is hoped that it will reach fruition by the end of 2012.

A number of more minor repairs to the church fabric have taken place. Broken tiles on the north side of the roof have been replaced, the broken drainpipe repaired and the gutters cleared. A new floodlight has replaced a broken one and will be more energy efficient. New lapel microphones were purchased with the generous donations from two members of the church community.

The church has been working with the Parish Council to develop a Historic Core Project in the historic centre of the community from funds for such developments from Shropshire Council. The proposal is to improve and enhance the area around the church to include re-surfacing the paths and paving the grassed area to the west of the porch. The Parish Council has also donated money for a new notice board and repaired the steps leading up to the porch for which we are very grateful.

Our beautiful church continues to be used more flexibly and by many sections of the community. An event booking form is now in place and can be obtained from the Church office.

We continue to appreciate the fund raising efforts of the Friends of St. Mary's as well as all those in the church community who give so generously of their time helping to raise funds and helping to make the church look beautiful and function smoothly.

Jayne Brown.

Ryland Robertshaw.

(Church Wardens)