



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6th February 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 February meeting.

02.01.23 Democratic Public Time.

There were six members of public present.

Mrs Chris Smith has taken the lead of the Festival Working Group but needs Council support especially with the risk assessments, insurance and marshalling of the event. The Festival is being held on Saturday 24th June. Activities are being booked including a falconer, dog show, and hopefully some live music. Cllr Tysall and Cllr Greaves will help with risk assessments. Other councillors were all happy to help with the Festival. A resident asked when public electric vehicle charging points will be installed in Cleobury. It is noted that there will be six charging points installed in each car park in the next few months.

A resident complained about the mess from the development at Mortimer Gardens and resultant mud on the road and pavement. The road has been blocked several times with heavy plant. This will be reported to the Planning Officer if the planning conditions are not being adhered to.

Mr Kit Smith, Tree Warden informed Council of the Severn Treescapes Project. He has written an article for the Clarion about this project which has been set up by three county Wildlife Trusts with funding from DEFRA. Mr Mumford informed Council that he was looking to build an annex at his property – a planning application will be submitted in due course.

Mr Richard Morley, South Shropshire Youth Forum gave a brief update on the work he and his colleagues have undertaken in Cleobury with funding from the Town Council and Energise. The outreach work has been working well, especially the football sessions although an incident last summer affected their numbers. The drop-in sessions at the Market Hall did not work as well and they are hoping to hire the Social Club instead as the location is more suitable. The group dynamic has changed a lot since last summer and some young people are wary of engaging with adults. Mr Morley is interested in the Thriving Communities Grant and will meet with Cllr Buck and Mrs McBride to put an application together.

02.02.23 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Alex Smith – family commitment.
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – Cllr Gwilym Butler in attendance.

02.03.23 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Brown and Cllr Buck declared their interest in Agenda items under 02.08.23 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

Cllr Tysall declared an interest in Agenda item 02.08.23 regarding the Horticultural Society grant application and took no part in this item when discussed.

02.04.23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023, duly signed by the Chair.

02.05.23 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Highways & Paths

The planters for the cobbled area and two for outside Parish Hall are due to be installed any day.

There are still regular complaints about vehicles parking on the cobbled area and pavement near the zebra crossing. Police and Traffic Enforcement have been out several times in January to address parking contraventions along the High Street.

Street cleaning is nearly complete now. Item on Agenda for the Town Council to approve an application to Shropshire Council for the Environmental Maintenance Grant for further work on Shropshire Council's assets.

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



CCTV

Contractors have serviced all the cameras prior to moving the system which is now located in the Market Hall. A few cameras need additional work and we are expecting a quotation for this work. Once the system has been used in its new location we may need to install another electric socket and provide more secure storage.

Councillor Vacancy

The vacancy was advertised through Shropshire Council Electoral Services as required. There has been no request for a by-election for the casual vacancy, and as such we have been requested to co-opt as soon as practicable. Notices have been put up locally inviting people to apply by Friday 17th February. Interviews would follow with a view to co-opt someone on Monday 6th March.

Planning

The expected footpath between Whitcomb's Orchard and Stanbury Place has been chased up with Planning who are following up on this.

Market Hall

There have been a number of issues recently with inconsiderate parking (not least the camper van which completely blocked the access through to the church). The Market Hall Manager has been asked to put up the notices again to ask people to only park in front of the Market Hall (on the raised area) if they are using the church or Market Hall. The bollards are a good barrier but they can be heavy for some people to move. Perhaps some lighter ones or even fold-down bollards with improved padlocks so that they can be more easily managed should be purchased. There has been a long-held view that excessive parking on the raised area is detrimental to the amenity of this historic area and as we have seen there has been damage to the railings several times. We also need to discourage people parking up the side of the Market Hall too as they block access to Castle Hill.

Community issues

Following up from the public meeting held last summer at the Parish Hall there will be a follow-up open public meeting on Wednesday 15th February, 6pm at the Parish Hall. It is police led but we will have various tables with representatives from community groups, council, police, youth groups and the schools to showcase what they do and be able to chat about any issues or concerns. The plan is for the police to give a general introduction and update on crime/anti-social issues since last summer then invite the public to 'visit' the various organisations to either ask questions on what they do or what they can offer the community. We are hoping to encourage people to volunteer for community initiatives such as Community Speed Watch, litter picking and work towards opening new groups/activities – especially for young people.

There was a partnership meeting this morning where we had a general discussion about community issues/concerns and how we can find solutions to these. It is recognised that there is a fair bit of apathy and a lack of community willingness to step up and help with reporting/challenging issues and volunteering to help with community initiatives. We hope that the meeting on 15th February will start the process of more community engagement and finding solutions locally, working with our community partners.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Shropshire Council has extended the consultation period of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan until Friday 10th March 2023.

02.06.23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.

- Cllr James raised concerns that some hedges in town have not been cut back fully and are restricting pedestrian access on pavements. Council will arrange for some letters to be delivered this week so that hopefully action will be taken before the end of the month due to bird-nesting season starting.
- Cllr Buck reported that a resident has commented that the new vehicle activated signs have slowed the traffic down noticeably. A resident had asked whether there could be any road narrowing near the Fire Station to further reduce speed. It was felt this was unlikely due to the road layout at this point.
- Cllr Brown commented on the poor state of the A4117 through the forest to Lem Hill. As the resurfacing was delayed the road is in a very poor condition and needs some urgent repairs. Cllr Butler stated he would take this up with Highways but the road is due to be re-surfaced in the new financial year.
-

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



- Cllr Tysall raised concerns about large vehicles coming out of the Tenbury Road turning right when parked cars on the High Street restrict the turning area. The Town Council has requested Shropshire Council extend the double yellow lines but enforcement action is also needed.
- Cllr Greaves reported that since the authorities working together on the Black Country Plan did not reach agreement they are all having to write individual Local Plans and ensure they co-operate with each other. This could impact Shropshire Council's Local Plan as each local authority has to share the housing requirements with neighbouring authorities. The Inspector's Report on the Cleobury Neighbourhood Plan will need monitoring to ensure that we still have our preference for local needs housing. Cllr Butler confirmed that the West Midlands are keen to have more housing in Shropshire and if Shropshire's Local Plan fails then there will be a lot of speculative development in our county.
- Cllr Hainsworth raised concerns about the poor state of the A4117 as well as the Tenbury Road – especially the section from Eagle Lane to Stanbury Place. Poor quality repairs are just not cost effective and have to be repeatedly done as they fail so quickly. Pot holes are not being cut and patched effectively. The street lights in the Talbot Car Park have still not been fixed. This issue is unacceptable and National Grid need to ensure there is an accessible supply for the car park lights as well as the new EV charging points.

➤ **02.07.23 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

The Unitary Councillors had sent their February report which had been distributed.

Cllr Butler agreed about the state of the A4117 and that water running down the road from near Mawley Oak Garage to the Blount Arms has caused further deterioration of the road. Regarding the electric supply to the lights in the Talbot Car Park, it has been proposed to install a new supply to the main post from the layby in Childe Road and this will also supply the new EV charging points. Cllr Butler suggested the Town Council use the Environmental Maintenance Grant to trim the hedge and clean the pavement from Mawley Hall to Mawley Oak. The Childe Endowment Trust is being re-launched in April for 18-25 year-olds to apply for funding. Shropshire Council has put in a submission to the Boundary Review. Cllr Butler and Cllr Harris feel that the two-member ward works well but the Boundary Commission are adamant that there will be single wards going forward. There are two options to split the Cleobury Ward. One included Cleobury Mortimer, Milson, Neen Sollars and Boraston with the other parishes in a separate ward. The other option would split the town in half and have Cleobury East and Cleobury West wards with adjoining parishes. Cllr Butler will keep us updated.

02.08.23 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £37.50
Burgoynes – deposit for Festival marquee - £439.91
Mrs D McBride - reimbursement for mobile phone - £349.99
Alan Guest – High Street cleaning - £900.00
The following invoice had been received after the Agenda was published:
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £75.00

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £625.00
Bank Interest – £48.33
Cemetery Receipt - £250.00

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

Co-op – Food Bank Vouchers - £195.00
R P Enterprises – Food Bank Vouchers - £140.00
Londis – Food Bank Vouchers - £885.00
Amazon – Office supplies and bunting - £252.08
SLCC – Annual Membership - £187.00
Petty Cash Top Up - £200.00

d) To approve the following S.137 payments:

Cleobury Mortimer and District CFR's - £150.00.
Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society – Rest Shed at Allotments - £400.00 – approved in principle subject to other grant funding being achieved.

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



- e) Council noted the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 18th January 2023.
- f) Council approved the proposed Budget and Precept for 2023-24. The cost per household will remain the same as the current year.
- g) Council approved the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023-24. Cemetery Fees will increase but the CCTV and Playing Field Hire charges will remain the same.
- h) Council approved the Environmental Maintenance Grant Application for 2023-24.

02.09.23 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 23/00224/FUL (validated: 19/01/2023)
Address: Ronville Cottage, The Hurst, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8EG
Proposal: Refurbishment of existing detached cottage, remodelling of existing single storey pitched roof extension and the erection of two new side extensions
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Chris Simpson
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals providing the visible historic existing structures are maintained ie that the refurbishment and extensions are sympathetic to the original property and surrounds.
2. Reference: 23/00051/TCA (validated: 16/01/2023)
Address: 2 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QD
Proposal: Removal of approx. 12no. conifers in the front hedge, reduction to 15ft of 4no. conifers within the rear garden, reduction to 6ft/thinning of Laurel hedge in rear garden and removal of approx. 2no. self-set trees (see plan) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Dr. Julie Collins (2 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY148QD, United Kingdom)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals as per our Tree Warden's report.

b) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

1. Reference: 22/04112/VAR (validated: 07/09/2022)
Address: Industrial Units at New House Farm, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8RD
Proposal: Variation of Condition 6 (The conditions to be altered to include the use of Class 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
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. 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
Decision: Grant Permission.
3. Reference: 22/04485/FUL (validated: 04/10/2022)
Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Restoration of former 'fountain garden', to include landscaping and associated works
Decision: Grant Permission.
4. Reference: 22/05208/FUL (validated: 17/11/2022)
Address: Cream Tea Cottage, 7 New Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8AN
Proposal: Remodelling for rear extension at first floor and proposed rear vehicular access
Decision: Grant Permission.

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



-
- 02.10.23 Capability Policy.**
Council RESOLVED to approve the updated policy.
- 02.11.23 Risk Assessments.**
Council RESOLVED to approve the updated risk assessments in the new format.
Other risk assessments will be completed as required.
- 02.12.23 Annual Parish Meeting.**
Council RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on either Friday 21st April or Friday 12th May subject to availability of the Music Room at Lacon Childe School.
- 02.13.23 The King's Coronation.**
Council discussed a number of options to mark the occasion including proposals to plant a tree, install a new piece of play equipment for children and light the beacon all of which will be looked into. It was agreed to put up bunting and flags along High Street and Church Street using the Christmas light fittings and arrange a Coronation Window competition.
- 02.14.23 Proposals from Royal British Legion for Fireworks and Bonfire.**
Council supported the idea but will ask that plenty of notice is given to residents and that the organisers consider using silent fireworks in consideration of the number of residents with pets, horses and farm animals.
- 02.15.23 Councillor roles and appointments to working groups and committees.**
Council reviewed the roles and appointments to working groups and committees.
- 02.16.23 Action Log Review – Cllr Brown.**
Council went through the Action Log and the following updates were noted:
Highway matters – Planters have been ordered and will be installed this week at the front of the Parish Hall and on the cobbled area off the High Street. With regards to parking concerns at the Primary School we have offered to purchase the metal traffic warden signs.
CCTV – Cllr Buck will help update the CCTV procedures. ORP Surveillance will help update the Policy.
Bus Shelters – other options had been explored but Council agreed to purchase two new shelters for the High Street to a similar design as the current ones.
The top wildflower meadow in the QEII Park will be regenerated with new seed this year. More work will be carried out to improve the seed base going forward. The lower meadow will remain as grass.
Risk Assessments are now in hand and will be removed from the Action Log.
- 02.17.23 To confirm the date of the next Town Council meeting.**
The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 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 9.04pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 9.05pm.

02.18.23 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group.

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

02.19.23 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.

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

Meeting closed at 9.36pm.

D Brown

Signed:.....Chair

6th March 2023

Date:.....