



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr John Greaves (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth and Cllr Sally Burns.
Town Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The Vice-Chair Cllr Neil Tysall welcomed everyone to the May meeting.

05.01.23 Election of Chair

Cllr John Greaves was elected Chair and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Tysall thanked Cllr Greaves for putting himself forward and taking on the role of Chair.

05.02.23 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Neil Tysall was elected Vice-Chair and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

05.03.23 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Patrick Buck – work.

05.04.23 Democratic Public Time.

There were two members of public present.

Mr Smith thanked the Council for the new planters on the High Street and the Union Jack bunting and flags. Mr Smith has written a report in response to the planning application for the proposed new sewage treatment plant. He raised three issues including the lack of screening, lack of recognition of the wildlife corridors as stated in the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan and a requirement to have more trees planted generally. Mr Duley stated that the quality of the river water must be improved.

Cllr Butler stated the applicant will need to balance need against delivery of the project but the new site would resolve complaints about smell at Yeldside and the numbers of tankers taking waste away.

Cllr Harris was also concerned about the amount of effluent being discharged into the river and that the river quality must be monitored before and after release of effluent. He does not feel there is enough monitoring and measurement of water quality currently.

05.05.23 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Hainsworth declared an interest in Agenda item 05.11.23 (b) - the Parish Hall grant application.

05.06.23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023.

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

05.07.23 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mrs McBride gave the following update:

Highways & Paths

The new WSP officer has been asked for plans and timescales for work on the A4117 through the parish but especially the proposed new footpath between Catherton Road and Vaughan Road junctions.

The Unitary councillors have been asked for support with chasing Shropshire Council to arrange the proper grounds maintenance of the town's verges and trees. This work should be under a maintenance schedule and even reporting through Fix My Street has resulted in no action. A meeting has been requested to discuss the level of grounds maintenance we can expect this year from Shropshire Council to best understand what they are responsible for and what they will be able to do. We could then work out a plan with them on the best use of the Environmental Maintenance Grant we have received.

Street Lights

We have had a number of streetlights fail recently – most are straightforward to repair but we may need to cut the hedge back further up Bull Alley to reach Light No.60. Our contractors have proposed we remove some fence panels so that they can fix Light No.50 on Church Walk. This is not practical as it is a privately owned fence and other options have been requested from the contractors.

Initials....**JG**.....



Playing Field

We have been invited to attend a meeting with the Primary School about the on-going parking concerns and also the use of the Playing Field.

Bus Shelters on High Street

Two new bus shelters have been installed on High Street. We are just awaiting new seats and the reinstatement of the Shropshire Council bus signs. These should be installed within two weeks. Replacement timetables have been ordered from Shropshire Council - we have printed some temporary ones to cover until the official ones are displayed.

Defibrillators

Cleobury Medical Centre partners are in agreement with us installing a defibrillator on their building but wanted some more details which have been supplied. The Town Council would fund all costs.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Friday 19th May at the Cleobury Country Centre.

Lloyds Bank Mandate

The updated bank mandate has not yet been approved but Cllr Hainsworth will go to the Bank to resolve this.

QEII Park

Following a query in relation to this land, it has been confirmed that the land is registered with Land Registry. The Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust is all in order and a replacement plaque has been ordered.

Coronation

For the next Agenda, there will be an item to discuss whether to purchase a formal Coronation Plaque for the town, but also consider planting a tree or installing another item to mark to Coronation.

Severn Trent public 'Drop In' for the proposed new sewage plant

Severn Trent have arranged a public session for Tuesday 30th May at the Cleobury Country Centre 5-8pm.

05.08.23 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas.

- Cllr Hainsworth commented that the situation with pot holes on the Tenbury Road is not getting better and serious work needs to be undertaken before there is an accident. Only a few of the holes were filled and the temporary repairs do not last. Cllr James confirmed that a few holes have been marked out for repair again but not all of them.
- Cllr Greaves asked if Council could look at re-launching the Dementia-friendly town initiative with training and promotion to improve awareness of the various symptoms of dementia. Cllr Greaves confirmed that Festival planning is going well. Posters and banners have been put up and flyers delivered to houses around town. The organisers are doing well and meeting again in a few weeks. Cllr Greaves noted that there has still not been any notification of the inspector for the Neighbourhood Plan and will chase this up. Cllr Greaves noted the road is sinking again on the A4117 between Castle Toot and Mawley. This has been reported to Shropshire Council.
- Cllr Tysall requested more traffic enforcement regarding cars parked on the pavements in the evenings, which could potentially cause an issue for emergency vehicles driving through the town. The pavement outside the Manor House and Lower Street Garage are often completely blocked forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. A Royal Mail vehicle regularly parks on the pavement by the cobbles on the High Street when the operative is collecting the post even though they can park outside the Post Office on the other side of the road when collecting mail from the Post Office shop. This is unacceptable and has been reported to the Post Office for action. Cllr Burns asked if the Post Office can provide cover for when the Postmaster is on leave, so that the Post Office remains open. It is noted that this is not possible due to the contracts involved.

05.09.23 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

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

Cllr Butler highlighted the requirement for Voter ID at elections. Cllr Butler has made enquiries regarding the Clerk's request for a street maintenance meeting but Kier's contract is being reviewed currently so we will have to wait. The division boundary review is out for consultation. It is being proposed to split the current two-member ward. Cleobury would be with Milson, Neen Sollars and Coreley and the other parishes grouped under a Stottesdon Ward. Government inspectors are still considering Shropshire Council's Local Plan.

There are discussions underway about whether Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin would become part of the West Midlands Combined Authority or alternatively join with Hereford and Worcestershire.

Cllr Harris has spoken with Mullers who have announced the final closure of their business in town. There will be discussions about the future of the land which is designated as business land.

Initials.....**JG**.....



05.10.23 Annual Review of Council Procedures and Committees.

- a) Council reviewed their roles on Working Groups, Committees, Community Groups and appointments to External Organisations which were approved as follows:

Council Committees and Working Groups	Representatives
Market Hall Committee	All councillors
Finance Committee	Cllr Greaves, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr James
Employment Working Group	Cllr Burns, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Buck
Disciplinary and Grievance Working Group	Cllr Greaves, Cllr Tysall
Complaints Working Group	Cllr Greaves, Cllr Tysall
Emergency Planning Working Group	Cllr Tysall, Cllr Greaves, Cllr James, Cllr Buck
Policies Working Group	Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Buck
Risk Management Working Group	Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Greaves, Cllr James
Love Cleobury Groups	Representatives
Environmental Impact Working Group	Cllr Greaves
Cleobury Festival Working Group	Cllr Greaves
Christmas Working Group	Cllr Tysall, Cllr James
External Organisations	Representatives
Childe's School Endowment Fund	Cllr Buck
Cyril Edgar Berrington Trust	
Shropshire Association of Local Councils	
Non-Councillor Appointments	
Tree Warden	Mr C Smith
Flag Man	Dr M Baldwin
Transport Champion	Mr S Todd

- b) The following dates for Town Council meetings for the forthcoming year were approved as follows:

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 2 nd May 2023
Annual Town Meeting	Friday 19 th May 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 5 th June 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 3 rd July 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 7 th August 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 4 th September 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 2 nd October 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 6 th November 2023
Town Council Meeting	Monday 4 th December 2023
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 2 nd January 2024
Town Council Meeting	Monday 5 th February 2024
Town Council Meeting	Monday 4 th March 2024
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 2 nd April 2024
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 7 th May 2024

Initials....**JG**.....



05.11.23 Financial Matters.

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

Clebury Country – Meeting Room Hire – £45.00
ORP Surveillance – Annual Maintenance Contract - £5,880.00
N J Plumbing & Heating – Replacement parts to Toilets & Cemetery tap – £413.62
Mrs D McBride – Reimbursement for Festival Flyers and Posters - £421.10
Clebury Clarion – Festival Adverts - £67.00
Anthony Arnold – Festival Entertainment - £250.00
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
Alan Guest – Grass Cutting - £788.56
R Price – Grass Cutting - £1,170.00

b) Capital Receipt Grant Application:

Clebury Mortimer Parish Hall – Project to restore bell-cote - £1,675.00.
Council discussed the proposals and resolved to support the application with the reassurance that this long-term project will ensure the viability of the Hall for the future.

c) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £1,080.00
Bank Interest - £90.01
HMRC – VAT Refund - £4,558.29

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

Londis – Stamps - £15.20
Post Office – postage - £6.85
Cleoburrs – tools - £9.58
Land Registry – Title information - £6.00
Gallaghers – Grass seed - £7.50
Bill White Nurseries – Plants and Compost - £20.35
Clebury Cafe – Refreshments volunteers - £36.90
Food Bank Petty Cash and Vouchers - £440.00

05.12.23 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Application:

- Reference: 23/00908/MAW (validated: 31/03/2023)
Address: Proposed Sewage Treatment Works north of Station Road, Clebury Mortimer
Proposal: Change of use of land for sewerage undertakings and the installation of an Activated Sludge Plant (ASP) based Sewage Treatment Works (STW)
Applicant: Severn Trent Water Ltd (C/O Agent)
Outcome: Council thanked Mr Smith, Tree Warden for his report.
Council RESOLVED to make a representation based on the positive solutions in the planning application to address the under capacity of the current treatment plant but will also ask for improvements to the environment and biodiversity as well as improved landscaping and the planting of additional trees especially for screening. We would like to see full recognition of our Neighbourhood Plan and the value of the Wildlife Corridors. We feel there should be improvements to the access being proposed for vehicles entering/exiting the site but also an extension of the 30mph zone to Castle Toot. We would expect full implementation and subsequent monitoring of noise and odour control measures as well as monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of the site.

05.13.23 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Grant Award Scheme.

Council reviewed and RESOLVED to adopt the updated Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Grant Award Scheme.

Initials....**JG**.....



05.14.23 Planters to improve the visual amenity and help reduce parking on pavements in town.
Cllr Tysall stated the planters already installed have been a resounding success – they look good and add colour to the High Street as well as prevent parking on the pavements. The planters could be adopted by local businesses. Traffic enforcement and reporting to Operation Snap is still important as there are still many issues of inconsiderate parking on pavements. Council RESOLVED to purchase two further planters to improve pedestrian safety and visual amenity in the centre of town.

05.15.23 Action Log Review.

Council went through the Action Log and the following updates were noted:
Highway matters – continue to chase up Shropshire Council officers for various issues and further parking enforcement visits, WSP for the Highways project schedule, Police for speed checks and site assessments for Community Speed Watch and Prysmian for a street light meeting regarding upgrades and maintenance.
Bus Shelters – two replacement shelters installed – seats and timetables outstanding.
QEII Park – quotes for tree survey to help prepare for maintenance and improvements to the Park.
Love Lane Play Area – options to provide shade. Cllr Greaves will prepare terms of reference for what is needed.

05.16.23 Date of next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th June 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 9.06pm there was a short break and the meeting reconvened at 9.13pm.

05.17.23 Employment Matters – Employment Working Group.

There was a discussion covering current employment issues.
The new Deputy Town Clerk is starting on Monday 8th May.

05.18.23 Market Hall.

There was a discussion regarding the management of the Market Hall Trust.
The new Market Hall Manager started on Monday 1st May.

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed:.....*J Greaves*.....Chair

5th June 2023
Date.....