



**Cleobury  
Mortimer**  
Town Council



Cleobury Mortimer Town Council  
**Annual Report 2023-24**





# Cleobury Mortimer Parish Boundary





# Chair's Introduction



A welcoming community  
proud of its historic past  
that looks forward  
to a thriving and sustainable future.



Looking back over the past year, 2023 has once again been an incredibly challenging time for everyone in the local community due to the ongoing high cost of living which has had an impact on us all. Once again, we must thank our wonderful community volunteers who have helped many of our more vulnerable residents with food, transport, support and friendship. We are all hoping that 2024/25 will be a better year for us all!

Over the past year we have had a number of changes in the Councillor line-up with Sally Burns, Patrick Buck and Phil Clarke stepping down. We welcomed three new Councillors; Ken Walsh, Martin Winward and David Abbatiello who have already had a positive impact around the town. We also welcomed our new Deputy Town Clerk, Anna Shaw and Maintenance Assistant, Natalie Winward who joined the Town Council Staff.

The Town Council comprises of nine Councillor seats of which seven are currently filled. We are always looking for volunteers to join the team as either a Town Councillor or to join one of the Working Groups. If this is something you are interested in, please contact our Town Clerk [council@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:council@cleobury.org.uk).

One highlight from 2023 was the Town Festival held on the Sports Field in June. The weather was kind to us, and the 2,500 visitors had a very enjoyable day. We will once again be holding this free to attend event on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 where the community and visitors can once again enjoy a fun day together.

John Greaves – Chair, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council

# Vision for Cleobury 2023-2026

We would like to remind you of our vision - developed at the Town Plan Meeting January 2018.

- ❖ People of all ages live happily and enjoy a strong sense of community and the security that this brings
- ❖ There is a state-of-the-art community hub that meets the needs of all sectors of the community
- ❖ The age profile of the community will be balanced because suitable housing will be available for people and families in all phases of their lives
- ❖ There is a well-connected public transport system that allows people of all ages and mobility to travel on foot or by bus on safe, convenient and direct routes
- ❖ Access to the beautiful countryside is available to all with good connections between rural and urban areas

# Vision for Cleobury 2023-2026 (cont'd)

- ❖ There is a prosperous local economy that meets the needs of the town and surrounding villages and that provides well-paid local jobs, including working from home
- ❖ The town centre is vibrant and meets the needs of local people so that they are not forced to travel long distances to access services
- ❖ Mental and physical health is good for all members of the community because there are ample opportunities to exercise, meet others, and obtain specialist support when it is required
- ❖ There is energy self-sufficiency and the opportunity to benefit from renewable sources of energy and cleaner energy including vehicle charging points
- ❖ Green spaces are improved and enhanced
- ❖ Tourists will visit and contribute to the local economy.

We continue to invite you all to contribute to the 'Love Cleobury' initiative developed in conjunction with St. Mary's Church.

The 'Love Cleobury' initiative is to ask this community to support and care for ALL who live here.

Cleobury Mortimer is a welcoming Town that looks forward to a thriving and sustainable future.

We welcome all who live here, and also those who will join us in the years to come.

Please do what you can, however small, to let others know that they are welcome here and part of this community.

Let our guiding principle be: Never look down on someone unless you are helping them up.





- The Regulation 16 consultation was completed by Shropshire Council in March 2023 and an Independent Examiner was appointed in June 2023 to review the Neighbourhood Plan together with feedback from the public and statutory consultations.
- The Independent Examiner submitted their report to Shropshire Council in September 2023 and their recommended changes were made to the Neighbourhood Plan for final approval by Shropshire Council in October 2023.
- The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan was approved by Shropshire Council in October 2023 and Electoral Services arranged a referendum for December 2023 where residents of Cleobury Mortimer Parish, were asked – “Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”
- The result of the referendum was 84% in favour of the proposal and the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Cleobury Mortimer progressed to the final stage.
- Shropshire Council adopted the Neighbourhood Development Plan on 21st March 2024. The Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Shropshire.
- We must express our thanks to the community volunteers who gave up so much of their time over the past 5 years to make this plan a reality!

# Projects completed in 2023/24

- Installation of new Goal Posts on the Playing Field:



- Installation of Coronation plaque on the Market Hall:



- Support for the Parish Hall Bell-cote repair:



- Installation of 2 x 6 ft planters:





# Projects completed in 2023/24

- Tree Works – Following a detailed Arborists Survey, extensive work was undertaken within the QE11 Park, Playing Field, Love Lane Play Area, Cemetery and Churchyard. This included tree thinning in QE11 Park to encourage future growth and the pollarding of a number of other large trees for Health and Safety reasons.



# Events completed in 2023/24

- Kings Coronation May 2023:



- Remembrance Parade  
November 2023:



- Cleobury Festival  
June 2023:



- Christmas Fayre and Light  
Switch on December 2023:







The Town Council Facebook page has over 1200 followers and is a valuable tool to promote events, quickly alert the community to local issues and concerns such as road closures and develop a stronger community link, alongside other local community group pages. We also regularly update our Website with the information shared on Facebook as well as all documents for our Council meetings.

- ❖ Working with Shropshire Council to enable continued improvements to the High Street pavements, public paths and car parks.
- ❖ Continue with improvements to the QEII Park and Playing Field.
- ❖ Re-establish the Cleobury Festival as an annual event, improving and growing it's appeal.
- ❖ Further improvement to the Christmas Lights and Fayre.
- ❖ Complete the rolling replacement of all streetlights to LED.
- ❖ Continued support for local Community groups and charities, including Cleobury Mortimer Food Bank, Community Hub, South Shropshire Youth Forum, Cleobury Friendship and Cleobury Gardeners.



# Financial Summary 2023/24



## Financial Summary 2023/24

	21/22 Budget	21/22 Actual	22/23 Budget	22/23 Actual*	23/24 Budget	23/24 Actual*	Notes
<b>Income</b>							
Precept	116,749	116,749	116,749	116,749	117,892	117,892	1
Other Income	30,700	48,743	30,820	69,821	34,300	45,854	2
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>147,449</b>	<b>165,492</b>	<b>147,569</b>	<b>186,570</b>	<b>152,192</b>	<b>163,746</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Salaries + Travel/Training	71,800	70,621	74,800	64,336	78,000	90,525	3
Office costs - rent, rates, supplies	8,500	11,154	8,700	12,276	12,000	10,857	
Capital Projects	1,000	25,539	1,500	5,954	3,000	3,272	4
Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard	13,930	11,464	16,100	13,989	13,850	23,180	5
Asset Maintenance, Lighting, CCTV & Community Projects	28,600	38,478	23,500	41,291	38,500	102,857	6
Fees & Subs, VAT	16,450	17,830	15,900	16,397	16,300	19,175	
Donations to Community Groups	6,500	1,780	7,000	2,396	7,000	18,134	7
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>146,780</b>	<b>176,866</b>	<b>147,500</b>	<b>156,639</b>	<b>168,650</b>	<b>268,000</b>	
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>-11,374</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>29,931</b>	<b>-16,458</b>	<b>-104,254</b>	
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>130,863</b>	<b>152,798</b>	<b>167,175</b>	<b>184,766</b>	<b>118,459</b>	<b>78,445</b>	8

Notes:

\* Draft Accounts (unaudited)

1. Precept is a charge per household, through Council Tax

2. Community Infrastructure Levy, Grants, Cemetery Income, Donations

3. Additional staff employed

4. Projects including new football goals and contribution towards bell-cote on Parish Hall

5. Love Lane Play Area, Playing Field, QEII Park, Cemetery, Churchyard and Memorial Garden

6. Toilets, tree surveys and safety work, replacement Bus Shelters, Street Lighting, CCTV, Festival, Christmas and transfer of funds to Food Bank

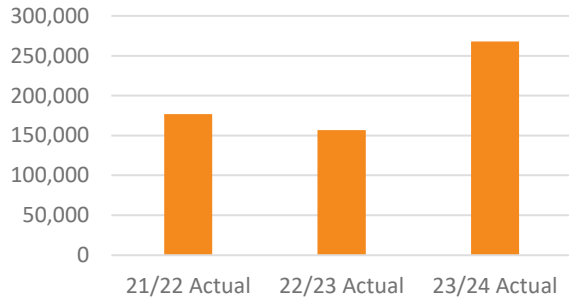
7. Donations to Community Groups, also Thriving Communities Grant for Cleobury Community Hub and South Shropshire Youth Forum

8. Closing balance held for earmarked projects, working capital and contingencies

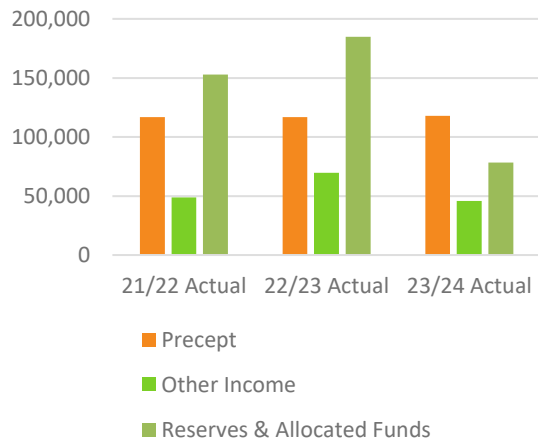
Inflation has impacted Council finances with increased charges for contractor service and utilities .

# Financial breakdown 2021-2024

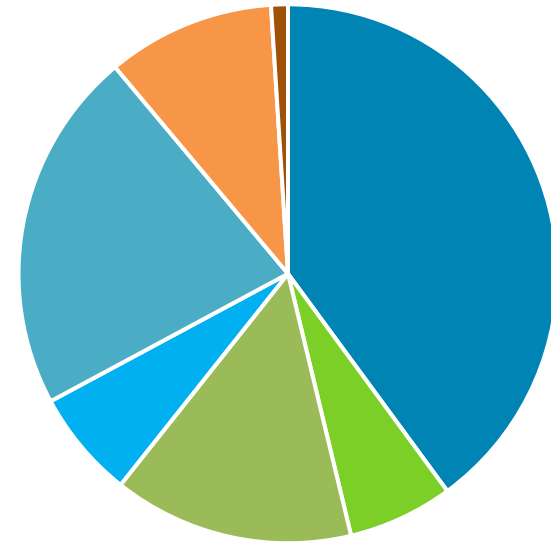
## Total Expenditure



## Income and Reserves



## 21/22 Actual Expenditure



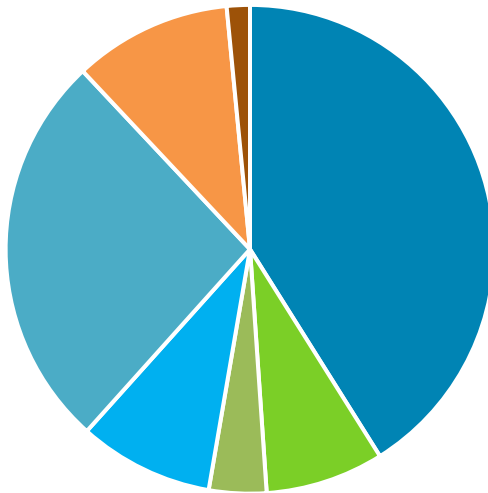
- Salaries + Travel/Training
- Office costs - rent, rates, supplies
- Capital Projects
- Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard
- Asset Maintenance & Community Projects
- Fees & Subs, VAT
- Donations to Community Groups



# Financial breakdown 2021-2024

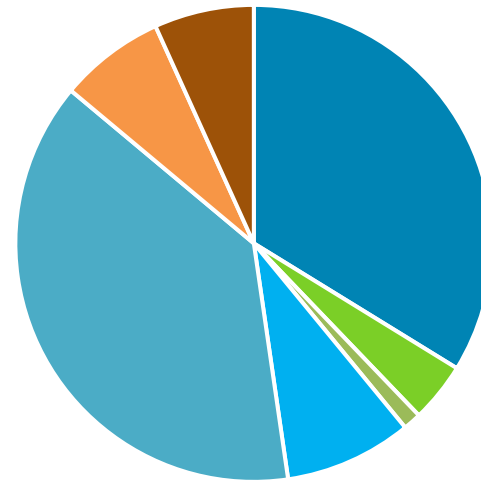


## 22/23 Actual Expenditure



- Salaries + Travel/Training
- Office costs - rent, rates, supplies
- Capital Projects
- Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard
- Asset Maintenance & Community Projects
- Fees & Subs, VAT
- Donations to Community Groups

## 23/24 Actual Expenditure



- Salaries + Travel/Training
- Office costs - rent, rates, supplies
- Capital Projects
- Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard
- Asset Maintenance & Community Projects
- Fees & Subs, VAT
- Donations to Community Groups

# Your Town Council Staff Team

Dorothy McBride  
Town Clerk



Anna Shaw  
Deputy Town Clerk



Theresa Ray  
Cemetery Administrator



Richard Skellern  
Maintenance



Natalie Winward  
Maintenance



Derek Pead  
Maintenance





# Your Town Councillors – April 2024



John  
Greaves  
(Chair)

Neil  
Tysall (Vice  
Chair)



Geoff  
Hainsworth



Ken  
Walsh



Guy  
James



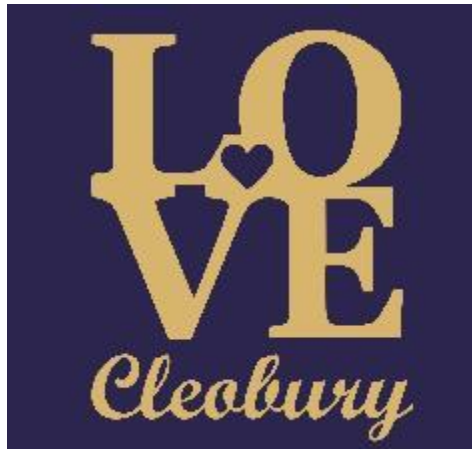
Graziano  
David  
Abbatiello



Martin  
Winward



For more information go to: [www.cleobury.org.uk](http://www.cleobury.org.uk)



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