



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr John Greaves (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Ken Walsh, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Graziano Abbatiello, Town Clerk Mrs D McBride and Deputy Town Clerk Mrs A Shaw.

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

02.01.24 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Martin Winward – work.
Cllr Phil Clarke – work.

02.02.24 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Tysall declared an interest in Agenda item 02.07.24 – reimbursement.

02.03.24 Public Participation Session.

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

- A resident raised concerns that the speed limits in town are not being adhered to by drivers. The Town Council has asked Shropshire Council to start the process to review the speed limits at either end of town and also on Tenbury Road. The main road would be reviewed near the Cemetery should the Neighbourhood Plan go ahead. The Clerk will raise a Freedom of Information request with West Mercia Police to ask what speed monitoring has taken place in Cleobury and whether these have been on the back of incidents or reports only.
- Council was informed that the Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff were coming to Cleobury on February 14th. If anyone is interested, they are meeting at the Manor House, then following a programme to look at other properties, visit the CoCo coffee morning at the Market Hall and then go onto Cleobury Community Hub.
- Council was asked if the algae could be cleared from the water in the Wells and unblock the drain. This will be done. The signage will be attended to as part of the refurbishment of the Wells.
- There are ongoing concerns about the state of some of the hedges/fences of properties which back onto the path from Lacon Childe to Cleobury Meadows. Council note that landowners have previously been asked to attend to these and will be chased up.

02.04.24 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk's Office Report.
 - b) Committee Reports
- Cllr Abbatiello commented that the Heras fence to the rear of Enderby is loose. The rubber mats at the steps from the Playing Field to the QEII Park may be in the way of grass cutting. It was agreed to keep them for the remainder of the winter and review this as part of our review of the QEII Park and Playing Field over the summer.
 - Cllr Greaves noted the Festival date of June 22nd and asked for volunteers for the Steering Group. Cllr James offered support.
 - Cllr Tysall noted the Christmas Lights Working Group had met on 1st February and discussed the infrastructure and people resources required for this year. Quotes for power infrastructure will be sought for the next Agenda.
 - Cllr Greaves had met with Food Bank representatives on 26th January. It is sobering to note that a Food Bank is needed in our community and Cllr Greaves asked for Council's support for the Food Bank charity, also for members to go along to the Food Bank on Friday mornings to see what they do.

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c) Councillor Updates

- Cllr James raised concerns that gully cleaning has not been carried out fully in Tenbury Road. Cllr Butler asked for the Fix My Street reference numbers for the issues so that he can chase this up. Cllr James stated there should be a systematic programme of effective maintenance to ensure all drains and gullies are functioning properly. This sporadic reporting system is not working effectively.
- Cllr Walsh noted some positive action via Fix My Street when a pothole on Childe Road had been repaired within two days of being reported.
- Cllr Hainsworth raised concerns that there are potholes and a collapsed drain on the recently resurfaced road from Mawley Oak to Lem Hill. Also, that the road sinkage near the junction with the B4201 has not been attended to.
- Cllr Greaves reminded members of the importance of Councillor training. There are a variety of courses available.

02.06.24 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which has been distributed to all members. Cllr Butler asked if the Town Council would support a donation of £100 for the Cleobury Men's Shed. The Charity is also looking for a new volunteer Treasurer. There is a meeting of the Childe Endowment Fund trustees on Friday 23rd February. Cllr Butler asked if the Council will arrange the booking with the Market Hall. Cllr Butler informed the meeting that Shropshire Council need to save a further £62m in the next financial year and they will be looking to us to help with solutions. Following concerns raised by the Town Council regarding disposable vapes being sold alongside sweets, Cllr Butler commented that new legislation regarding disposable vapes is coming into effect in 2027. It was felt this was too long and needs implementing sooner especially with the health issues and environmental problems of littering. It was noted that Trading Standards can look into any reported breaches of current legislation. Cllr Butler would welcome an informal meeting with the Chairman at the Community Hub.

Cllr Harris confirmed he has followed up with Severn Trent Water (STW) and they assured him they do monitor what goes into the river. There was some discussion on whether water quality monitoring should be conditions of planning rather than relying on Environment Agency (EA) monitoring. The EA will be invited to an open day session with STW.

02.07.24 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society – Allotments Insurance - £529.97

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (January) - £30.00

Amity Arborists – Tree Work in Play Area and Playing Field - £1,230.00

Market Hall Trust – Room Hire (January) - £75.00.

Mr N Tysall – Reimbursement Christmas storage and refreshments - £60.96

Payments made since last meeting:

Signal Traffic Management – Traffic Management for Play Area tree work - £3,627.00

Alan Guest – Street Cleaning (EMG) - £960.00

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £100.00

Parish Hall – court costs instalment - £100.00

Bank Interest - £162.46

Christmas Fayre income - £90.00

Cemetery Fees - £1,200.00

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

Amazon – Office and Maintenance Supplies – £245.44

123 Reg – Website - £71.99

Viking – Office and Maintenance Supplies - £391.21

Mumfords – Maintenance Supplies - £31.57

Purslows – Maintenance Supplies - £20.50

Petty Cash top up - £200.00

d) Council noted the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2024.

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- e) **Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed Budget for 2024-25.** The Finance Committee Chairman noted the Precept had not been increased for eight years due to careful management of the finances. As more is expected by the community, increasing costs of maintenance and services as well as more work with Shropshire Council the Precept will need to rise. The Precept was set at £140,000.
- f) **Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024-25.** Cemetery and CCTV access fees will increase but the Playing Field Hire charges will remain the same.

02.08.24 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 23/05467/REM (validated: 20/12/2023)
Address: Proposed Dwelling SW Of Upper Dudnill Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to 22/00699/OUT for the erection of one dwelling for agricultural worker, to include a detached garage.
Applicant: Morris (Upper Dudnill Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0DH).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 24/00138/FUL (validated: 15/01/2024)
Address: Proposed Holiday Let Accommodation East Of B4202, Beach Hay, Cleobury Mortimer.
Proposal: Development of glamping site comprising bell tents, log cabin, ten pitch camp site (Cross Border Application)
Applicant: Dr Penelope Wadey (Woodside Farm, Beach Hay, Bayton, DY14 9NE).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposals. Council is concerned that this application will have a significant and detrimental effect on the Wyre Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The application is lacking in information relating to this potential impact and the mitigation measures that the applicant will take, not only to protect the Wyre Forest SSSI but also what measures will be taken to enhance the biodiversity of the proposed site and its surrounding area.
3. Reference: 24/00222/AGR (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
Address: Woodside Fishery, Milson, DY14 0BU.
Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building for use as storage/workshop.
Applicant: Mr P Hughes.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to make no comment on the proposals.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 23/05014/FUL (validated: 22/11/2023)
Address: Mortimer Bungalow, Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BT
Proposal: Erection of annex
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. Reference: 23/04792/FUL (validated: 06/11/2023)
Address: Anaerobic Digester at Withypool Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0DB
Proposal: Installation of 10 lightning rods, 1 x 8.5m, 1 x 11.5m, 5 x 15.5m, 3 x 24m and a water storage tank (122,500 litres) for fire requirements
Decision: Grant Permission.
3. Reference: 23/00908/MAW (validated: 31/03/2023)
Address: Proposed Sewage Treatment Works North Of, Station Road, Cleobury Mortimer.
Proposal: Change of use of land for sewerage undertakings and the installation of an Activated Sludge Plant (ASP) based Sewage Treatment Works (STW)
Decision: Grant Permission.

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4. 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 between 1no. dwelling and 3No. dwellings.
Decision: Grant Permission.

02.09.24 Policing Priorities

Council agreed the local policing priorities for the period 1st January – 30th June 2024 for our Safer Neighbourhood Team should be 1. Anti-Social Behaviour, 2. Anti-Social Driving, 3. Wildlife and Rural Crime.

02.10.24 Action Log Review - Cllr Greaves.

Council went through the Action Log and the following updates were noted:
Highway matters – All highway issues raised with Shropshire Council have been chased up.
CCTV – Four additional volunteers will be trained to use the CCTV to assist the police with providing evidence of offences to aid their investigations.
Environmental Maintenance Grant – it is hoped that this scheme will continue into the next financial year, and the Town Council can continue with amenity improvements on Shropshire Council assets.
Wells – refurbishment project is on track but needs volunteers to push this forward and report back to the Town Council. The History Society will be contacted for support. Cllr Walsh noted that the Save the Manor House Group are looking to set up a charity to raise money for the preservation work on local historic buildings.
Christmas Lights – Cllr Tysall has prepared a report on proposals for this year.

02.11.24 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th March 2024.

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.

At 8.23pm there was a short break for members of the public to leave the meeting.

The Meeting reconvened at 8.24pm.

02.12.24 Employment Matters

Council was pleased to welcome Mrs Anna Shaw, Deputy Town Clerk to the Council meeting. There have been three applications for the Maintenance Assistant role. Candidates will be invited for interview next week.

02.13.24 Tree Management Works

Council received an update on the various tree work being undertaken. The Playing Field work is complete. Work is underway at the Cemetery and St Mary's Churchyard although additional work at the Cemetery including a bat survey is to be carried out prior to completion. The initial work on the Love Lane Play Area tree is complete but a further survey shows the tree needs to be reduced to the crown break as a minimum. This work will be carried out in March with a full road closure.

Council considered the updated quotations for the tree work in the QEII Park and approved a new contractor for the work required.

Meeting closed at 8.51pm.

J Greaves

Signed:.....Chair

4th March 2024

Date:.....