

Cleobury Mortimer Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish meeting minutes held on Monday 10th April 2017 at 7.00pm in The Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Chaired by Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Chairman Cllr Sean Thorogood.

17 Public

Minutes taken by M Sheehan Town Clerk

Guest Speaker: Rev Justin Parker

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of last Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2016:

To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2016.

Proposed by: Cllr Hainsworth, seconded by Cllr Reiner that the minutes be signed as a true record.

Resolved to accept – Minutes signed by Chairman.

2. Matters Arising: None.

3. Guest Speaker: Rev Justin Parker – History of Cleobury Mortimer as a Town

Rev Parker explained that Cleobury was a Burg, a small defensive settlement, at the time of the Norman Conquest. Its status was sufficient with regard to fighting with the Welsh raiders and to control the border lands that after the Norman Conquest, several fortifications or small castles were erected at or around the town. At this point, the burg consisted of a series of farmsteads with a church or chapel and small holdings or parcels/strips of land extending from the main road. The early Norman conquerors, including the famous Mortimer family from whom part of the town's name derives, erected motte and bailey castles, one at Castle Toot and the other behind the site of the present church on Castle Hill.

The Normans having newly settled wanted to control the area and Cleobury was the largest settlement so was an ideal centre for administration. The burg reached sufficient size to build a new Norman Church on the site but didn't reach the importance and size of Ludlow, which became the regional centre. Fast forward 200 years and the Mortimer's instigated change, with Ludlow Castle and becoming large fortress. Cleobury Mortimer also increased in status and a petition as made to the Crown for a charter to hold a Market. Markets were part of the royal prerogative and could not be held without royal consent. In 1226 and 1253 the first two Charters were granted, which formally gave us the status of a Town, permitting a market to be held on the feast of the Decollation of St John the Baptist.

As time passed and the power of the Mortimer's waned and was subsumed into the Royal family, the status of the two reduced too and the royal monopoly on markets passed into history, but the entitlement of Cleobury to call itself a town remain and if we want a Fair then no one can stop us!

Over the years councils have changed; Cleobury Mortimer was a rural district council and Stourport an Urban district council until 1972 when the structure of councils was simplified and many were abolished with different tiers of council types with some differences in powers and different names. Cleobury Mortimer has only one electoral district and in 1973 became a Parish Council.

What Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council does now is different from 1972, with devolution from the unitary authority and power and responsibility handed down to Parish Councils, we have become, once more, a hub for the region, and therefore should we now be a Town Council?

How do we do it? Simplicity itself! The Parish Council resolves that it will be known as a Town Council and so informs Shropshire Council.

4 To receive reports for 2016/2017 from the following who have been invited:

**4.1 The Chairman of the Parish Council - Cllr Thorogood
On website.**

**4.2 The Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society – Flo Hadley
On Website**

4.3 Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall Committee – Mr. J Griffiths

The Parish Hall is managed by a small committee to which I was elected as Chairman at last years AGM. We are currently looking for other members of the community to join the committee and help run the hall, I don't think I would be far off the mark, if I said that our average age is 70. None of us are getting younger.

It is an old building which is frequently in need of repair and keeping it in a well-maintained condition is a costly

issue.

The Hall is in use most days of the week by a variety of groups from toddler to various keep fit groups and Bridge to the friendship club, for older residents. We must also not forget the Cleobury Mortimer Brass Band use all their practice sessions etc. There is also the monthly Flicks in the Sticks event. Also, it is hired out various other functions.

I am not able to report on our finances as the Council still with the accountant who I am told are having difficulty obtaining documents for our previous accountants. As soon as the updated accounts are ready they will be publicised.

Finally, I think I should thank Val break while last decided that the time is right to relinquish the running of the monthly Flicks in the Sticks event. She has been involved with flicks for some 10 to 12 years and during that time over 3000 people have been in to watch the various film shows.

Thank you, Val, ably assisted by husband Ron. Flicks will continue to be run by members of the Hall committee.
J Griffiths

4.4 Police – PC Anne O’Leary, CSO Liam Jones

No Report

4.5 The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Mr. C Kippins

As church wardens our duties are general housekeeping, making sure that the priests behave, as we manage them. St Mary’s youth project has been going for 12 years and we praise Mark Greaves and the work he does. We applied for a grant from Hereford diocese and were successful, working with troubled families and their children and we have an idea to self-fund the Pastoral care with visiting the lonely, bereaved people and those who struggle. We have produced a leaflet with contact details and a confidential listening service to steer them in the right direction. Some church groups go into schools and act out pieces from the Bible.

11 am on the first Sunday the month all representatives of youth groups and groups of family of their and is where it is quiet time for people to mix are at the Church.

Further fundraising projects for the Grade 1 listed church, with a twisted spire, is that we are trying to change the pews to chairs, also trying to improve the meetings getting community music events farmers markets. We have raised £100,000 to improve the meeting and we need another £60,000 to change the heating system as we have oil at present with Victorian radiators. The church is a wonderful community space to use more easily.

4.6 Cleobury Country – Mr. David Webb

On Website

4.8 Cleobury Mortimer Primary School – Mrs. Mayfield, Head teacher

No Report

4.9 Lacon Childe School – Mr. Darren Reynolds, Head teacher

No Report

4.10 Cleobury Mortimer Royal British Legion – Mr. D Taylor

Royal British Legion REPORT 2017

The Royal British Legion has had a very successful year in raising money for the Poppy Appeal. A new record was set at £6530.

The Quiz night raised £123-50 for Fisher House the hostel that looks after families at the QE Hospital.

Approx. £1000 was raised at the Harvest Auction for local welfare.

The Legion held their annual lunch with guest speaker Grp. Cpt. Brown at the Sports and Social Club.

Very good turnout for the Remembrance Day Parade. It seems to be getting bigger.

The trips that were organised were very well attended. Our next one is to Stratford on Avon. Others are being planned for later in the year.

Sadly, we have lost several members this year. Some due to not renewing their membership due to it going more online. This is not just a branch problem but a national one.

If anyone would like to join, you don't have to have been in the Forces, please go online or see Matt Sheehan.

4.11 The Market Hall Trustees – Cllr Thorogood

No Report received.

4.12 Unitary Councilors – Cllr G Butler / Cllr M Shingleton

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

This year yet again has been challenging as expected, however we have managed to deliver a balanced budget by using one off receipts on sale of assets. This has given us a breathing space to put into place different ways of delivering for our Libraries, Leisure services, adult social care and internal working. This has meant hard decisions for communities and Town and Parish councils and I can say that in general the councils working in partnership with Shropshire council have risen to the challenge to help redesign services. To date 60% of Libraries have been transferred to communities to run and there has been only one

closure. Compare this with other neighboring councils who have just closed resources without any community consultation or engagement, I think this has been a great achievement and shows the true spirit of Shropshire.

Looking to the future as with the national position the increase in expenditure on Adult Social care with an ageing population is particularly severe in Shropshire. This is partly because as a percentage of our overall population we have a large population over 65. This results with the burden being spread over fewer households than large densely populated areas.

Post-election we are lobbying hard for central government to look at funding for Adult Social care in line to how they fund education. There has to be a better way of funding this crucial service than just piece meal. It will also increasingly become a greater burden to the working population and must be addressed.

In respect of education a new funding formula is on its way which will see a slightly better picture for rural areas however it all still put pressure on smaller schools to federate. Shropshire council acknowledging the problems smaller schools both primary and secondary may have in becoming big enough as a group to create an academy that will both create the savings and work locally or be of interest to the larger academies has launched its own academy to acknowledge the different needs we have in Shropshire and to service our rural areas as well.

The local plan is again up for a soft review with Town and Parish councils being asked if they wish to get involved again and look at areas for development for both residential and economic viability. Shropshire has its 5-year land supply and with the SamDEv now adopted we are seeing more control over open market development. however, we cannot be com placement as the new refresh local plan is looking at needs up to 2036! I if reelected I will be lobbying Town and Parish Councils to take a longer view regarding their communities in how they want to shape them for the next generations and what future needs they will need. I think the future refreshing of Parish plans will have to look at a wider community needs.

Highways has been of major concern over the past administration and I am relieved that our current supplier Ringway will be coming to an end shortly and a new contract will be issued. We will be looking at hopefully doing things differently and letting local councils undertake more community housekeeping if they want or are able too. This may also mean neighboring local councils may start working in co-operation with each other on similar issues. For example, Shrewsbury Town Council is already undertaking length man's duties and grass cutting for other local councils.

The university in Shrewsbury is up and going well. It is starting to develop courses that will complement the needs of employers within the county. This is to try and maintain the demographic of twenty somethings and young families in the county. Bringing better paid jobs is vital to this sustainability ambition and will be monitored moving forward.

On a national level I sit on the Committee of Rural Services Network SPARSE which is a lobbying organisation to influence government on all issues being placed on rural communities, many of which previously mentioned. I enjoy doing this and trying to chip away at central policy to enable anyone who lives in a rural environment to have a fairer share of funding and services compared to those who live in urban areas.

I would like to thank the Parish council for all its hard work in the past year and its cooperation in moving things forward

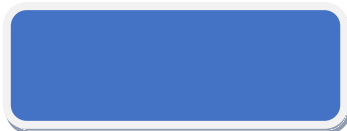
best wishes
Gwilym Butler

Cllr Shineton Report on Website

5 Any other report relevant to the Annual Parish Meeting

5.0 There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:00pm

Signed: Chairman



Date: 20th APRIL 2018