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

Present:

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

Locum Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting.

11.01.22 Democratic Public Time.

There were no members of public present.

11.02.22 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Alex Smith – family commitment.

Cllr Patrick Buck – unwell.

11.03.22 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Brown declared an interest in Agenda items under 11.08.22 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

11.04.22 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October, duly signed by the Chair.

11.05.22 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Highways & Paths

The vehicle activated sign at Newbridge is due to be replaced on 10th November.

The Talbot Car Park lights are out due to an electric supply issue which is due to be fixed by 15th November.

There are some remedial works still required following the recent resurfacing of the High Street. A list has been sent to Shropshire Council to include drain cleaning (this was not done beforehand), removing paint marks and tarmac footprints off the pavements and sweeping the road. It was felt that the Keep Clear should be repainted at the bottom of Castle Hill as a goodwill measure even though it is not enforceable.

There was a site meeting with Cllr James and Cllr Buck to look at the issues with vehicles parking on the cobbles by driving over the zebra crossing and the pavement. It was agreed this is a dangerous practice and that planters could be installed but the question of vehicular access remains. It was felt that the only way to establish the access rights is to obtain copies of the nearby properties' deeds. It is questioned why the zebra crossing was allowed to be installed over the claimed vehicular access.

Christmas

The Christmas Event on Saturday 26th November will start at 3.30pm with stalls, face painting, a raffle and refreshments in the Market Hall. The band will start playing at 4pm with the lights being switched on at 5pm. Mr & Mrs Todd have prepared sweet gift bags for children.

Love Cleobury

The A3 signs have been put up around Cleobury.

Open Spaces

The three dog bag dispensers have been installed on the Playing Field, High Street and QEII Park.

The three new dog waste bins have been installed between the schools, top of Ron Hill and off New Road. A new pedestal bin has been installed in the churchyard.

The Outdoor Gym is having a full service and any required remedial works on Saturday 26th November. Five tonnes of topsoil was spread in the Love Lane Play Area to help level the ground out on Friday 4th November.

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



11.06.22 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.

- Cllr Hainsworth report having an accident after the last meeting when he fell in the Talbot Square which was very dark. He has since heard of three other people falling here. Council is aware that it is private land but the brick walls around the ramps to properties are very low and a trip hazard. The landowner will be sought and asked to improve this area and make it safer with some lighting.
- Cllr Greaves has circulated information about the bird flu restrictions currently in force. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is being considered by the Town Council at an extraordinary meeting next week. There is one major change due to an update from the Environment Agency in that no burials will be permitted in the new proposed cemetery due to the proximity of bore holes and water courses. The current capacity of the existing Cemetery will be calculated according to the latest guidance.
- Cllr Tysall reported that the raised gully in the Talbot Car Park has still not been reset. Matter to be reported to Fix My Street again.
- Cllr Brown reported that she and Mrs McBride met with Philip Dunne MP on 28th October. Items discussed included the Food Bank, Warm Places and cost-of-living issues as well as the Manor House and Local Plan.
- Cllr French confirmed that all the older Christmas lights have been tested and repaired where necessary. The lights will be installed on Sunday 20th November – volunteers to meet at 8am. Two trees will be installed, one at the Memorial Garden and one on the cobbles. The electricity to the tree at the cobbles may be an issue as the previous sources have been removed. There followed a discussion on the benefits of having a permanent tree at the cobbles to help prevent parking issues.

11.07.22 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris offered Cllr Butler's apologies as he was unable to attend due to working on Council finances and budget discussions. The county council currently has a fixed rate deal for their electric which has saved £7m this year. There has been a meeting today to discuss the Cost-of-Living crisis. Information will be sent out to town and parish councils to help inform and signpost people for support. There is still no information on how the £100 rebate to residents with oil heating will be paid. Cllr Harris has met with the new manager of the Medical Centre. The Patients Voice group should be restarting soon. The recent article in the Clarion regarding the Manor House is critical of Shropshire Council. Cllr Harris is encouraging a response from Shropshire Council but they are unable to compulsory purchase the building as it is not on the Heritage at Risk list. Following a visual assessment this summer the Conservation Team were recommended to approach the owner for access to undertake a closer inspection. Cllr Harris is on the newly formed Task and Finish Group for cleaning up rivers. Clarity is required from Severn Trent on what they are discharging into the rivers but it was commented that 60% of pollution in local rivers is from farms. Cllr Harris is happy to share his findings on local river pollution.

11.08.22 Financial Matters.

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

SALC – Projects Training Course - £30.00.
West Mercia Energy – Toilets electric (September) - £54.64
Mrs D McBride – Compost, plants, Love Cleobury signs - £234.72
Alan Guest – Grass cutting (September) £941.14
Glasdon UK – waste bins and bags - £852.48
Prysmian – street light maintenance - £2,448.00

The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
A Wakeman – Christmas light testing and repairs - £276.00
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room hire – £97.50.

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £1,065.20
Bank Interest - £9.60
Groundwork – NDP grant - £9,005.00
Cemetery Receipts - £2,720.00

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

Co-op – Food Bank Vouchers - £220.00
Cleobury Freezer Centre – Food Bank Vouchers - £65.00
Food Bank – Petty Cash top up - £200.00
Viking – Toilet & Office Supplies - £156.59
Bromfield Sand & Gravel – Topsoil for Play Area - £250.74
Aldi – Gift Vouchers for Bloom competition - £100.00
Border Engineering – Posts and spray - £68.88
Screwfix – hose clips - £18.99

d) S.137 Payments:

Council resolved to approve the following S.137 payments:
Royal British Legion – Remembrance Wreath - £20.00 (Cheque)
Royal British Legion Cleobury Mortimer - Community Support - £30.00 (Cheque)
Dr M Baldwin - Flag Raising - £50.00 (Cheque)

- e) Council resolved to confirm the appointment of D Malley as internal auditor for 2022-23.
- f) Council resolved to approve the direct debit mandate for West Mercia Energy (toilets electricity).
- g) Council reviewed the Bank Mandate and resolved to add three additional signatories – Cllr Burns, Cllr Tysall and Cllr Greaves.
- h) Council resolved to approve the quotation to move all the CCTV equipment to the Market Hall. Council resolved to approve the maintenance contract from ORP Surveillance to ensure we are providing a well-maintained community asset. Once the new systems are in place we will publicise the CCTV system again, highlighting how it is used and how information is accessed. The maintenance contract will be reviewed and evaluated after 12 months.

11.09.22 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 22/04375/FUL (validated: 27/09/2022)
Address: 24 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8BY
Proposal: Reinstatement of brick pillars and replacement of rear garden gates off Eagle Lane
Applicant: Mr. M. Shorrocks
Outcome: Council resolved to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 22/04376/LBC (validated: 27/09/2022)
Address: 24 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8BY
Proposal: Reinstatement of brick pillars and replacement of rear garden gates off Eagle Lane affecting a Grade II Listed Building
Applicant: Mr. M. Shorrocks
Outcome: Council resolved to have no objection to the proposals.
3. Reference: 22/04485/FUL (validated: 04/10/2022)
Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Restoration of the former Fountain Garden, landscaping and associated works
Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Council resolved to have no objection to the proposals.
4. Reference: 22/04692/TCA (validated: 10/10/2022)
Address: Steeple View, 4 Eagle Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8RA
Proposal: Fell 1no. Whitebeam within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mr Stephen Todd
Outcome: Council resolved to have no objection to the proposals.

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5. Reference: 22/04598/FUL (validated: 10/10/2022)
Address: Proposed Dwelling Adjacent Enderby, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling with detached double garage
Applicant: Mr Shorter (16 Orchard End, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BA)
Outcome: Council resolved to object to this application due to highway and drainage concerns. Council is concerned about the lack of passing places on the access road which may result in vehicles reversing into the main road. This site and neighbouring properties have suffered from surface water flooding in the past. Measures must be put into place to ensure this is not exacerbated by further development.
6. Reference: 22/04700/AGR (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
Address: Mawley Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8PJ
Proposal: Proposed access track.
Applicant: Mr A Robinson.
Outcome: This application did not require a response and has now been granted.
7. Reference: 22/04146/FUL (validated: 19/10/2022)
Address: 16 Steeple Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PD
Proposal: Extension to 16 steeple close and double garage.
Applicant: Sam Wilde (16 Steeple Close, Shropshire, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PD)
Outcome: Council resolved to have no objection to the proposals.

11.10.22 Action Log Review - Cllr Brown.

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

Highway matters – The request for a full Highway Audit will be chased up. The WSP highway survey reports are expected to be presented to Council next month and the issues around the Tenbury Road junction will be checked.

VAS at Newbridge – the replacement sign should be installed this week.

CCTV – we have now reached an agreement with a maintenance contract and improved access to the equipment. Policy and procedures to be updated with ORP advice regarding data protection.

Play Area shade options – put on hold until Spring 2023.

Bus Shelters – quotes should be available for discussion at the next meeting.

Cemetery capacity – An updated evaluation of the capacity of the current Cemetery will be prepared.

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

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th December 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 8.39pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 8.42pm.

11.12.22 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

11.13.22 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.

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

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:.....Chair

D Brown

Date:.....

5th December 2022