

Minutes of Town Council meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7pm in Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr Sean Thorogood (Chairman), Cllr Debbie Brown, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Toby Kirkby, Cllr Paul French, Cllr Andrew Goold, Cllr Jon Bodenham

Town Clerk: M Sheehan

Public: 6

01.0.18 Democratic 15-minute Public Time

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda. Time for this session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person).

Guest: **Cllr PETER NUTTING** Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategy Shropshire Council.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Peter Nutting to the Council meeting and invited him to present his views to the meeting.

Cllr Nutting explained that he was elected last May 2017. He wanted to concentrate on economic development upping the skills factor in keeping youth and skills in the county. He commented on the good relationship Cleobury Mortimer town Council has with Shropshire Council through the clerk, internally and externally need to get on better together.

Shropshire Council has £580 million of the £600 million needed and they can't keep taking out of reserves the need to squeeze the budgets so that in a couple years they could be neutral. The pay rise for the local government employees, is 2% and it was worked out on 1% therefore there is a one half million extra funds to find Shropshire Council are coping but there is squeeze all the time. They subsidise bus services have to look at environmental maintenance grants and they can say that the Community Enablement team are safe for the next 12 months.

The clerk explained that due to the good work of Vicky Turner the enablement officer helping Cleobury Mortimer, they were able to get the grants needed and she works well with local councils to fill that gap between county council and local councils. This is a service that should never be cut.

Cllr Shingleton echoed what the clerk said and Vicky Turner facilitates all of the actions in the area.

Councillor Brown explained they should be scoping exercise breakdown of other areas parishes and Towns.

Councillor Nutting said there was a need for parish and town councils to work together.

Councillor Goold said there was a weakness of cohesion of town and parishes to work together.

Cllr Nutting explained that Shrewsbury and Oswestry are big and strong enough to work without an enablement officer.

Councillor Bodenham raised the issues of the growth strategy and the bus strategy which needs to be part of it and getting to work for employment is essential, there is great need for a reliable bus service.

Cllr Nutting confirmed that any issues to get in touch with him and he will do best to sort out. He confirmed that the Council tax this year will go up by 5.99% of which 2% the social services and they are working on a three-year plan which most of this will end up in adult social services.

Mr S Todd commented on the subsidising of buses of the 2L service by using Shropshire money to assist Worcestershire services. They have had for buses burnt out recently on the A4117.

Cllr Nutting said that Matt Johnson was transport services to discuss further as he does not know the answer and to put on a list to him to investigate further.

The chairman thanked Mr Nutting for attending the meeting and asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak.

Mr Shergill from simply fresh as the Council to look at his request for extra signs as he was a small shop in the Talbot yard and you needed signs on the main road to inform people of its location, as they were other signs that do the same.

01.1.18 Apologies for absence

None

01.2.18 Declaration of interests: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

01.3.18 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting Monday 4th December 2017
RESOLVED to approve the minutes, and duly signed by the Chairman.

01.4.18 Matters arising from the minutes
Clerk's Report distributed at meeting.

Clerk's Report for January 2018 meeting

Christmas Lights switch on went really well, only one issue which was easily sorted with new infrastructure. Very pleased with lights and timers went a lot smoother than last year with many positive comments. Volunteers helped again with taking down of trees and lights Sunday morning. Cemetery books now held in Council office.

Handed out certificates to Primary School Children trained by Police, photo on website and Facebook. Attended Shropshire Clerks meeting as guest speaker on Bullying and Harassment, very good meeting. Dog bins and toilets attended to over Christmas and New Year period by Roger. Assisted local residents by signposting and assisting as and when needed. Questionnaire for adult gym equipment has been put out by Victoria Honeybourne and many replies received.

Season's greetings and cards from Council distributed with many replies of thanks. Town Crest is being finalised. Agenda item.

Arranged for Leader of Shropshire Council Peter Nutting to attend January Council meeting. Contacted new owners of Medical centre to address empty spaces not being let. Passed on details. Approached the Kings Arms about having the defibrillator outside their premises. Agreed and Ongoing Neighbourhood planning meetings going well thanks to Cllr Bodenham. Cllr French has distributed Xmas lights collection boxes around town.

Approved place plan signed and sent. Attended to a dog reported loose in Cleobury and assisted owners. Two Town councillor vacancies advertised according to legislation. Agenda item. Will be picking up new trailer as agreed asap.

Highways/ Streetlights Issues

Still lobbying Shropshire Council about maintenance Grant and its importance. Cleared snow in main street with Roger to ensure post office, Bank and centre shops accessible. All streetlights faulty repaired with LED lights fitted. All Pot holes reported for repair. Answered all resident's questions when received about Gritting and Grit bins and other queries. Now working on replacing concrete streetlights, having warning signs fitted and speed calming gates. Meeting set with Highways to go over issues needing attention i.e. Re surfacing of Main Street, Langlands road, Furlongs etc. Eon will now be upgrading Zebra crossing lights in town, waiting for a date.

➤ **Police/ Crime / Parking Enforcement**

More applications for CCTV information from public, Insurance companies and Police. Attended to issues over Christmas with CCTV. Followed up with the Criminal damage to wiring for CCTV and streetlight. Arranging What's App with police control for businesses and public houses at next Crime Group meeting. Still chasing grant funding from PCC to give CCTV go ahead on phase 2. Hope to hear soon. Still chasing Keys for nominated persons to Fire Station being helped by Police Crime Commissioner.

➤ **Dates to note**

Crime Reduction meeting – Monday 22nd Jan, 11am Sports & Social Club

01.5.18 Councillors reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Goold reported that he will work with the clerk to apply fittings for the Christmas lights to make it easier next year. Councillor Brown reported potholes getting deeper either blunt arms. Clerk to follow up with highways.

Councillor Kirkby questioned the size of the new mirror at the bottom of the Hurst being too small needs to be bigger. Clerk to follow up with highways. There was a black German Shepherd dog loose in Cleobury and for the situation who is reported to. This was discussed and police, Shropshire Council were the ones to contact. Councillor Goold also added not to approach a dog if it doesn't look safe.

Councillor Bodenham mentioned the meeting for the neighbourhood plan on Wednesday, 17 January at all councillors to try and attend and spread the word. This will be the town having a say on its future, and is in the parish all from 7 to 9pm, moderated by an external planner. We have a grant to defray the cost.

Mr Mark Baldwin gave two old Cemetery maps one from 1947 and another old map, to the Council.

Councillor French added he had been in touch with Cleobury hills, new nursing home and the owner could not attend but will send some staff and information as she is very positive to help.

01.6.18 Unitary Council Reports (Cllr G Butler / Cllr M Shingleton)

Cllr Shingleton inform the Council that the future health are waiting for reports from Telford and Wrekin the CCG and health England. Proposals for midwives units stay but not the birthing units, they will be brought up to scratch, out for consultation. Using frontline staff to provide for future integration of services.

The Catherton road is getting quite a bad state. Clerk to follow up with highways.

A report for the new crossing by the Co-op has been produced and is out for town Council to look at.

Councillor Butler said he had chased a few items for the clerk and the Talbot car park for resurfacing and lining, was said to be looked at for mid-to-late January. Grit bins were being filled up as soon as possible.

Gemma Lawley has sent the pedestrian crossing feasibility study to the clerk regarding the Co-op crossing.

01.7.18 Financial Matters

a) Accounts to be paid:

Shropshire Council - Wages

Cheques for payment: -

Prysmian – Feeder pillars and festive lighting - £4317.98

West Mercia Energy – toilet electric (November) - £81.10

Cleobury Country – office rent and room hire - £918.76

Viking – toilet and office supplies - £170.60

Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection Fee - £35.00.

The Clerk confirmed some extra payments: -

J Bodenham – Reimbursements Room Hire - £30.00

Kings Arms – Volunteers Christmas lights - £52.30

Cleobury Cafe – Xmas lights - £11.60

Stable Tavern – Xmas Lights - £38.00

At this point Cllr Bodenham declared an interest.

RESOLVED that the accounts are accepted and all payments are made

b) Approve Budget and Precept requirements

The finance group reported that they had met and wanted to recommend no increase to the Precept.

Cllr Bodenham informed the Council that upon reflection, his view was that if the council does not raise it at least by inflation of 3% or under, then in a few years it may need to go up more.

There followed a discussion raising the points that if Shropshire Council had raised theirs by at least inflation, they wouldn't have to keep going into reserves.

If kept the same it would mean a decrease due to more houses.

No increase made last year.

The Chairman also voiced concerns after looking at more figures obtained, and not knowing if money promised from Shropshire Council would be forthcoming.

Proposal to increase the Precept by 2% from £110,000 to £112,200 voted 5 for, 2 Against. **RESOLVED**

01.8.18 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Applications:

Reference: 17/04875/LBC (validated: 21/11/2017)

Address: Electra House, 18 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8DG

Proposal: Works to facilitate the conversion of first and second floors to two residential properties to include some demolition to rear; repair works; replacement windows; replacement staircase; block up and insertion of



openings and partition walling

Applicant: The G6 Partnership

Already **RESOLVED** with confirmation now of listed building consent.

01.9.18 Curdale Telephone Kiosk – Cllr Brown

Agree renovation of kiosk and future use.

RESOLVED to renovate and then bring back to the Council

01.10.18 Parish Hall Update - Cllr Thorogood

The Chairman proposed that the legal documents held with reference to the Town Councils involvement, be put into more understandable English, so that the Council fully understands any obligations.

RESOLVED to instruct Justin Parker to simplify the document. Clerk to arrange.

01.11.18 Budget for Cleobury Festival 2018– Cllrs Brown, Bodenham, French

Devolve authority for expenditure, with frequent reports to Council.

RESOLVED to release funds held to the Group.

01.12.18 Office Security of Information – Cllr Brown

Discuss Internet security and separate broadband for Data protection & CCTV.

RESOLVED to have own secure broadband in office.

01.13.18 Policies to be agreed– Cllr Bodenham

- 3 Year Business Plan - Council Vision, Mission and Objectives for next 3 years. - New
- Health and Safety Policy and accompanying documents. - New
- Equality Policy - New
- Grant Awarding Policy - Update only
- Annual Report 2016/17 - As given at annual Town meeting 2017.

RESOLVED to adopt all Policies listed and plans. Cllr Brown to work with Cllr Bodenham to put on Website.

01.14.18 Co – Option update Vacancy – Cllr Thorogood

The Clerk reported that there were three applications. Agreed that Cllr Brown and Clerk to put together a format for interviews.

01.15.18 Town Crest Update – Cllr Thorogood

All Crests shown to Council and following crest from the ones shown, was agreed. **RESOLVED**



01.16.18 Signage Application – Cllr Thorogood

Highways request for Councils views on application.

The Town Council discussed this and one point raised was that most people in the area know where the shop is situated.

The views of the Town Council is that an A Board could be put out by the main road, where others are by the Post Box, but it must be approved and in keeping. Also, that on the directional post in the main street, the one with police station, no longer there, could be removed and replaced with a sign advertising Shops and Services, relevant to all business and services in Talbot Square.

01.17.18 Planning for Annual Town Meeting 2018- Cllr J Bodenham

Suggested date Monday 16th April 2018

Cllr Bodenham suggested a bigger location to accommodate more people and community groups to attend. Lacon and the Primary school was suggested. Cllr Bodenham and Cllr Gould to sort out. Provisional date of 16th April 2018 was suggested.

01.18.18 To confirm date of next Town Council meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th February 2018.

The Chairman read out the following requesting the public and press be excluded for the next item

Under section 100a (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely



disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

01.19.18 Employees – Cllr Thorogood

Meeting Closed at 8.40pm

Cheques written:

Shropshire Council - Wages

Cheques for payment: –

Prysmian – Feeder pillars and festive lighting - £4317.98

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Signed Chairman:



Date: 5th FEBRUARY 2018