



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2022 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr Debbie Brown (Chair), Cllr Paul French, Cllr John Greaves, Cllr Patrick Buck, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Neil Tysall and Cllr Geoff Hainsworth.
Locum Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the October meeting.

10.01.22 Democratic 15 minutes Public Time.

There were seven members of public present.

Mr Todd confirmed his offer to help provide treat bags for children at the Christmas Switch-On Event. The Council has previously had a sale-or-return agreement with Londis and Mr Todd will ask if sweets can be supplied again this year.

10.02.22 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Alex Smith - work.
Cllr Sally Burns – holiday.
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – work.
M Sheehan – sick.

10.03.22 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Brown and Cllr Buck declared interests in Agenda items under 10.08.22 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

Cllr Hainsworth declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.15.22 Parish Hall.

Cllr Greaves declared an interest in Agenda item 10.09.22 Planning at New House Farm.

10.04.22 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th September, duly signed by the Chair.

10.05.22 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Cleobury Bus Travel

This initiative is ceasing and the last trip has been made. All bills have been paid and the bank account will be closed.

SALC

As members of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils councillors are encouraged to attend the area meetings and AGM. These are good opportunities to hear more about county matters, network with members from other councils and even put forward motions for discussion at area and county level.

SALC also offer a range of training courses for councillors to attend to help with their roles.

Love Cleobury

The workwear and hi-viz tabards have been collected. The dog bag dispensers have also arrived – one to be installed on the High Street and one near the entrance to the Playing Field.

10.06.22 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.

- Cllr James and Mrs McBride met the new Head of the Primary School. Issues regarding parking outside the school were discussed. It was proposed that barrier railings could be installed on the pavements and double yellow lines either side of the access road to the school to prevent parking and improve safety. The railings especially will be self-enforcing. Mrs McBride has asked Traffic Engineering for support. As part of the on-going matter of hedges encroaching over pavements, there is one opposite the Primary School which needs urgent attention. Cllr James and Mr Blackburn have trimmed some hedges around signs and streetlights to improve visibility. Cllr James felt the posters of police officers was not as effective as just having the local team's main contact details. Police Comms have sent some information which hopefully can be used for this purpose. Some councillors and staff attended the British Legion Vigil on Sunday 18th September.

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- Cllr Greaves has circulated a consultation for the public and businesses to respond to with their view on the Government's approach to delivering its net zero target. A full report is due out by the end of the year. People are encouraged to respond especially as the price cap does not cover oil and lpg which many of our residents use. The official Operation Snap posters have been put up and there has been a reduction in parking on the zig zags in the High Street. Going forward with our communications, many people are coming off social media so we ought to have more hard copies of notices available around town.
- Cllr Tysall is still progressing the dog fouling incident on the High Street as well as the issues around the schools. There are some legislative changes regarding dog fouling which need to be clarified and ensure the correct signage and enforcement notices are in place. Cllr Tysall thanked Cllr French and Mr Gould for their assistance in measuring out the Christmas lights. Cllr Tysall felt the Notice Board at the Market Hall could be utilized more. As this is the responsibility of the Market Hall, the old Parish Council name should be removed. Also, the finger post on the High Street near the Talbot has a lot of incorrect information and needs updating.
- Cllr French confirmed work with regards to the Christmas lights is going well. We have arranged the electrical inspection and are working on the load-bearing tests for the existing lights and two new feature lights. The Switch On Event is earlier than last year which will be good. A resident has asked whether Council is preparing for the Coronation. The Chair confirmed that we will purchase bunting.
- Cllr Brown stated the next Market Hall meeting is to be held on Wednesday 19th October. It is hoped to alternate councillors attending these meetings to share the workload and ensure understanding of the corporate responsibility of being the Trustee of the Market Hall. Cllr French offered to attend the next meeting. The resident directly adjacent to the cobbled area in the High Street has sent a number of emails and photographic evidence of vehicles which regularly park outside his property. It has been suggested that the Town Council could install some heavy-duty planters to minimise the number of vehicles until the matter of the bollards and vehicular access is resolved. It was agreed that this was a good short-term resolution. Cllr Buck, Cllr James, Cllr Greaves and Mrs McBride will attend a site meeting in the morning to look at this area. Police contact information is still outstanding for the proposed newsletters. Cllr Brown felt that information on how to avoid scams would also be of help. An example of easy to understand information from the Nationwide Building Society was viewed and they will be approached for further copies.
- Cllr Buck had met with PC Strangwood and Cllr Brown recently. Some CCTV camera angles may be altered to improve information gathering. Representatives from Much Wenlock Council have viewed our system.
- Cllr Hainsworth raised concerns that the vehicle activated sign at Newbridge has still not been replaced and that there have been three serious accidents here since the sign was taken away. Cllr Hainsworth feels Shropshire Council is not taking this matter seriously.

10.07.22 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler stated it is unlikely that Government will undertake a Spending Review. With the proposed 5% staff pay rise this year and again next year on a £110m bill, Shropshire Council are going to struggle to find the money. The Boundary Reviews for the unitary councillors is progressing and two more councillors will be required due to the increase in housing. Cllr Butler is still awaiting information on how residents who use oil for heating will get their £100 rebate. Cllr Butler is on a Social Tax Working Group comprising various partners to try and provide top tips to help people during the current cost of living crisis. Cllr Butler congratulated Cleobury on the Warm Places initiative and asked if information about internet access could also be provided. Cllr Greaves also confirmed that there is a 'Pay-it-forward' coffee initiative at the Hub which may encourage people to go to the Hub as a warm place.

The Chair brought forward the following item and invited comment from Cllr Butler as there have been three serious accidents since the vehicle activated sign has been missing.

10.10.22 Road Safety – to discuss the increasing number of accidents at Newbridge.

Cllr Butler confirmed that a new sign is being supplied from the manufacturers but no delivery date has been provided yet. He has asked for temporary signage to be put in in the meantime. Cllr Hainsworth and Cllr Greaves feel the 30mph should be moved further towards Castle Toot. Cllr Butler said there are current discussions on whether to reduce the 30mph to 20mph even though it would not be enforced. Cllr Tysall confirmed that Council supported Professor Whitelegg's proposal for this. Cllr Butler asked whether Council would also support making all rural lanes 20mph as well. There were mixed views as many lanes are not safe to drive over 20mph but there are very few accidents. It is more important to stop the accidents on the main road and perhaps a sign should be installed saying how many accidents there have been in recent years.

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10.08.22 Financial Matters.

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

Morris Bufton – Strimmer cord and ancillary items - £36.10
R Price – Churchyard grass cutting (August) - £220.00
Cleobury Country – Quarterly Rent (September – November) - £1,199.99
West Mercia Energy – Toilets electric (August) - £42.36.
Mrs D McBride – Chromebook - £234.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee - £480.00
Dolphin Administration Services - £315.00
Flagmakers – Union flag - £143.90.

The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:

R Price – Churchyard grass cutting and spray (September) - £250.00
Alan Guest – Grass Cutting - £797.13.
Andrea Pellegram – Neighbourhood Development Plan work - £879.96.

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £320.00
Bank Interest - £7.83
Parish Hall – court costs - £100.00
Cemetery Receipts - £1,000.00

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

Co-op – Food Bank Vouchers - £50.00
R P Enterprises – Food Bank Vouchers - £25.00
Cash withdrawal – Food Bank Petty Cash - £200.00.
Amazon – Cemetery and Office supplies - £74.93
Ludlow Skip Hire – Cemetery skip hire - £390.00
Eco Green Communities – Dog waste bag dispensers - £609.55
Flowers By Fiona – Flowers for Memorial Garden - £12.00

d) S.137 Grant Application:

Council resolved to approve the grant application from Cleobury Mortimer Friendship Club for their member's outing - £286.00.

e) External Auditor's Report for 2021-22.

Council reviewed the External Auditor's Report and noted that there were no matters of concern raised by the auditors and thanked Mrs McBride for the work with the finances.

At 7.54pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Tree Warden to speak regarding Agenda item 10.09.22 a) 4. Reference 22/04350/TCA.

Mr Smith commended Council on promoting the requirement to make planning applications for tree works. He would recommend the Town Council formally reviews every application for consistency. Often houses are built too close to trees yet there is a potential fine of £20,000 for cutting down trees.

With this application he recommends the yew tree crown is lifted with some trimming to the canopy on the south side to achieve a uniform shape. The silver birch can be felled and shrubs planted in its place. Whilst it is in good health it represents a danger to property and adds little biodiversity. We should be logical and sensible with our recommendations yet ensure that biodiversity is not broken.

The Chair asked Mr Smith for a suitably worded article for a future Clarion on the responsibilities of those owning trees.

At 8.05pm Council RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

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10.09.22 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Applications:

- Reference: 22/04112/VAR (validated: 07/09/2022)
Address: New Industrial Units At, New House Farm, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8RD
Proposal: Variation of Condition 6 (The conditions to be altered to include the use of Class E(b) food and drink and E(d) Indoor sport, recreation or fitness (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms or use as a swimming pool or skating rink) of Application Reference Number: 22/00075/FUL Date of Decision: 31/03/2022 Erection of One Light Industrial unit and associated parking and access.
Applicant: Mr A Robinson (D,M,A, And R Robinson, Mawley Town Farm, DY14 8PJ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals which will provide a useful multi-purpose family facility and jobs. Council confirms that whilst the site is within walking distance of the town centre, the pavement does not extend to, nor is there a designated safe pedestrian crossing area, to the site. This infrastructure has been proposed however as part of the development at New House Farm Industrial Estate.
- Reference: 22/04190/FUL (validated: 21/09/2022)
Address: Bransley Cattery, Bransley Villa, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 0AD
Proposal: Change of use from a boarding cattery to a veterinary practice.
Applicant: Ms Marie Kubiak (Park Cottage, The Village, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, DY11 7TD)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
- Reference: 22/04031/LBC (validated: 20/09/2022)
Address: 41 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DQ.
Proposal: Replacement of like for like modern softwood timber window frames at the rear of the building (1 ground floor window, 2 first floor windows and 1 second floor window affecting a Grade II Listed Building.
Applicant: Mrs Jennifer Bates (41 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8DQ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
- Reference: 22/04350/TCA (validated: 07/09/2022)
Address: Hurst House, 7 The Hurst, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8EG
Proposal: Crown lift and reduce canopy by up to 2m of 1no yew and fell 1no silver birch within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.
Applicant: Mrs Helen Smith.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals as per our Tree Warden's report.

b) Planning Decisions - FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- Reference: 22/02124/FUL (validated: 23/05/2022)
Address: The Dairy, Weston Farm Barns, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PP
Proposal: Reinstatement of roof on a like-for-like basis following severe fire damage.
Decision: Grant Permission

10.11.22 Action Log Review - Cllr Brown.

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

Highway matters – Proposed installation of railings and further double yellow lines on approach to Primary School to be added to Action Log.

VAS at Newbridge – the proposed temporary solution to be added to the Action Log.

CCTV – ORP will be chased for a response one more time before looking elsewhere for maintenance support.

Operation Snap – signs now up and being promoted. Remove from Action Log.

Streetlights – Replacement of the remaining sodium lights to LEDs is ongoing. Ideally this would be done as a separate project rather than when the current sodium lights fail.

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Bus Shelters – Council felt like-for-like designs were preferable but with polycarbonate material for walls and roof. Cllr Greaves will assist with the specifications. A site meeting to be arranged to confirm the details. An enquiry will be made to check if planning is required.

Wells tiling – prices for supply and installation of dreadnought tiles are being sought to start the renovation of the area. Severn Trent have been asked if they have any historic information on the land around the Wells.

Cemetery capacity – Council note that the extension of the Cemetery in the preferred location is dependent on ground surveys and environmental regulations.

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

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th November 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 8.31pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 8.58pm.

10.13.22 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

10.14.22 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.

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

10.15.22 Parish Hall – Cllr Brown.

Following our response to the Parish Hall's proposal to remove the Town Council as Custodian Trustee, reference to the Parish Hall will be removed from our Asset Register.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

D Brown

Signed:.....Chair

7th November 2022

Date.....