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**Minutes of Town Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.**

**Present:**

Cllr Debbie Brown (Chair), Cllr Paul French, Cllr Patrick Buck, Cllr Alexander Smith and Cllr Guy James.  
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.  
Locum Clerk: Mrs D McBride

The Chair welcomed everyone to the October meeting.

**10.01.21 Democratic 15 minutes Public Time**

There was one member of public present. Mr P Blackburn gave a brief update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Following the Call for Sites, four pieces of land were submitted for consideration and have since been reviewed by NDP Steering Group members and their Planning Consultant. A report is being prepared for discussion at the next Steering Group meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October. The Town Council will be advised of the outcome thereafter. Mr Blackburn stated that the NDP Steering Group will continue to work in good faith for the public. The Chair expressed her thanks to the Steering Group on behalf of the Council for all their hard work.

**10.02.21 Apologies for absence**

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following apologies:

Cllr Geoff Hainsworth – unwell  
Cllr Neil Tysall – unwell  
Cllr John Greaves – family member unwell  
Clerk, Mr Sheehan – unwell  
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – unwell.

**10.03.21 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.  
There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

**10.04.21 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021; duly signed by the Chair.  
Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Confidential Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021; duly signed by the Chair.

**10.05.21 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk's report had been distributed with meeting papers and was shared on screen. Cllr Brown added that PCR Covid testing could not be set up in the Childe Road car park due to the number of vehicles parked there despite notices being placed on the cars. This caused chaos as the testing had been advertised and people could not access the service. This was a wasted opportunity and there should be a system in place to clear car parks in an emergency. The testing took place at the Lacon Childe car park at the weekends instead.

**10.06.21 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

- Cllr Buck had attended the recent Cleobury Youth Partnership meeting where the future of the Partnership was discussed. It was proposed that Julie Chandler will take over the Chair from Madge Shingleton. Cllr Buck will attend the next meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.
- Cllr French has taken delivery of the tulip bulbs and will be sending out a request for help with planting them later this week. The Primary School have offered to help plant some but have not confirmed a date yet. Cllr French attended the Festival/Queen's Jubilee meeting last week. It was a productive meeting with a lot of enthusiasm from everyone especially some new residents to Cleobury.

Initials....**DB**.....



- Cllr Brown's Market Hall report had been distributed with the meeting papers and was shared on screen. The Food Bank is very busy each week and still needs donations of items. Mark Greaves has started working with the Food Bank for a while to help with support and advice. Pete Blackburn has also volunteered to help. The RFO and Cllr Brown continue to monitor the finances of the Food Bank.

#### **10.07.21 Unitary Councillor Reports**

- The reports have not been received due to the Clerk being off sick so Cllr Simon Harris will forward his report to the Chair to share with Council members. Cllr Harris has raised his concerns with Public Health England over the high number of cases of Covid locally and asked if it is due to low numbers of vaccination. Cllr Brown and Cllr Smith are aware that there is a high rate of school children being infected and transmitting it to their families. Also, the Delta variant is more contagious and the majority of Covid patients in hospital have not been vaccinated or only had one jab. Cllr Harris stated that full Council agreed a motion to work towards White Ribbon Accreditation to educate and improve men's behaviour towards women. Cllr Brown felt that all employees should be trained on domestic abuse and Shropshire Council should have a policy to cover this. Cllr Harris is aware that abuse happens in many different ways and is interested to see how this accreditation develops. At the last full Council meeting at Severn Theatre there were climate change protestors. One item being discussed was the proposal to divest the £2bn Pension Fund from fossil fuel companies to carbon neutral companies. Cllr Harris would welcome any thoughts on this issue.

#### **10.08.21 Financial Matters**

**a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and cheques were signed:**

Cleobury Country – Office Rent (September – November) - £1,199.99

PKF Littlejohn- External Audit fee - £720.00

The Boston Bulb Co Ltd – Tulip bulbs (QEII Park) - £68.40

West Mercia Energy – Toilet electric (August) - £63.81

Mr B Webster, Hot Metal Solutions – Wells design work – £420.00

There were six additional invoices received after the Agenda was posted:

Cleobury Country – meeting room hire - £195.00

Mrs D McBride – Carbon Literacy Training Course - £90.00

Andrea Pellegam – Neighbourhood Development Plan work - £1,166.25

Alan Guest – Grass Cutting (August) - £701.13

R Price – Grass Cutting (September) - £250.00

C Tolley – Notice Board modifications - £25.00

**b) Council noted the following receipts:**

Food Bank Donations - £3,050.00 - (this includes £3,000 from Shropshire Council to help distribute lateral flow Covid test kits to the community).

Cemetery Income - £850.00

Bank Interest - £2.18

Playing Field Income - £150.00

Parish Hall receipt - £100.00

**c) Council noted the following Debit Card payments:**

Amazon - coffee pods - £24.99

**d) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the following S.137 grant request:**

Mrs J Vanderhook/Teams4U - Christmas Shoeboxes transport costs - £200.00

**e) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the purchase of additional Christmas Lights.**

Due to time constraints and no confirmation from Shropshire Council regarding the Welcome Back Fund the proposal to purchase two Wall Lights and 37.5m of Garland Lights for the Parish Hall was approved. There will be some further costs for hanging brackets and ancillary fittings – total project cost approximately £1,500. The purchase of additional lights to hang from street lights in the High Street will be deferred until next year.

Initials....**DB**.....



**f) Council noted the External Auditor's Report for 2020-21.**

There were no matters raised by the auditors and the relevant documents and public notice have been displayed on the website.

**10.09.21 Planning Matters**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

1. Reference: 21/04115/FUL (validated: 23/08/2021)

Address: 1 Ronhill Crescent, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8AT

Proposal: Erection of a front porch including ground floor W.C.

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. P. Martin

Cllr James declared a personal interest at this point and took no part in the discussion.

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

**b) Planning Decisions - FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

1. Reference: 21/00024/VRA106 (validated: 20/01/2021)

Address: Proposed Residential Development South Of, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer.

Proposal: Variation of a Planning Obligation attached to 13/02548/OUT

Decision: Grant Permission.

2. Reference: 21/03561/LBC (validated: 20/07/2021)

Address: Barn And Workshop North East Of Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

Proposal: Retention of the existing opening to the North elevation of the Spa Barn and installation of a metal-framed glazed door and shutter and associated works

Decision: Grant Permission.

3. Reference: 21/03563/LBC (validated: 20/07/2021)

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.

**10.10.21 Wells Update - Cllr French**

Cllr French updated the Council on the work he and the RFO have done on the Wells project. Drawings for a sluice gate and a flood risk assessment have been done. There are various options for a sluice gate but it was felt that a fixed brick and concrete one would be preferable rather than a more expensive galvanised or aluminium purpose-built one. A debris screen will be required too. Severn Trent have provided a quote for a new water connection to supply water to the Wells and be available to use with a pressure washer to keep the area clean. The RFO will check if there will be ongoing costs for the water supply. A pump is required to aerate the water and provide a small fountain. A quote is being sought from Western Power for the electricity supply for the pump, additional lighting and a socket for maintenance work. The Chair thanked Cllr French and the RFO for their work on this. Council noted that a grant has been received for all this work.

**10.11.21 To discuss outcome of SSYF Youth Consultation and consider future objectives - Cllr French / Cllr Buck.**

The RFO had shared the SSYF report and been in contact with Mr Morley who has confirmed he is looking at various opportunities to help support young people in the town. Cllr French noted that Mr Morley may come back to us and request further funding once he has put some proposals together. Cllr Buck will attend the next Youth Partnership meeting and provide an update at the next Council meeting.

At 7.48pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr Harris to speak.

Cllr Harris said Shropshire Council has a new youth initiative being led by Kirsty Hurst-Knight and he will share more information when he receives it.

At 7.50pm Council RESOLVED to re-instate Standing Orders.

There was some discussion on finding ways to engage with young people who do not want to engage with those adults who can actually help them. There is money available to help them whilst still supporting existing youth groups. Cllr Brown noted that we have an opportunity here and we should pursue a meeting with the Lacon Youth Council to listen to the voices of young people.

Initials.....**DB**.....



**10.12.21 To consider how to proceed with Jubilee Celebrations Beacon in 2022 - Cllr French.**

Cllr French asked Council members to consider the various options proposed in a recent email shared by Cllr Brown to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There are a lot of activities being proposed across the country. One suggestion is to light a beacon. A gas-powered beacon could be purchased and permanently installed in the QEII Park. Ideas to be sent to Cllr French to collate and bring back to a future meeting.

**10.13.21 Action Log Review - Cllr Brown**

Council went through the Action Log and the following updates will be noted:

Highway safety work and installation of bollards to be chased up.

CCTV – if training complete then remove item but chase PCC office regarding direct police access.

Concrete street light columns – chase their removal.

Bus Shelters – bring back to office to chase suppliers for up-to-date quotations.

Stone trough on High Street – bring back to office to chase up ownership.

Floral displays – chase up with highways, street lighting and the Welcome Back Fund.

Wells, Christmas Lights and Youth Work update as discussed earlier this meeting.

Vehicle Activated Signs – the PCC has approved the grant request and the Clerk can complete the relevant paperwork on his return to work. The RFO will chase up the repair to the VAS on Quarry Bank which has not been working for several months now.

Water supply to Play Area – quote obtained.

QEII Park - shelter maintenance – quotes required; new bin is on order; drainage starting this week.

Town Council banners – on order.

Health & Well Being strategy – tie in with Cleobury Patients' Voice when they recommence meetings.

Community Engagement – continuing through bulb planting. Welcome Packs now prepared. Pursue meetings with Lacon Childe Student Council.

Quality Council / Survey Monkey – please send ideas for questions to Cllr Brown.

Dog Control Orders – remove parishioner's name from this public document.

At 8.10pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Cllr Harris to speak.

Cllr Harris asked about the FOI request regarding Highways as he had supplied some of these figures to the Clerks over the summer. The Clerk will be asked to forward the FOI request to Cllr Harris who will endeavour to chase up the outstanding information.

At 8.13pm Council RESOLVED to re-instate Standing Orders.

**10.14.21 To confirm date of next Town Council meeting**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st November 2021.

**The Chair read out the following statement:**

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 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.

**All remaining members of public and invited guests left the meeting.**

**10.15.21 Correspondence Received - Clerk**

As the Clerk was not present this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

**Meeting closed at 8.37 pm.**

*D Brown*

Signed:.....Chair

*1<sup>st</sup> November 2021*

Date:.....