



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the January meeting.

01.01.23 Democratic Public Time.

There were no members of public present.

01.02.23 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Alex Smith – family commitment.
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – on leave.

01.03.23 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Brown and Cllr Buck declared their interest in Agenda items under 01.08.23 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

Cllr Greaves, Cllr James and Cllr Hainsworth declared an interest in Agenda item 01.08.23 regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan payment and took no part in this item when discussed.

01.04.23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022.

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

01.05.23 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Highways & Paths

There was a site visit with Nick Newton from Traffic Engineering, Cllr James, Cllr Hainsworth and Mrs McBride on Tuesday 6th December 2022. The following issues and proposed solutions are noted as follows:

- Parking on double yellow lines and pavement outside the Manor House – Enforcement to be requested. (Railings at pinch point would reduce width of pavement by 450mm and would restrict pedestrian access.)
- Parking adversely affecting traffic flow near Tenbury Road crossroads – Extend double yellow lines to the 20mph advisory sign. Also install 'Limited Parking for 40minutes, no return for two hours' between the 20mph sign and first lime tree. Needs to go through official consultation.
- Parking on pavement outside Primary School – Install double yellow lines on both sides of road from mini crossroads to school entrance. Needs to go through official consultation. (Railings or other measures could come through Safe Schools Travel funding.)
- Vehicles blocking access to Castle Hill from Church Street – repaint the KEEP CLEAR and paint a H-bar.
- Vehicles blocking access to Ronville from Childe Road – extend the white line to just beyond the steps/dropped kerb.

Council supported the various courses of action proposed by Shropshire Council.

Other Highway updates:

- The overhanging hedge/overgrown pavement on Childe Road has been reported on Fix My Street again.
- Shropshire Council has confirmed there will be six EV charging points in both Childe Road car parks.
- Parking has continued on the cobbles over the Christmas period - sometimes two and three vehicles at a time, some blocking the main pavement too. Enforcement has been requested. Any footage of vehicles driving over the pedestrian crossing onto the pavement can be reported to the police on Operation Snap. Council agreed to write to the van owner who regularly parks on the cobbles (copy to landlord) and ask that he refrains from parking on the cobbles for public safety reasons and protection of the historic cobbles. The planters will be ordered and installed as soon as possible to protect this area.
- The Talbot Car Park lights are still not working due to ongoing issues with the electric supply. This is being chased up through Shropshire Council. The dislodged culverts have been reported again on Fix My Street.

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



CCTV

Contractors will be here all day on Thursday 5th January to service all cameras in preparation to move the monitoring system later this month.

Christmas

The best-dressed window competition was judged on Wednesday 21st December 2022 by Cllr Buck, Cllr Greaves and Mr J Reynolds. The winner was Red Hare. Cllr Burns will present the cup this week and a replica will be made to be kept by the previous winner.

Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall

We have received a letter from a Trustee of the Parish Hall informing the Council that following their (Parish Hall) resolution on 8th July 2022, the title is now registered in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities on behalf of the Trustees of Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall and is no longer in the name of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council. Council noted this change to the Parish Hall's organisational structure.

01.06.23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.

- Cllr Greaves reported that Shropshire Council's Local Plan is currently going through its Regulation 19 consultation. There will be another hearing with landowners and housebuilders on 17th January. It has been noted that the Local Plan says Cleobury Mortimer is a community centre which is contrary to the Boundary Commission's proposals to split the town into two electoral divisions. The Cleobury Neighbourhood Development Plan consultation was delayed by Shropshire Council and will now start on Monday 9th January and run for six weeks. There will be a hard copy of all the documents in the Library and the consultation will be promoted via our website, social media and notices in town.
- Cllr James confirmed the Men's Shed will repair the bench from the top of Bull Alley. There followed a discussion on whether the Town Council should maintain a list of all publicly available benches in town, establish ownership and endeavour to ensure a programme of maintenance for these benches – for safety and amenity reasons – working with all the respective owners.
- Cllr Tysall confirmed that a street light in Grove Meadow is still out. It is noted that this is due to an electric supply issue.
- Cllr Burns confirmed she has completed the verification process for the mandate for Lloyds Bank. She has attended her first meeting with the Employment Group and hopes that things will move forward more quickly.
- Cllr Hainsworth raised two outstanding planning issues. One regarding the Stanbury Place development whereby a pavement from Whitcomb's Orchard to Stanbury Place should have been installed but has still not been done. This will be chased up with Planning. The second issue is the installation of a new footbridge from the Glen Caravan Park into the Workhouse Field which has still not been built. This will be chased up with the Access Team.

01.07.23 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

The Unitary Councillors had sent their January report which had been distributed. Unitary Cllr Simon Harris commented that he and Cllr Butler are notified of all enforcement matters and work well with the Enforcement Officer.

Cllr Harris offered to take questions regarding Shropshire Council's budget. The Council Tax will increase by the maximum level (without having to go to a Referendum) as Shropshire Council need to provide a balanced budget or face going into Special Measures. The North West Relief Road in unlikely to be scrapped as it is mostly funded from the capital budget. The shopping centres in Shrewsbury will not be sold off either. Cllr Greaves expressed concerns that there is still a lot of waste in the highways process. Cllr Harris confirmed that improvements are ongoing and that he has also raised these concerns – an example being of the WSP highway reports which cost £25,000 and took eight months before being shared with the parishes/councillors. Cllr Harris noted the Place Plan review has been delayed due to IT issues.

Flu jabs are still available from Cleobury Medical Centre.

There is a further Cost-of-Living briefing this week. Please signpost anyone struggling to our Unitary Councillors for support. Cllr Brown confirmed that feedback from those referred to the Welfare Support Team from the Food Bank has been positive. Cllr Brown asked Cllr Harris to look into some reported issues with the Marches Energy Agency Voucher Scheme whereby vouchers for pre-payment meters are going to the landlords, some of whom do not pass them on in full to their tenants.

Cllr Greaves commented that prices for those who sell electricity recently hasn't covered the costs of producing it. Also, the demand for electric has fallen by 14% recently.

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



01.08.23 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £22.50
Morris Bufton & Co – trailer wheel and rock salt - £48.15
Andrea Pellegram – Neighbourhood Development Plan work - £1,407.94
Mrs D McBride - reimbursement for Food Bank items - £104.95
Alan Guest – Street cleaning and grass cutting - £1,181.13
Richard Skellern – contractor work at Cemetery - £390.00
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire for Food Bank and Police - £400.00

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £50.00
Parish Hall – court costs - £100.00
Cemetery Receipt - £250.00

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

Co-op – Food Bank Vouchers - £45.00
Amazon – Food Bank supplies - £128.98
Viking – Toilet & Office Supplies - £235.90
Smyths – Food Bank Vouchers - £300.00
Screwfix – grit box - £199.99
Petty Cash Top Up - £255.00

d) Council Credit Card for more secure purchasing.

Council resolved to approve the proposal to have two credit cards for Council staff to purchase items more securely. The Bank will charge £32.00 per year for these cards. There will be a limit set on each card and any balance will be cleared in full each month by direct debit. Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments will be updated accordingly.

01.09.23 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Application:

- Reference: 22/05010/LBC (validated: 08/12/2022)
Address: Lloyds Bank Plc, 39 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DH
Proposal: Removal of external signage and an external ATM and associated works affecting a Grade II Listed Building
Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group (Mr Mark Lickley, 25 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HN)
Outcome: Council noted that whilst it does not support the closure of the Bank, it RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

b) Planning Decision (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

- Reference: 22/04146/FUL (validated: 19/10/2022)
Address: 16 Steeple Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PD
Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to side elevation and porch to front elevation
Decision: Grant Permission

01.10.23 Highway Restrictions.

Council RESOLVED to support the following requests and ask for Shropshire Council to initiate the required formal consultation process:

- Regulatory width restriction for Eagle Lane.
- 20mph speed limit throughout Cleobury Meadows and installing parking restrictions to improve access to some properties.

01.11.23 Sickness Absence Policy.

Subject to a few minor amendments, Council RESOLVED to approve the drafted policy. This new policy will be referred to with regards to employment contracts and reviewing other employment policies.

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



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

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th February 2023.

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 8.14pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 8.15pm.

01.13.23 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group.

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

01.14.23 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.

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

Meeting closed at 9.09pm.

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

6th February 2023
Date.....