



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr John Greaves (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Martin Winward, 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 March meeting.

03.01.24 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ken Walsh.

03.02.24 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

03.03.24 Public Participation Session.

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

- A resident asked if the Council would present the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be done together with updates to confirm the current status of the NDP in the Town Council's Annual Report and on the Council's website.
- A resident asked if the Council considered the implications of hedges being removed prior to planning applications be made to develop sites. Council is aware that this happens and does inform the relevant planning officer and requests 10% biodiversity gains on planning sites.

03.04.24 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk's Office Report and that good progress had been made on many projects.
- b) Committee Reports
 - Cllr Abbatiello had prepared a safety report. The tree protectors in the QEII Park will be removed. Safety matting will be installed in front of the bin at the Bike Trail. The latch on the gate at the bottom of Cleobury Meadows will be reported to Severn Trent. The damage to the verge near the exit from the Lacon bus park will be reported to Shropshire Council.
 - Cllr Greaves noted there will be a Working Group meeting for the Festival in the next few weeks. The Festival is being held on Saturday 22nd June. Cllr Hainsworth stated that the Parish Hall are holding an 80's disco that evening to coincide with the Festival. Other venues will also be holding events that day.
- c) Councillor Updates
 - Cllr James asked about plans for the increased facilities on the Playing Field and QEII Park once all the tree work is complete. It was noted that we have obtained estimates for multi-use games areas and basketball hoops. Other ideas will be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting. Council members were keen to see more bulb and wildflower planting.
 - Cllr Tysall confirmed that the faulty streetlight in Grove Meadow has now been fixed.
 - Cllr Hainsworth noted that the boxing is going well at the Parish Hall but it is running at a loss due to the low numbers of people attending. There will be more advertising and promotion locally as well as through the local police who supported this venture to be set up. Funding from the Town Council may be sought in the future to ensure the club continues.
 - Cllr Hainsworth noted that the drains on Tenbury Road have still not all been cleared and poor repairs at the Eagle Lane junction are breaking up. Cllr James agreed with these comments and asked the Unitary councillors for help.
 - Cllr Winward was pleased to note a marked reduction in litter along the High Street and the Talbot Car Park. This needs to continue as having pride in our community is very important.
 - Cllr Winward reported on a few items raised at the recent Councillor Surgery. Thanks were expressed for the handrail which has been installed outside the Market Hall fire exit. A few people also asked if we should continue to fly the Ukraine flag now. It was agreed that this is a very difficult issue and there are also other countries also suffering from war. This matter will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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03.06.24 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which had been distributed to all members. Cllr Butler stated that the £62m of savings which Shropshire Council needs to make in the next financial year will impact communities. Quick decisions are needed from Town and Parish Councils on how they can help Shropshire Council with library, leisure, Streetscene and youth services. Cllr Butler said many of these services are not statutory; they do not need to provide them all so if we do not help them financially these services will cease. Cllr James asked about the Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) contract with Shropshire Council. Cllr Butler stated PWC could cost around £6.3m providing all the projected County Council savings are made. The stark warning is that even with the maximum permitted increases in Council Tax this will not cover social care costs going forwards, let alone other services such as highways. The huge increase in numbers of children in care and working-age adults needing support takes around 80% of Shropshire Council's income. It was noted that the Town Council already works with Shropshire Council on a number of assets, and we offer better value for money than external contractors. The Town Council agreed to form a Working Group to look at proposals from Shropshire Council once they have put some options together for us with clear, transparent financial information. Once the Working Group has looked at these proposals, they could be aired for community engagement including at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Butler commented that the Neighbourhood Development Plan will become law once the Local Plan is in place but stressed that this is not the only Plan for Cleobury as other policies also apply. The Local Plan should be adopted this year but it will not be long before additional sites for housing will need to be identified. Cllr Butler congratulated the Town Council on all the work in the QEII Park and asked if woodchip could be spread near the Workhouse paths where people have cut through the trees. Grass is overgrowing the paths in the Churchyard too. Fix My Street is generally working well but the wettest February in 200 years has not helped. Cllr Harris stated that drainage infrastructure is paramount and needs to be effectively working before roads are resurfaced. Cllr Harris is following up on reports that local police were unaware of the theft of materials from Lacon Childe School. Regarding hedges, the Nature Recovery Network is offering grants that may be of interest to those wishing to boost the environment. Tree Protection Orders can also be used to conserve trees. Cllr Tysall stated that the Environment Bill needs enforcement, but no net gains are required on sites which have previously been cleared.

03.07.24 Financial Matters.

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

Prysmian – Street Light maintenance - £756.00
A Wakeman – Electrical work at toilets - £30.00
Wicksteed Leisure – Spares for Play Equipment - £52.39
Groundwork UK – Return unspent Neighbourhood Plan grant - £1,099.52
Cleobury FoodBank – Donations received for Food Bank - £170.00
R Price – Tree Work in QEII Park - £11,500.00
SALC – Training Course - £95.00.

Additional Payments for invoices received after the Agenda was published:

Cleobury Country Limited – Office Rent and Room Hire - £1,229.99
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire (February) - £62.50.

b) Council RESOLVED to approve the following S.137 grant application:

Market Hall Trust - £500.00 - Food Bank support.

c) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Parish Hall – court costs instalment - £100.00
Bank Interest - £129.83.

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

Eco Green Communities – Dog Waste Bags – £88.20
Viking – Office Supplies - £76.40
Screwfix – Maintenance Supplies - £261.75
Ebay – Maintenance Supplies - £50.93.

e) The Chairman signed the approved budget for 2024-25.

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f) Christmas lights

Council agreed in principle, to purchase additional Christmas lights, further structural equipment (including load testing requirements), more power supplies and make improvements to timers. It was noted it is not cost effective to use streetlight columns for displays. Sponsorship will be considered for the new lights.

03.08.24 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 24/00535/FUL (validated: 15/02/2024)
Address: Bransley Cottage, Bransley, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0BZ
Proposal: Change of use of garden room to holiday let accommodation.
Applicant: Mrs Sharon Handy (Bransley Cottage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0BZ).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 24/00389/FUL (validated: 07/02/2024)
Address: Iona, 4 Furlongs Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of single-storey side and rear extension.
Applicant: Ms S Allen.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.
3. Reference: 24/00692/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.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

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.
Decision: Refuse.
2. 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 (following removal of garage).
Decision: Grant Permission.
3. Reference: 24/00222/AGR
Address: Woodside Fishery, Milson, DY14 0BU.
Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building for use as storage/workshop.
Applicant: Mr P Hughes.
Decision: Refused.
4. Reference: 24/00138/FUL (validated: 15/01/2024)
Address: Proposed Holiday Let Accommodation East of B4202, Beach Hay, Cleobury Mortimer
Proposal: Development for the siting of one log cabin and two bell tents to be used for glamping holiday accommodation at Woodside Farm together with a ten-pitch camp site and mobile toilet and shower facilities (Cross Border Application - Malvern District).
Decision: Withdrawn.
5. Reference: 23/05279/FUL (validated: 05/12/2023)
Address: Proposed Residential Development Land to The East Of, Fryers Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of 2No. dwellings and associated garages.
Decision: Grant Permission.

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03.09.24 Policies and Procedures

1. Council RESOLVED to adopt the Risk Management Policy and updated Risk Assessments. Cllr Abbatiello will help put together method statements for some tasks.
2. Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated Playing Field Hire Agreement Form.
3. Council confirmed the Terms of Reference for the Market Hall Committee. Cllr Hainsworth stated that the Market Hall Manager needs more support from the Trustees to run more fund-raising events and perhaps set up a Friends of the Market Hall group.

03.10.24 D-Day 80th Commemoration

Council agreed to work with St Mary's Church and the British Legion to discuss options to mark the occasion.

03.11.24 Street Planters

Council agreed to the proposal from Flourish and Nourish to re-plant all planters along the main road with edible plants. They have funding for this project and hope that the plants will help people to become more involved with food production. The perennial plants which the Council have purchased will be transplanted in the Churchyard flower beds, Wells or QEII Park. The Flourish and Nourish Team will maintain the planters once planted and ensure safety information is displayed about the plants. Going forwards the team would like to create a community garden.

03.12.24 Action Log Review - Cllr Greaves.

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

03.13.24 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd April 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 item 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 14.

At 8.33pm there was a short break for members of the public to leave the meeting.

The Meeting reconvened at 8.46pm.

03.14.24 Employment Matters

Council noted the Maintenance Assistant vacancy has been filled and discussed future plans for the Maintenance team.

Meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed:.....Chair

Date.....