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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

**Present:**

Cllr John Greaves (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Patrick Buck, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Ken Walsh, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Martin Winward, Cllr Graziano Abbatiello and Town Clerk Mrs D McBride.

The Chair, Cllr John Greaves welcomed everyone to the January meeting.

**01.01.24 Apologies for absence.**

Unitary Cllrs Gwilym Butler.  
Cllr Phil Clarke – work.

**01.02.24 Declaration of interests.**

Cllr Buck declared an interest in Agenda items relating to the Food Bank and the Kings Arms.

**01.03.24 Public Participation Session.**

There were three members of public present. Points raised from the public session:

- A resident asked if wood chip could be put on the path from the Playing Field to the Workhouse Field and also from the Sports and Social Club to the south entrance of the QEII Park.
- Concerns were raised that Fryers Close access has not been adopted by Shropshire Council and that this should be raised in the Town Council's comments to the planning application. Also, it was felt that the required reports with the application have not been submitted which invalidates the application.
- Council was asked why the streets were being cleaned and who was paying for this. This work is being done to make the pedestrian areas cleaner and safer and encourage others to do their bit to improve the visual amenity around town. The cleaning is being funded under the Environmental Maintenance Grant scheme. Council was thanked for doing this work for the community.
- Mr Smith, Tree Warden thanked the Council for providing the Task and Finish Group's report on river quality.
- Mr Smith raised concerns regarding the planning application for Cleobury Garage due to biodiversity and environmental matters.

**01.04.24 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023, duly signed by the Chair.

**01.05.24 Matters arising from the Minutes / Update since last Council meeting.**

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. It was noted that there have been increasing numbers of dog fouling incidents. Post Office has been contacted and is investigating why the local branch did not open in December as announced.
- b) Committee Reports
  - Cllr Abbatiello had sent through a safety review which was available to Council members.
  - Cllr Tysall confirmed the Christmas lights are being taken down this Sunday and stored in the Market Hall loft. New containers will be purchased to enable easy lifting into the loft. The Christmas Working Group will meet soon to discuss plans for this year.
  - Cllr Tysall felt the lack of a 24-hour ATM since Lloyds Bank closed is disappointing for our community. Even Link are now saying there is only one ATM in our area.
  - Cllr Winward confirmed the winner of the Christmas window was Severn Hospice based on creativity and effort. There were many notable displays including Red Hare and the Chiropractor.
  - Cllr Winward met residents who are being affected by water run-off from the Lacon Childe field area. Cllr Winward has asked the school for a meeting to discuss this. Cllr Winward will also ask the Primary School if they would like any wood from the QEII Park for nature projects.

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c) Councillor Updates

- Cllr Hainsworth noted the gulley cleaning machine has been out but has not actioned any of the major drainage issues previously reported.
- Cllr Hainsworth felt disappointed with the lack of attendance of Cllr Butler at our meetings. Whilst there is no legal requirement for Unitary Councillors to attend our meetings, he felt that our community deserved better. He thanked Cllr Harris for attending though. Cllr Harris confirmed that they do get round the parish meetings and that he will continue to do his best to help liaise between Shropshire Council and us. He stated that Cllr Butler has helped to get drainage engineers out to Pinkham after recent flooding and also, he has pressed WSP to ensure the requested pavement near the Medical Centre is properly considered and evaluated rather than WSP's preferred option of another zebra crossing.
- Cllr James felt there was no management and quality control of the gulley/drain cleaning work and this should be managed better by Shirehall. Cllr Harris will take this up with the new Head of Highways. Cllr James noted there is a lot of surface water run-off from the New House Farm estate and that this is eroding the corner of the entrance. Cllr Harris said this will need to be investigated through planning initially.
- Cllr James asked if the lighting could be improved at the junction of Tenbury Road and Eagle Lane due to suspected drug-dealing activity. Our contractors will be asked for options.
- Cllr Tysall asked for National Grid to be chased about the supply issues to a light in Grove Meadow.
- Cllr Greaves noted the Police and Crime Commissioner elections are this year and encouraged people to have their say regarding policing.
- Cllr Abbatiello went through his safety review. Due to the various responsible parties Cllr Abbatiello was advised to follow this up with the Clerk.
- Cllr Winward noted that the new Vape shop is also selling sweets. Whilst this practice is not illegal it brought about a discussion on whether shop owners have some responsibility to clear rubbish dropped by their customers in the town. It was agreed that the Council's maintenance staff could do more litter-picking in targeted areas.
- Cllr Walsh asked if there was any update on the reported incident where someone's foot had been driven over outside the Manor House. The Council had heard nothing about this.

**01.06.24 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which has been distributed to all members. Cllr Harris encouraged everyone to have their say on Shropshire Council's budget consultation. Cllr Greaves felt there should be operational efficiencies rather than cuts to services. Cllr Harris hopes there will be noticeable improvements in communications with Highways and Streetscene. Flooding Grants are available from Shropshire Council. Cllr Harris will contact our Tree Warden about river concerns and the wildlife corridors.

**01.07.24 Financial Matters.**

**a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following invoices for payment:**

Cleobury Country – Office Rent (December – February) - £1,199.99  
Jamie Williams – Maintenance work on toilets - £240.00  
ORP Surveillance – CCTV repairs - £1,122.00  
A Wakeman – Christmas Lights electrical work - £186.00  
Morris, Bufton & Co – Maintenance Supplies - £127.72  
Cleobury Inns Ltd T/A The Kings Arms – replacement cheque - £40.00  
Payments for invoices received after the Agenda was published:  
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire (December) - £95.00  
R Price – Cemetery grass cutting (November) - £480.00

**b) Council noted receipt of the following income:**

Food Bank Donations - £70.00  
Parish Hall – court costs instalment - £100.00  
Bank Interest - £215.87

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

Amazon – Maintenance Supplies – £121.37  
A E Evans – Spares for Play Area Equipment - £83.34  
Co-operative – Christmas Activity Supplies - £12.80  
Cleoburrs – Christmas Activity Equipment - £10.95  
Petty Cash top up - £200.00.

**d) Maintenance/re-surfacing repairs to Skate Park equipment.**

Council reviewed the quotations received for repairs to the Skate Park equipment. Due to the disparity in prices and options received from suppliers, Cllr Winward will work with the Clerk and put together a formal specification for work required based on the RoSPA report.

**01.09.24 Planning Matters.**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

1. Reference: 23/05112/FUL (validated: 29/11/2023)  
Address: 3 Rockley Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8AP  
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to side elevation  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs T. Farrell  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 23/05119/PIP (validated: 11/12/2023)  
Address: Cleobury Garage, 15B High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DG  
Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle for construction of up to 3No. dwellings  
Applicant: Mr Denis McGindley (C/O Agent)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposals as insufficient information has been provided with the application to enable a full assessment of the impact of the proposals within the Conservation Area and the neighbouring Grade II\* Manor House. Council is concerned about biodiversity, drainage, the proximity of Pudding Brook as well as access. Council will draw the applicant's and Planning Officer's attention to the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan which has recently passed the community Referendum stage.
3. Reference: 23/05279/FUL (validated: 05/12/2023)  
Address: Proposed Residential Development Land to the east of Fryers Close, Cleobury Mortimer.  
Proposal: Erection of 2No. dwellings and associated garages  
Applicant: Blue Square Assets (Mr Sodhi, Harpal House, 14 Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0LT)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposals raising concerns about biodiversity and drainage. Council will also draw the applicant's and Planning Officer's attention to the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan which has recently passed the community Referendum stage. The tree-lined footpath to the north of this site has been designated as a Wildlife Corridor and as such Council is concerned about the lack of information supplied on how the applicant will protect and improve biodiversity.

**b) Planning Appeal:**

1. Planning Reference: 23/00912//FUL. Appeal Reference: 23/03213/REF  
Address: Lyndas Field, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 9DX  
Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling (with retention of original building) and installation of package treatment plant.  
Applicant: Ms Sandra Whitmore.  
Outcome: Council felt it had no comment to make on this appeal.

**c) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):**

1. Reference: 23/04195/LBC (validated: 25/10/2023)  
Address: Radnor Cottage, 3A Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BN  
Proposal: Works to install a woodburner on the ground floor and flue to bracket on to the exterior of an existing chimney affecting a Grade II Listed Building  
Decision: Grant Permission.

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2. Reference: 23/04771/TCA (validated: 31/10/2023)  
Address: St Marys Churchyard, Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BX  
Proposal: Works to a number of trees (see schedule) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area  
Decision: No Objection.

**01.09.24 Annual Parish Meeting**

Council agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on either Friday 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> April at the Market Hall from 6.30 – 8.30pm subject to Hall availability. There will be information on proposed improvements to the QEII Park and Playing Field, headlines about the Neighbourhood Development Plan as well as presentations by community groups.

**01.10.24 Action Log Review - Cllr Greaves.**

Due to time constraints, the Action Log was deferred until the next meeting.

**01.11.24 Date of the next Town Council meeting.**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**At 8.39pm there was a short break for members of the public to leave the meeting.**

**The Meeting reconvened at 8.40pm.**

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2)**

The public and press shall be excluded from the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 12 and 13.

**01.12.24 Employment Matters – Cllr Greaves.**

Council were pleased to note that Mrs Anna Shaw has been appointed as Deputy Town Clerk.

**01.13.24 Tree Management Works – Cllr Greaves.**

Council reviewed the tree management contract and agreed to progress a solution to enable the tree work to be completed.

**Meeting closed at 9.05pm.**

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

*5<sup>th</sup> February 2024*  
Date.....