



Minutes of Town Council Virtual meeting over Zoom platform held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Debbie Brown (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall (Vice Chair), Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Paul French, Cllr Guy James, Cllr John Greaves, Cllr Alex Smith, Cllr Andy Goad.

Town Clerk: M Sheehan

RFO: D McBride

Unitary Cllr M Shingleton, Cllr G Butler

Public: 9

02.00V.21 Welcome by the Chair

Cllr Brown welcomed everyone to the Town councils February 2021 virtual meeting and asked if anyone wished to speak.

02.01V.21 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).

Simon Harris wanted to introduce himself and inform the council that he will be standing in the Unitary elections in May 2021 for Cleobury Mortimer under the Conservatives with Gwilym Butler. He asked that his contact details be made available for anyone wishing to contact him.

Pete Blackburn apologised for the late submission of the report, but all is going to plan to confirm the accuracies of the boundaries with the Ludlow and Tenbury road sites subject to scrutiny from the steering group. Also, to recognise the work of John Greaves on the timeline.

Cllr Brown thanked Pete for the update and timeline sheet going forward.

Diane Payne asked for clarification of the land boundary to her property.

Pete Blackburn explained all had been as was in the initial plan so no change with the rectified map.

Kit Smith informed the council that he was writing a discussion paper for the Town Council, which attempts to pull together the extensive work on trees by organisations and individuals as well as recent national tree legislation, relevant to the trees of Cleobury and their future. It will include work by the Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan, existing and new legislation, Conservation and Development Areas, Carbon sequestration, community interest in trees and acorns, tree planting initiatives and opportunities, tree planting by farmers and landowners as well as desk top studies of numbers and ages of our trees. Any additional areas arising from discussion at the February meeting would be welcomed. I intend to suggest several potential, initial ways forward which the Council may like to discuss at their next meeting in March. I will send the short report to the Clerk by mid. February.

Cllr Brown asked for the discussion paper as an Agenda item for March.

Helen Morris explained that she wanted to set up a Cleobury litter picking group and had some equipment but wanted to know if the council would support getting some equipment and perhaps housing it in the community hub to be accessible to use.

Dorothy McBride explained that the council has about 20 litter pickers, bags, and some hoops in the office.

Cllr Brown agreed some could be kept in the hub. Signs and equipment could be looked at as on Agenda to discuss later.

Helen Morris also mentioned that lids for recycling bins would help rubbish blowing around.

Cllr Butler thanked Helen for sterling work on behalf of Shropshire council and the council are looking at the possibility in the summer of having a wheely bin for recycling.

Cllr Brown thanked them all and thanked Helen on behalf of the council and all volunteers for their litter picking efforts.

02.02V.21 Apologies for absence

None

02.03V.21 Declaration of interests:

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.

None

02.04V.21 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th Jan 2021. and Confidential minutes 4th Jan 2021.

Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of 4th January 2021; duly signed by the Chair.



Council RESOLVED to approve the Confidential Minutes of 4th January 2021; duly signed by the Chair.

02.05V.21 Matters arising from the minutes.

Clerk's Report. Resolve any content agreed over email.

Dealt with requests for CCTV with some Police requests and three Insurance claims. Chasing payments for footage that are still outstanding. A few camera issues with radio signals reported and sorted out straight away.

Received Cllr Kirkby's resignation and sorted vacancy to Co Opt.

Took down Christmas lights from Lime trees to allow for Pleaching 15th February while adhering to guidelines. Thank you to Cllr French and son Matt for attending to both trees. Organised rest of Xmas lights takedown working only in pairs and observing the rules.

Attended Training of Unconscious Bias, also attended Census information meeting. Arranged guest speaker for March meeting to talk about the Census. Booked training on the upcoming elections for Clerks.

Attended Food Bank network meeting with Cllr Brown over Zoom. Food bank getting busier but following Guidelines using only Cllr Brown, Patrick Buck, and myself. Ordered another pallet of food from DEFRA and donations still coming in. Collected food from Kidderminster that we are short of.

Continue to work with CoCo volunteers in looking after vulnerable people with requests for help due to Covid. Found that there are people out there struggling and just need guidance sometimes.

Following up on options for a review of the Town infrastructure issues and following up the request of the Neighbourhood plan group to the council. This should give us options for a report to be gained taking in all our issues in the Town. Sent email to Shropshire council for advice on who to contact for a review. **Agenda Item** Arranged and hosted Neighbourhood plan meeting in January.

Chased up the new sign for Rockley Bank and Grit bin. Sign is in and they are getting it fitted. Grit bin I had to send photo of area needed for them to investigate first. Updated on Social media.

Arranged a meeting with Sam Shaw after an enquiry to host a mobile eye screening van for people with diabetes. Notified Medical centre and it is in addition to what is done there.

Answering lots of questions about vaccination with answers gained from the Medical centre on email and messenger.

Keeping up with issues on social media with Cllr Brown to answer questions and correct any misinformation. Contacted by a resident wishing to set up a litter picking group and wanted to know what support the council would give bags, litter pickers etc. Put in touch with Cllr James to take forward. **Agenda item.**

Set up an account with Bromford to get payment for CCTV disc needed of an accident.

Set up Business internet access for the Land registry but need a variable direct debit signed before we are a registered business user. **Agenda item**

Chase Invoice from Western Power for work done in New road.

Chased pedestrian bridge promised after public enquiry by the Glen Caravan park. Shropshire council busy dealing with flooding issues at present so need to be mindful of their pressure of work.

Passed on information and helped in a few vulnerable people cases, helping as well to sort out issues of worry.

Confirmed with my contact in Shropshire council that the streetlight at the bridge is in hand to have the hole dealt with as discussed at the last meeting by Cllr James.

Notified planning of councils' decisions at the January meeting. Gained information from planning officers on planning to be discussed at February meeting and relayed to councillors.

Put together Clarion report for February and sent out for councillors to change if needed.

As per government guidelines I continue to work at home and only go to the office if is really necessary.

Due to trees being cut down just outside conservation area and concerns from residents, I updated the Chair of the council and working with Mr Smith our tree warden, we looked into raising concerns with council of the possibility of extending the area to protect our greenery and wildlife. **Agenda item.**

Will be putting together a report of the streetlights left to be changed to LED for the Finance committee and have agreed a way of Mark at Prysmian that they will be keeping a register of our streetlights up to date and will be reviewed quarterly.

Received a letter from Phillip Dunne MP as a reply to concerns raised from our residents of mobile home parks of the treatment during Covid. This was taken to Government and the response of advice was passed on to councillors and residents. Will be having a follow up meeting with Phillip Dunne MP at some time in the future.

Even though working at home I still get regular meetings with the Police and will be having a day in the Town, when permitted, to talk to residents and mark bicycles and advice on rural crime prevention.



Had to cancel meeting with Dean Harris High Sheriff of Shropshire until safe to meet.
Keeping in touch with Graham Oliver at the Police and Crime Commissioners office. Looking at some funding options that may be available.

Clerk added.

A complete physical review of the streetlights owned by the Town council has now been done and sent to Prysmian to obtain costs to change the remaining streetlights to LED. Out of 100 there are 39 left to do.

Cllr Hainsworth commented on his frustration and disappointment of not being told and Prysmian should have done it and requested a copy from the Clerk.

The Clerk reported he needed to personally check and would forward the details as requested.

He went on to let the council know that he was asked by Charlotte the reporter of the Shropshire Star if he could put together a letter of how we work together to promote positive stories in the community.

Looked at Chromebooks that are now available and range from £159 to £230.

Cllr Brown stated that the Clerks report, as always, will be on the website to keep the public informed.

02.06V.21 Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Brown reported the growing issue of potholes and have reported them but encourage everyone to keep reporting. Counted ten from Mawley to Far Forest, with some quite deep.

Cllr Greaves updated the council that a specification for the solar lighting project in the QEII area is being put together and working with Matt and Dot to send out tenders, referring to report sent to councillors with timeline.

Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Greaves for the clear and comprehensive report which was echoed by all councillors.

Cllr French reported the Wells steps are now repaired and also the clearing of the weeds. Repointing of the wells arch will start in March with Corey Lane offering advice to contractor. He reported that the bulbs planted before are starting to show through and a scoping exercise is now under way for the planting of more bulbs in the QEII area and thanked Cllr Shineton for offer of help. Requested it be put on the March Agenda.

Cllr Hainsworth reported that an email has been sent to Shropshire council chasing the agreed bridge be followed up at the Glen Caravan park and asked that the Unitary councillors help keep the pressure on. And to note it is within the Cleobury Mortimer boundary.

Cllr Tysall reported concerns with the number of potholes and the broken fencing panels at the top of the Childe road car park.

The Clerk confirmed that it has been reported to the main person in charge of Car parks at Shropshire council and will continue to chase.

Cllr Tysall also raised concerns that when using WhatsApp to message, be mindful that the Clerk has work hours and we should not add to what he does out of hours.

Cllr Brown added that this should also apply to emails as they can be scheduled to be delivered during office hours.

Cllr James apologised that the project working on for the QEII area has been held up for personal reasons but will move on now.

Also questioned the empty bungalows in Rea View are still empty?

Cllr Butler confirmed that they are in the process of being taken over by Connexus and to encourage those in need to be registered on Homepoint.

02.07V.21 Unitary Council Reports (Cllr G Butler / Cllr M Shineton)

JANUARY 2021 BRIEFING REPORT Cllr Butler

1.The Council has recently passed the new Housing Strategy which takes into account local need and demand for type and tenure of housing requirements driven by locality. Part of this is the call for people to register if they are interested in Self builds whether affordable or open market. Very often the access to land is limited and therefore by having a register of interest planners will understand demand and then may have the opportunity when negotiating with developers and applications the opportunity to bring sites to market. If you wish to register, please do so via Shropshire Council web site searching Self build register via the search engine on the site.

2.Many councils have asked me about the availability of hardware such as kissing gates for footpaths in their wards. There still is availability at the depot at Nils Pontesbury and they can be contacted on 01743 791984 or email Richard.Knight@shropshire.gov.uk who manages the team.

3.The Governments draft proposals issued in the summer regarding to planning and housing numbers has been overturned. Currently the formula requires Shropshire to deliver 1177 houses on average per year under the new proposals the requirement would have been 2129 houses per annum. The government has now decided that they will shift the demand back to the largest 20 cities where services and infrastructure are more likely in place.



4. The budget is out for proposal with a SC increase of 1.99% and an extra 2% for Adult Social Care in total 3.99% This will be debated at full council on the 25th of February.
 5. We are experiencing a rapid increase of children coming into care with figures in excess of 400 currently being cared for by the county. We are introducing a new scheme called Stepping Stones where we can intervene in these families early to try and avoid the children coming into care. We are also developing our own range of accommodation with 24 hr live in carers to drive down the cost and these may well be across county dependent on where the need is required. I would urge anybody who would consider fostering a child and giving them a home please investigate it on the council website or by phoning 08007838798.
 6. At the time of writing this report there is no news on the local elections moving and I can advise that Purdah starts on the 15th of March.
 7. Vaccinations are taking place and we are in a very strong PCN network centred around Bridgnorth. To date we are leading Shropshire in the number of vaccinations delivered and are not included in the press releases regarding poor vaccinations in South Shropshire which is the West of the county where the health authority is having problems identifying premises for mass vaccinations and it will probably be rolled out via GPS but is changing daily. Please even when you have been vaccinated continue to heed all national guidance regarding Hands Space and Face as you can still be a carrier and infectious to those not vaccinated.
 8. Any businesses forced to close under the lockdown please ensure you have applied for help and grant funding provided by Central Government and administered by SC. Details on the council's web site.
- Cllr Butler** added that the Local plan was extended due to lockdown and will not go to full council until July and then it will be in 2022 for adoption. Potholes are an issue Nationwide due to weather and Shropshire council have over 7,000 outstanding.
- Cllr Butler also asked that he be copied into the emails regarding the bridge at the Glen caravan park. Also, to say that litter pickers should follow the Covid guidelines.

Cllr Madge Shingleton PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL REPORT FEBRUARY 2021 Numbers of COVID 19 continues to rise across County although not so fast so hopefully our hard work with social distancing + hands and face plus lockdown is being effective.

1. COVID 19 Vaccinations continue to be rolled out currently Bridgnorth medical Centre with Ludlow Racecourse imminent. Hopefully Cleobury Mortimer Surgery soon!!!
2. You may receive a letter inviting you to Telford, Birmingham or elsewhere. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT if you prefer to wait for a more local venue, PLEASE LET YOUR GP KNOW.
3. If you have difficulties getting to your appointment ring 03456789028 OR 01299 666119 for transport.
4. COVID helpline 0345 6789028
5. If you are an Unpaid Carer for a family member and need some support ring 01743 341995.
6. Shropshire Hospitals urgently need nightdresses/pyjamas to donate ring 01743 261473 or e mail Sath.members@nhs.net
7. Community Reassurance Team 01743 257705
8. Shropshire Council are currently recruiting for staff for Adult Social Care rolls look on the Council web site.
9. It's worth checking your Place Plan entries with provision for access to health care, transport, distance, GP's, Minor injuries Unit and full A&E.
10. There are grants for Employers to support Training and Apprenticeship posts check on Council web site.
11. There is a discretionary grant for Winter Warmth 01743 342167 or 078616297795
12. In parts of old Bridgnorth District Area there may be changes to recycling day BUT you will receive individual notification if you have a change.
13. There is the ten yearly Census during March there will be considerable information in the lead up to the final date of March 21st.
14. The new proposals for the future of the County Plan consultation have been extended by three weeks please check on Shropshire web site.

Cllr Shingleton mentioned the ice on the path causing her to walk back and thanked Cllr French and son for digging a trench to help alleviate flood water from the footpath.

Cllr French Confirmed it was not him but our maintenance man Roger.

02.08V.21 Financial Matters

a) Invoices due for Payment:

- Market Hall – Food Bank room hire (Oct - Dec 2020) - £105.00.
- Hot Lime Mortar Ltd - materials for Wells - £141.60
- West Mercia Energy - Toilet electric (December) - £88.21



RFO informed the council of extra Invoices for payment: -

- CoCo final payment – Xmas bags - £131.50
- b) To note Debit Card Payments made:**
Glasdon - Litter bin and dog waste bags - £282.54
iBuyTech - Software for new desktop computer - £219.99
- c) To note income received:**
Food Bank donations - £660.00
Bank Interest - £1.50
CCTV Income - £50.00

RESOLVED that the accounts are accepted, and all payments are made.

d) To approve Budget and Precept requirements 2021-2021- RFO

RFO informed the council that the Finance Committees proposal is to keep the Precept the same as last year at £116.749.

RESOLVED.

02.09V.21 Planning Matters.

Consider New Planning applications:

- a) Reference:** 20/05002/FUL (validated: 13/01/2021)
Address: The Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE
Proposal: Erection of single storey 6 classroom teaching block to replace 2No existing blocks (3No classrooms) (to be demolished)
Applicant: Shropshire Gateway Education Trust (Mrs Gill Bradley, The Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE)

RESOLVED No Objection.

- b) Reference:** 21/00024/VRA106 (validated: 20/01/2021)
Address: Proposed Residential Development South Of, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of a Planning Obligation attached to 13/02548/OUT
Applicant: Citizen Housing Group Limited (4040 Lakeside, Solihull Parkway, Birmingham Business Park, Birmingham, B37 7YN)

The Clerk confirmed that this was to remove the 80% ceiling for shared ownership.

19.40pm RESOLVED to Suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr Butler to speak.

Cllr Butler reported that shared ownership has a sell option, but the downside is that it makes it difficult to get on the property ladder.

Cllr James informed the council that in his experience it was not difficult for first time buyers and was down to cost.

The Clerk informed the council that he had been contacted for help by sellers of Whitcombe orchard with shared ownership houses, who was having a lot of trouble selling.

There followed a short discussion.

19.45pm RESOLVED to Reinstate Standing Orders.

RESOLVED No Objection

Information Only: -

Planning Decisions published relating to parish of: Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

Reference: 20/04403/FUL (validated: 05/11/2020)

Address: Inverbeg, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QE

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension and ground floor 'infill' beneath an existing first floor balcony following part demolition of an existing single storey side extension and insertion of an additional external doorway to provide a new main entrance

Decision: Grant Permission



Reference: 20/04879/FUL (validated: 24/11/2020)

Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN

Proposal: Erection of part new, part replacement walling adjacent to the North Drive, realignment of gateway, installation of replacement gates and associated works

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 20/04880/LBC (validated: 24/11/2020)

Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN

Proposal: Erection of part new, part replacement walling adjacent to the North Drive, realignment of gateway, installation of replacement gates and associated works affecting a Grade I Listed Building

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 20/04996/FUL (validated: 30/11/2020)

Address: Redthorn House, Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QD

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension

Decision: Grant Permission

02.10V.21 Review of Place Plan – Cllr James

Review and update if needed.

RFO reported that it was mentioned at the Finance Committee meeting for CIL that over the last 12 months that the outstanding application for 20K of funding was overlooked, then deferred and still chasing but needs two-way communication.

19.50pm RESOLVED to Suspend Standing Orders.

Cllr Butler explained that since March last year all grants have been suspended with officers deployed to help with Covid grants. He understood about the Play area grant was applied for after the work started.

Cllr Brown confirmed this was not the case.

The RFO also confirmed that it was applied for in December 2019 before it was started.

Cllr Butler confirmed he would look into it. CIL is also used for schools and Highways.

There followed a discussion raising the following points.

Neighbourhood plan group survey of traffic and parking in town. Suggested to go in Place plan for cost to come from CIL.

Struggling to get reply from Shropshire Council as to who to contact for Survey. Need help from Unitary councillors to progress.

20.00pm RESOLVED to Reinstate Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to put survey of traffic and parking issues through the Town in Place plan.

02.11V.21 Volunteer litter picking group - Cllr Brown, Cllr James

Confirm equipment needed and funding required.

Cllr James reported having contact with Helen and good idea to have a cart, also suggest an informed arrangement of offering a light touch of support to the group, with assistance publicity and equipment without a management roll with H&S and risk assessments etc, which will only complicate things. To get Hi Viz tabard's for Adults and Children with perhaps sponsorship. Signage and equipment needed. Agreed that Cllr James to liaise with Helen to put together a list and costings to bring back to Council.

Cllr Hainsworth will also add to CMFA Agenda to link in.

Agreed to put on March Agenda.

02.12V.21 Conservation area – Clerk

The Clerk informed the council that our conservation area had not been looked at since 1972 and with the developments already completed and more on the way that he and Kit Smith our tree warden had grave concerns of losing a lot of the wildlife area that would take years to get back, if at all. Looking at the hedgerow and 28 trees taken down just outside this area on Ronhill was a perfect example of what we will lose and never get back.

RESOLVED that the Clerk work with Kit Smith to move this forward and bring back to Council.

20.12pm RESOLVED to Suspend Standing Orders

Cllr Butler reported he would be happy to work with Matt and Kit on this.

20.15pm RESOLVED to Reinstate Standing Orders.

02.13V.21 Re- Confirm Council commitment for Covid – Cllr Brown

Agreed commitment of joint funds with CoCo and St Marys



Cllr Brown reported that at the start of Covid there was a discussion relayed to the council that with St Mary's and CoCo making available £1,000 each to help relief that the council would also make £1,000 available.

The Clerk apologised that while remembering the commitment it has been missed.

RESOLVED that £1,000 was made available backdated to March 2020.

02.14V.21 Drainage QEII area - Cllr French

Cllr French confirmed that we would need some expert advice as to how to stop the runoff from the Rugby field causing issues on the footpath.

Cllr Greaves confirmed that at a meeting attended the week before with the Met office that while this used to happen one in twenty years for heavy rainfall, it is now believed that because of climate change it will be annually.

Cllr Greaves confirmed he would be happy to be involved and work with Cllr French offering his professional advice.

02.15V.21 Land Registry Update - Clerk, RFO

Agree and sign variable Direct Debit.

The Clerk explained that he had looked into registering online and put down himself and Dot as main contacts but needed a variable direct debit signed to allow for payments to be taken when ever we needed to use the Land Registry.

RESOLVED to sign the Variable Direct Debit. Signed by Chair Cllr Brown.

02.16V.21 To confirm date of next Town Council meeting

The next Town Council virtual meeting will be held on Monday 1st March 2021 and posted on the Town Council Website <https://www.cleobury.org.uk/blog/>

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

RESOLVED.

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 items on the grounds that they involve 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 items.

02.17V.21 Finance update Neighbourhood plan - RFO

02.18V.21 Review of Grants agreed and paid out - Cllr French.

02.19V.21 Employees - Cllr Brown, RFO

Meeting closed at 21.11pm.

Signed Chair:



Date: 1st MARCH 2021