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**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 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 Patrick Buck, Cllr Alex Smith and Cllr Neil Tysall.  
Locum Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the August meeting.

**08.01.22 Democratic 15 minutes Public Time.**

There were seven members of public present.

Mr Carter and Mrs Morgan thanked the Town Council for their support over the issues with smell from the digester at Withypool. The clay balls seemed to help as a temporary measure followed by the new domed roof. They wished to note their thanks to the operators of the digester for taking measures to put things right. It was agreed that this was a good example of the community working with the local council over issues. Cllr Greaves thanked the residents for their patience with this matter.

Ms Boardman raised the issue of the proposed closure of Lloyds Bank as this will greatly affect those who do not use on-line banking services. It will be difficult for those who use cash, especially small businesses and older residents. The Post Office is great but could be open for more hours. Access to the other ATMs is limited due to shop opening hours too. Ms Boardman expressed her concern about the decline of the High Street which already has several empty business premises and that people should try and do something to prevent the closure or mitigate the loss of the bank through the provision of mobile banking services. Lloyds Bank staff have said they have consulted with the Council but nothing has been received yet. Cllr Harris confirmed that Shropshire Council were informed of the closure and Philip Dunne MP has put out a press release as he is trying to prevent the closure of this branch as well as the one in Ludlow. It was agreed that the Council will write to Lloyds with these points and try and open a dialogue with them. Also, we can speak with the Post Office to see if they can accommodate more business.

Mr Blackburn gave an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan which is currently with statutory agencies for comment. Mr Blackburn thanked Mrs McBride for her assistance with the administration of the latest consultation which will be reviewed in two weeks and reminders sent to encourage responses. All responses will then go to the Planning Consultant who will advise on any modifications which may be recommended. Following that, the NDP will be presented to the Town Council, then to Shropshire Council who will refer it to a Government Planning Inspector, before going to public referendum.

**08.02.22 Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Guy James – absent.  
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – on leave.  
M Sheehan – sick.

**08.03.22 Declaration of interests.**

Cllr Brown and Cllr Buck declared interests in Agenda items under 08.08.22 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

**08.04.22 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, duly signed by the Chair.

**08.05.22 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

**Signage**

New signs have been ordered for the Love Lane Play Area and Outdoor Gym.

**Love Cleobury**

New workwear and volunteer tabards with the Love Cleobury logo has been ordered. The Love Cleobury Lanyards have arrived.

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



### **Police and CCTV**

We helped the police arrange the open meeting at the Parish Hall last week and subsequently met with them and other community partners on Saturday.

We are no further forward with ORP with regards to installing remote access to the CCTV in the Market Hall. We have had our keys returned for the Fire Station but the police have still not received theirs.

### **08.06.22 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.**

- Cllr Greaves recently gave a talk on Climate Change to St Mary's Breakfast Club and will share the notes. Signage is awaited for Operation Snap. Following the most recent accident at Newbridge, Cllr Greaves asked if we can revisit the Town Council's proposals to have the speed limit reduced. The Chair stated this may be included in the Highway report due out soon from WSP. If it is not covered, we can lobby Shropshire Council again for a review of the speed limits at both ends of the town.
- Cllr Smith noted that a hole had been dug in the Play Area. Any holes should be refilled as soon as possible.
- Cllr Brown reported an issue had been raised regarding the edge of the path adjacent to the driveway to the Pumphouse following a fall by a resident. The land does not belong to the Parish Hall, the Town Council or Shropshire Council so efforts are being made to check with Severn Trent Water. Following a suggestion from a resident the Town Council is promoting the Bank Holiday in Bloom in an effort to encourage residents to have a tidy up and have more colourful front gardens throughout town. This is over the Bank Holiday weekend from 27-29<sup>th</sup> August and is being promoted in the Clarion and on social media. The Strengthening Families and Early Help Team will meet monthly from September. An email has been received from a resident regarding the speed of vehicles near the children's Nursery on Station Road. Cllr Butler has picked this up and whilst we are awaiting the report from WSP there may be an opportunity to install a pedestrian crossing here. Mrs McBride will ask the officer when we can expect the reports from WSP.
- Cllr Tysall thanked Cllr Harris for his support in taking the lack of convictions for dog fouling to Shropshire Council. Shropshire Council were due to respond by the end of July, but this has passed. Cllr Tysall feels very strongly that they must deal with this issue, or they could face further criticism for not providing a statutory service. The provision of rumble strips at the entrances into town on the main road have previously been deemed unsuitable due to the noise for residents but other road markings and speed cameras may have more effect. It was noted that the recent accident at Newbridge involved local residents who have local knowledge of the road and a speed camera may not influence such drivers. There are numerous road signs and markings highlighting the maximum speed limit, bend etc to help those less familiar with the road but we need to work with Highways on solutions to stop these accidents.
- Cllr Buck stated there had been some issues with some CCTV cameras not working and the maintenance company are slow to respond. Police Sgt Kate Oen is keen for officers to be able to view the CCTV but also review the locations of the cameras to ensure they have the optimum coverage throughout town. She will make her recommendations for any changes to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Cllr French thanked Cllr Brown and Mrs McBride for organising the community partnership meeting so swiftly for Saturday morning. It was a very important meeting following the police meeting last Wednesday on the back of recent incidents in Cleobury. The 'Love Cleobury' initiative will be promoted more, in conjunction with the church. A meeting will be arranged to take this forward.

### **Council brought forward the following item.**

#### **08.08.22 e) To consider S.137 funding for South Shropshire Youth Forum - £1,500.00.**

At 7.43pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders.

Mr Morley spoke about the successful outreach work of South Shropshire Youth Forum and how the previous grant from the Town Council helped secure other funding to enable more football sessions and outreach work one evening per week. SSYF hope to continue their work over the summer. If they are successful with obtaining more funding they will find an indoor venue (possibly the Sports & Social Club and/or Market Hall) for drop-in sessions for young people as well as the football and outreach work which would take them through to the end of the current financial year.

At 7.49pm Council RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

Council confirmed they were keen to work together and help facilitate this outreach work in Cleobury and RESOLVED to support the grant application for £1,500.00. Mr Morley was asked to come back to Council during the autumn/winter and let us know how the work is going and if there is other help needed to support our young people. Mr Morley thanked Council and invited them to attend any of their outreach sessions. Cllr Brown offered the opportunity for young people to help at the Food Bank too.

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



**08.07.22 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris has enquired about the availability and provision of football opportunities for girls and women following the success of the England football team at the Euro's. There is little provision locally with the nearest ladies' team being in Tenbury. The local U.13's has four girls on the team though but there are no other competitive teams in Cleobury. Cllr Harris plans to put something together for the Clarion to signpost young girls to regular sport and will also ask Shropshire Council Leader for support with this matter. Councillors felt the schools could prioritise this more in the new term but accept that it takes time to set up the ethos of it. Cllr Harris informed Council that the church clock is being removed for repair. There are seven sponsors for 24 Ukrainian refugees in our area with 832 refugees in the county now. Philip Dunne MP is meeting the local coordinator this week. Council asked that he was informed about us putting aside money to help these families. Cllr Harris has asked if Shropshire Council will also offer some funding. There are several current consultations including the Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27, also the Empty Homes Strategy which covers how to bring back empty homes into use. At the last full Council meeting a motion was passed to allow bereaved tenants to remain in their Council property for four weeks rather than two weeks which was the case previously. Cllr Greaves asked who previously mentioned having a basketball facility at the QEII Park as he had seen one in use in Staffordshire. This had been mentioned to Mr Blackburn at the Hub. Item to be put on the Council's project list for feasibility and funding. Mr Blackburn and Hub youth leaders to be asked if they can drive this forward in conjunction with young people rather than just being imposed by the Council.

**08.08.22 Financial Matters.**

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

Alan Guest Mowing Services – Grass Cutting - £989.13  
Market Hall Trust – Room hire for Neighbourhood Development Plan - £20.00  
N J Plumbing and Heating – Supply and fit replacement water tank at Toilets - £141.60  
Glasdon – Dog waste bin bags - £157.91  
Bob Price & Son Ltd – Concrete for Jubilee Beacon - £336.54  
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £22.50  
West Mercia Energy – Toilets electric (June) - £40.89.  
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:  
SALC – Training Courses - £155.00  
R Skellern – Clearing Compost Bays at Cemetery - £580.00  
R Price – Churchyard and Cemetery grass cutting - £710.00  
Stitches of Bridgnorth – Workwear - £684.00

**b) Council noted receipt of the following income:**

Food Bank Donation - £50.00  
Bank Interest - £2.28  
Parish Hall – court costs - £100.00

**c) Council RESOLVED to approve the following Debit Card payments made:**

Co-op – Food Bank Vouchers - £50.00  
Cleoburrs – Toilet Door bolt - £2.79  
Signtech – Dog Waste Signs - £288.00  
Cash withdrawal – Food Bank Petty Cash - £100.00.  
Flowers By Fiona – Flowers - £30.00

**d) Council considered types of prizes for the Blooming Bank Holiday initiative.**

It was agreed that local businesses will be approached for prizes and if needed the Town Council could provide 3 x £25 gift vouchers. All entries will receive a Love Cleobury lanyard.

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



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**08.09.22 Planning Matters**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

1. Reference: 22/03034/CPL (**FOR INFORMATION ONLY - NO COMMENT REQUIRED**):

Address: Bransley Cattery, Bransley Villa, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster.

Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed use of cattery building as a veterinary consultancy practice for zoo and exotic animal medicine.

Applicant: Ms Marie Kubiak.

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

1. Reference: 22/01336/FUL (validated: 18/03/2022)

Address: Caravan Park, Lodge Coppice, Mawley Oak, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PX

Proposal: Change of use of land for the siting of static holiday caravans and ancillary development

Decision: Grant Permission

2. Reference: 22/02225/CPE (validated: 25/05/2022)

Address: 16 Steeple Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PD

Proposal: Certificate of Lawful Development for the carried out works constitute permission (15/02015/FUL) implemented and therefore extant

Decision: Certificate - Not Lawful

3. Reference: 22/01523/FUL (validated: 29/03/2022)

Address: 3 Castle Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DA

Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension

Decision: Grant Permission

**08.10.22 Action Log Review - Cllr Brown.**

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

Highway matters – Matters are progressing subject to the content and recommendations in WSP's report. Further speed restrictions at both ends of town including traffic calming especially opposite the Nursery to be considered.

CCTV – ORP will be chased for a response and invited to a meeting to discuss what the issues are.

There is no contract in place for maintenance which may be an issue.

Operation Snap will be added to the Action Log. Cllr Greaves is working on wording to publicise Operation Snap. Community Speed Watch is available to apply for. The Neighbourhood Watch group will be asked if they could advertise Community Speed Watch to gain interest from residents. Some average speed cameras are not provided by the police but by communities.

Streetlights – Cllr Hainsworth continues to chase up the replacement of the remaining sodium lights to LEDs.

Bus Shelters – Quotes will be sought to refurbish and/or replace the bus shelters and bring to Council for perusal. Once options have been selected, we can apply for some grant funding.

Water supply to High Street trough and Wells still on hold due to other commitments covering staff sickness.

Wells tiling – prices for supply and installation of dreadnought tiles will be sought.

Vehicle Activated Signs – The signs will be ordered once the paperwork is returned.

QEII Park - Youth shelter refurbishment will be completed this summer.

Cemetery Maintenance – the compost bays have been removed, we will try and order more bins for public use and label them, the skip has been ordered for Council and contractors waste, all grass to be cut. Two new watering cans have been purchased and placed near the tap.

Risk Assessments – new style assessments have been reviewed by Cllr Greaves and need updating.

Love Lane Play Area – ground improvements are underway. Cllr Greaves will bring options for shading to the next meeting.

Playing Field – quotes for a marquee for the next Festival to be added to the Action Log.

Climate Action Working Group – Cllr Greaves to prepare some wording to invite volunteers to come forward.

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



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**08.11.22 To confirm the date of the next Town Council meeting.**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 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 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.

**At 8.31pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 8.32pm.**

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**08.12.22 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group**

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

**08.13.22 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.**

There was a discussion regarding the management of the Market Hall Trust.

**08.14.22 Parish Hall – Cllr Brown.**

A letter from the Parish Hall Chair of the Trustees regarding changes to the governance of the Parish Hall was discussed.

**Meeting closed at 9.04pm.**

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

*5<sup>th</sup> September 2022*  
Date.....