



---

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.**

**Present:**

Cllr Debbie Brown (Chair), 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 March meeting.

**03.01.23 Democratic Public Time.**

There was one member of public present.

Mr Tom Nielsen, a detached youth worker from the Shropshire Council Youth Work Team gave an update on the outreach work he and his colleague have been undertaking in Cleobury Mortimer. They work with the 11-18 year olds primarily and have been working in Cleobury for a year now. Following the incident on the High Street last summer and the increased police presence in town, there had been a lack of trust with youth workers and adults and the rest of their summer work was quiet. They did hold a HAF day and now have a strong presence in school, visiting Lacon Childe once a week during lunchtimes. There is more engagement with young people again which is building trust. Mr Nielsen said that the results of a survey of young people found that many did not feel safe with certain groups of other young people. Cllr James commented that some older people do not feel as safe after the incident last summer and we need to work on improving the image of Cleobury as being a safe place. Cllr Brown stated that the Strengthening Families meetings are working to find solutions to the issues facing young people and it would be helpful if the three strands of youth workers could map out what they do in Cleobury so that we could lobby Shropshire Council for support with any gaps. Mr Nielsen will come back to Town Council meetings on a quarterly basis and also attend the Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings.

**03.02.23 Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Alex Smith – family commitment.

Cllr Neil Tysall – working.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – leave.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – at Wheathill Parish Council meeting.

**03.03.23 Declaration of interests.**

Cllr Brown and Cllr Buck declared their interests in Agenda items under 03.08.23 regarding Food Bank finances and took no part in these items when discussed.

**03.04.23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, duly signed by the Chair.

**03.05.23 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

**Highways & Paths**

The two planters outside the Parish Hall and three planters on the cobbled area have been installed and have been well received. There has been minimal parking on the pavement near the cobbles but we have had more Police and Traffic Enforcement visits to address the issues.

New SmartWater signs are on order for both ends of town.

Sections of the wooden fence at the bottom of Cleobury Meadows adjacent to the footpath is broken. It is not Shropshire Council's responsibility and has been taken up with the Housing Association.

The water leak below Mawley Oak Garage has been reported again to Severn Trent who have stated that the fire hydrant needs replacing.

The overgrown hedges at Childe Road and at the back of Childe Road West Car Park have been reported again to Shropshire Council. We have asked some residents to cut back hedges back for pedestrian safety and visual amenity and these have been actioned.

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



### **Community issues**

Following up from the public meeting held last summer at the Parish Hall there was a Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Parish Hall. It was police led and had representatives from the Town Council, Shropshire Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Cleobury Primary School. Members of the public had the opportunity to speak with various organisations about any issues or concerns and the meeting went well. It was agreed to hold these meetings more regularly. The next one will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, at 7pm. All the Youth Leaders will be encouraged to attend.

We have now got enough people to start the Community Speed Watch initiative and this has been requested with the Speed Watch Co-ordinator and the local SNT. The first stage will involve speed surveys and site assessments.

Two youth groups were keen to apply for the Thriving Communities Fund and as such a joint application has been submitted from the Town Council to fund further youth work and family support.

### **Public Toilets**

The public toilets have not been open at weekends since last year when there were numerous incidents of theft and anti-social behaviour. It was agreed to trial weekend opening again for one month and also check the toilets during the day. This will be reviewed in April.

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

- Cllr Burns spoke with the Primary School Head at the PACT meeting. They were looking for some funding to create a sensory garden at the school. Council would consider any proposals put forward to see if the project would be eligible for Council funding.
- Cllr Brown has produced the Food Bank Annual Report and sent a copy to all councillors. It was noted that donations of food are not meeting demand and the Food Bank is using funds to purchase supplies. There has been a further increase in users and many more referrals. There will be a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March to look at becoming independent and have charitable status. Mrs Smith has been in contact about the Festival. Council agreed there needs to be regular meetings and more support from the Council. Cllr Greaves will be the main supporting councillor on the Festival Working Group. Cllr Brown reported that the defibrillator had been used recently and suggested that a second defibrillator towards the top end of town would be useful especially as Cleobury is expanding. Mrs McBride will ask if the Co-op or Medical Centre would be willing to house a public-access defibrillator. Cllr Brown asked for the ex-Clerk's emails to be closed down. Cllr Brown has received Cllr Smith's resignation letter. Mrs McBride will prepare the casual vacancy notice and notify Shropshire Council.
- Cllr Greaves commented on the volume of parking outside the Manor House on Saturday evening. It was the worst he had ever seen.

### **03.07.23 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

The Unitary Councillors had sent their March report which had been distributed. There were no comments.

### **03.08.23 Financial Matters.**

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

ORP Surveillance – moving CCTV system - £3,780.00  
Coeval – Supply and install vehicle activated signs - £6,019.00  
SALC – Councillor training courses - £105.00  
National Grid – Street lighting service transfer - £724.14  
Market Hall Trust – Meeting Room Hire - £20.00  
Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall – Room Hire for PACT meeting - £52.50  
M J Green Carpentry – Planters for High Street and Lower Street - £1,563.75

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

Cleobury Country – Office Rent - £1,199.99  
Market Hall Trust – Food Bank Rent and Room Hire - £600.00

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



- b) Council noted receipt of the following income:**  
Shropshire Council – CIL Local receipt - £20,511.39  
Food Bank Donations - £125.00  
Bank Interest - £85.80  
Cemetery Receipt - £250.00  
Parish Hall – court costs - £200.00  
Horticultural Society – donation towards lime trees - £900.00
- c) Council RESOLVED to approve the following Debit Card payments made:**  
Currys – Food Bank Slow Cookers - £41.98  
Currys – Office Supplies - £17.99  
Catering Hygiene – Food Bank Trolley - £113.99  
Viking – Office Supplies - £41.96  
Amazon – Cleaning supplies, bunting and flags - £203.70
- d) Budget for 2023-24.**  
The Chair signed the approved budget for 2023-24. This will be published on the website with a note explaining the cost per household will remain the same as the current year.
- e) Grass-cutting contracts for 2023 and 2024.**  
Council reviewed the quotes and confirmed the work will be split between two contractors.
- f) Cleobury Festival Budget.**  
Council reviewed the budget for this year's Festival and agreed to increase the budget by £2,500.
- g) Asset Register.**  
Council reviewed the Asset Register as being correct and up-to-date. The faulty office shredder will be written off.
- h) Bleed control kits for First Responder and Defibrillator Cabinet.**  
Council agreed to purchase two bleed control kits – one for the First Responder and one to be placed in the Defibrillator Cabinet.
- i) Litter bin for Cemetery parking area.**  
Council agreed to purchase a litter bin for the Cemetery parking area.
- 03.09.23 Planning Matters.**
- a) New Planning Application:**
1. Reference: 23/00359/FUL (validated: 06/02/2023)  
Address: Industrial Unit, New House Farm, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8RD  
Proposal: Change of use from bakery to a car repair workshop with associated MOT testing facility  
Applicant: Mr A Robinson (C/O Agent, 24 St Johns Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1JJ)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection subject to there being conditions to control parking, prohibiting the dismantling of motor vehicles for spares and strict waste management procedures.
- b) Planning Decision (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**
1. Reference: 22/00699/OUT (validated: 01/03/2022)  
Address: Proposed Dwelling SW Of Upper Dudnill Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire  
Proposal: Outline application (access for consideration) for the erection of one dwelling for agricultural worker  
Decision: Grant Permission.

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



- 
- 03.10.23 Training and Development Policy.**  
Council RESOLVED to approve the updated policy.
- 03.11.23 West Mercia Police Local Policing Community Charter and local policing priorities.**  
West Mercia Police's Local Policing Community Charter had been distributed to all council members. Council agreed that the three local policing priorities for Cleobury Mortimer are drugs, anti-social driving and other traffic offences.
- 03.12.23 Boundary fence between Childe Road West Car Park and Footpath.**  
Council discussed the proposal to seek permission from Shropshire Council to install a new path from Childe Road West Car Park to Footpath 0518/61/2 (Lacon Childe to Catherton Road) with appropriate steps, bollard-style solar lighting and a grit bin. It was felt that a better option would be to clear the overgrown broken fence and install a new secure metal fence. This would improve the whole area, make it more open and reduce the anti-social behaviour that occurs here. Mrs McBride will seek permission from Shropshire Council for this work.
- 03.13.23 Signage for Council planters on High Street and Lower Street.**  
Council agreed that two local businesses could install a sign on a planter on the cobbled area on the High Street. The Town Council will install a Love Cleobury sign on the Council's planters. The Parish Hall Committee have confirmed that they will look after the two planters outside the Parish Hall.
- 03.14.23 Action Log Review – Cllr Brown.**  
Council went through the Action Log and the following updates were noted:  
Highway matters – Planters have been installed at the front of the Parish Hall and on the cobbled area off the High Street.  
Love Lane Play Area – Cllr Greaves and Cllr James will look into a joint project with local voluntary groups such as the Men's Shed and the Horticultural Society to install an arbour for shelter with suitable planting to provide a sheltered area.  
Bus Shelters – two replacement bus shelters are on order.  
QEII Park – there will be a scoping exercise for improvements to the Park.
- 03.15.23 Date of next Town Council meeting.**  
**The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 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 8.59pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 9.01pm.**

---

- 03.16.23 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group.**  
There was a discussion covering current employment issues.

- 03.17.23 Market Hall – Cllr Brown.**  
There was a discussion regarding the management of the Market Hall Trust.

**Meeting closed at 9.18pm.**

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

*3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023*  
Date.....