
Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr Debbie Brown (Chair), Cllr Paul French, Cllr John Greaves, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Alexander Smith and Cllr Guy James.

Locum Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the January meeting.

01.01.22 Democratic 15 minutes Public Time

There was one member of public present.

➤ Mr P Blackburn informed the meeting of the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) since the Steering Group took over negotiations with the land agent for the proposed sites. There have been discussions regarding housing numbers, types of housing to meet community needs and the implications of varying the proposed levels of housing density on public open spaces. More 'windfall' houses have been built during the period of developing the NDP affecting the housing requirement figures previously given from Shropshire Council. Housing requirements will need to be balanced against community concerns regarding housing numbers, poor infrastructure, school places etc. The next step is to speak with the planning consultant and work towards re-drafting the NDP proposals.

01.02.22 Apologies for absence

Cllr Patrick Buck – work commitment. The Clerk is still off sick. Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler did not attend due to the prevalence of Covid but had sent a report and is happy to take questions from Council by email.

01.03.22 Declaration of interests

Cllr Brown declared an interest in Agenda item 01.08.22 (a) Payment for Food Bank Rent and Room Hire as she is the Coordinator and took no part in this item when discussed.

Cllr Brown declared an interest in Agenda item 01.09.22 (a) (iii) Planning Ref: 21/05767/FUL as a member of the applicant's family is currently undertaking some building work for Cllr Brown and she took no part in this item when discussed.

01.04.22 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of 6th December 2021; duly signed by the Chair.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Confidential Minutes of 6th December 2021; duly signed by the Chair.

Going forward Confidential Minutes will be published once the matter under discussion is complete.

01.05.22 Matters arising from the Minutes

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Finance Committee - met on Thursday 9th December and the draft Minutes have been circulated.

Christmas – the best dressed window competition was judged on Tuesday 21st December and the winner was Flowers By Fiona. Blachere illumination are visiting Cleobury Mortimer this week to look at our current displays and infrastructure to enable them to advise us on lighting improvements for this year.

QEII Park drainage – the small area which needed further work due to water flooding from rugby pitches has been attended to.

Churchyard Hedge maintenance – still chasing the maintenance team from Hereford Diocese to get the hedge and verge cut so that we can thoroughly clean the footpath.

01.06.22 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Hainsworth asked what the Council was doing for the Queen's Jubilee. Cllr Brown confirmed the Jubilee celebration is being combined with this year's Festival.
- Cllr French confirmed the drainage in the QEII Park is much improved and a resident had commented on a great job which had been done by very courteous and considerate contractors.

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



- Cllr James informed the meeting that he has continued with pruning trees and shrubs around the edge of the Playing Field and helped move the cricket rain covers from the open area. The grass cutter is also to be moved towards the sheds. This together with the levelling of the soil tump has opened up the field and it will be more accessible for grass cutting this summer. A meeting will be arranged with the grass cutting contractor, Cllr French, Cllr James and Mrs McBride to clarify the work required going forward.
- Cllr Brown asked Cllr Hainsworth to check the Parish Hall Committee has Trustee Indemnity insurance cover. Cllr Hainsworth stated they have this in place and will confirm this in writing to Mrs McBride. Council noted that Cllr Hainsworth has been made a Trustee and advised him that he will need to be mindful of declaring interests at meetings of either body going forward. Cllr Brown commented that any confidential items must not be discussed during the part of the Council meeting open to the public.

01.07.22 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

Further to Cllr Butler's report, Council asked Mrs McBride to follow up with the Council's dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation regarding CIL allocations and the lack of progress with updating the Place Plan in recent years. We will request a copy of the traffic survey which is currently being carried out on the A4117. Clarification is required on Cllr Butler's statement urging local councils to look at their precepts with regards to local maintenance. Cllr Harris will be asked for Shropshire Council's stance on the Pension Fund investments and whether they will be divested away from fossil fuel companies.

01.08.22 Financial Matters

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

West Mercia Energy - Toilet Electric (November) - £131.30
SALC – Charitable Trusts, Code of Conduct and Councillor Training - £275.00
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £67.50
Cleobury Country – Office Rent (December 2021 – February 2022) - £1,199.99
Alan Guest – Grass Cutting (October) and grounds maintenance - £824.57
Andrea Pellegram – NDP Consultancy - £879.96
Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass – Christmas Event - £50.00
Platters & Plates – refreshments for volunteers - £60.00
Market Hall Trust – Office Rent and Room Hire (Food Bank) - £850.00
Petty Cash top up - £200.00
HMRC – PAYE & NI (December) - £1,276.01
Payments made since last meeting:
December Wages - £3,907.78
There was an additional payment required after the Agenda was posted:
Chaffinch Document – Data destruction - £39.60.

b) Council noted the following receipts:

Food Bank Donations - £50.00
Bank Interest - £1.80
Playing Field receipts - £72.99
Parish Hall receipt - £100.00

c) Council noted the following Debit Card payments:

Viking – Toilet and CCTV Supplies - £40.24
The Range – Security Box - £11.99
Currys PCW – DVD Writer (CCTV) - £34.99

d) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the Budget and Precept proposals for 2022-23.

The Precept will remain at £116,749 which means a reduction in the cost per household due to an increase in the taxbase figure (number of households) over the past year.

e) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the purchase of two planters through the Welcome Back Fund. From £5,941.00 awarded by Shropshire Council they are using £4,145.90 for Street Cleaning and Maintenance. The Town Council can spend the remainder on Christmas lights (£926) and the new planters (£869.10).

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01.09.22 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 21/05720/FUL (validated: 08/12/2021)
Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Re-instatement of historic ground level within service yard and installation of a timber structure to house condenser units and I.T equipment and associated works
Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

2. Reference: 21/05721/LBC (validated: 08/12/2021)
Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Re-instatement of historic ground level within service yard and installation of a timber structure to house condenser units and I.T equipment and associated works affecting a Grade II Listed Building
Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

3. Reference: 21/05767/FUL (validated: 17/12/2021)
Address: Proposed Conversion Of Building At Redthorne Farm, Redthorne Hill, Cleobury Mortimer.
Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the conversion of former agricultural store to office
Applicant: Mr G Poyner (4 Withies Bank, Oretton, Kidderminster, DY14 0TB)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

4. Reference: 21/05467/FUL (validated: 21/12/2021)
Address: 1 College Close, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PG
Proposal: Erection of an entrance porch to the front and removal of part of a beech hedgerow and replacement with a 2.1m high close boarded timber fence
Applicant: Mr And Mrs P Hall (1 College Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PG)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals subject to the remaining hedge being cut back to the legal boundary on an annual basis to improve pedestrian safety.

b) Planning Decisions - FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

1. Reference: 21/04912/FUL (validated: 27/10/2021)
Address: The Old Barn, Hungry Hill Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 9BH
Proposal: Change of use of land and erection of single storey extension to existing dwelling following demolition of redundant agricultural buildings.
Applicant: Mr. Paul Booton (The Old Barn, Hungry Hill Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 9BH).
Decision: Permission Granted.

2. Reference: 21/05132/DEM (validated: 29/10/2021)
Address: Cleobury Hills, High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DN
Proposal: Application for Prior Approval under Schedule 2, Part 11 Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 for the demolition of 61-bed nursing home; removal of below ground foundations, retaining walls, services and hard and soft landscaping; retention of car parking, access and boundary fencing/walls.
Applicant: Neil Boddison Associates (Perton Manor, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton, WV8 2HE).
Decision: Permission Granted.

01.10.22 To consider our community policing priorities for West Mercia Police.

Council felt that the main concerns are around the lack of visibility and proactive work by the police with young people. If the police dealt with anti-social behaviour more visibly this would send a strong message and help reduce more serious issues ie drug dealing. Also, strong enforcement of parking and speeding would improve public safety and community goodwill. The police will be encouraged to attend Council meetings again.

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



01.11.22 Action Log Review - Cllr Brown.

Council went through the Action Log and the following updates were noted:

Highway matters ie parking, traffic management, pedestrian safety – dates were extended as work ongoing.

Bus Shelters – Mrs McBride to seek quotes for refurbishment and replacement panels.

CCTV – review of system and procedures is on-going.

Supply of drinking water to Love Lane Play Area will not be progressed on safety grounds.

Floral Displays – hanging baskets will not be progressed but additional street planters will be purchased.

Christmas Lights and Switch-On Event – Working Group to meet in January.

Public Engagement – Working Group to meet in January to review Survey Monkey comments and plan appropriate responses.

Vehicle Activated Signs – Mrs McBride to check status of PCC grant and the order of the signs.

Council banners – Mrs McBride to check status of order.

Dog Control Orders – item will be removed as this is under review by Shropshire Council.

01.12.22 To confirm the date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th February 2022.

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 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.

At 8.20pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 8.26 pm.

01.13.22 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

01.14.22 Data Management – Cllr Brown

There was a discussion of the findings and recommendations following the independent data audit which has been carried out.

Meeting closed at 9.51 pm.

Signed:.....*D Brown*.....Chair

Date.....*7th February 2022*.....