



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

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

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

04.01.24 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Martin Winward and Deputy Town Clerk Mrs A Shaw.

04.02.24 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

04.03.24 Public Participation Session.

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

- A resident asked if the Council would thank the contractor who carried out maintenance work to the path between Mortimer Gardens and Enderby, also to the resident of Enderby who was very accommodating to enable the contractor to gain access to the path.
- A resident asked about moving the tulips which had been planted in the QEII Park as she felt they looked dreadful. Council noted that the tulips have just finished flowering.
- Long-standing issues with a broken street light column and a lack of fence maintenance in Barratts Orchard were raised. The Town Council is aware of these issues and will continue to chase up Bromford Housing on these matters until they are resolved.
- Water continues to run from the Lacon Childe Sports Field causing damage to properties and eroding the lane to the High Street. The Town Council has been in touch with the school about this matter and also would encourage affected residents to write to the school too. A meeting with relevant parties may be useful. The land is leased from Shropshire Council and drainage plans need to be investigated.
- Council was thanked for installing rubber matting in front of the bench near the Bike Trail.
- A resident made defamatory comments regarding the Town Council and the Food Bank which were later withdrawn. It was made clear that the Town Council has given years of support for the Food Bank and recently approved a grant of £500 towards their rent.
- Comments made regarding the Town Council's website were unclear and Council felt it was more appropriate for the resident to write to the Council clearly setting out his points.

04.04.24 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk's Office Report. The outcome of a Freedom of Information request to West Mercia Police regarding speed monitoring showed there had been none in the Cleobury area. The Clerk will request speed monitoring on a regular basis is carried out.
- b) Committee Reports
 - Cllr Abbatiello had prepared a safety report. The new Maintenance Assistant is making huge improvements to the QEII Park which is looking much tidier. The additional rubber matting and woodchip on paths and in high-use areas is appreciated by users of the Park.
 - Cllr Greaves noted there will be a Working Group meeting for the Festival tomorrow evening.
- c) Councillor Updates
 - Cllr Hainsworth was pleased to note the drains on Tenbury Road have been cleaned but the one on the Eagle Lane junction has been missed. Water is also running off Stanbury Place hedges into the Tenbury Road. The dropped kerb and additional path between Whitcomb's Orchard and Stanbury Place is still outstanding. Planning will be chased again to ensure this is completed.

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- Cllr Tysall asked for the requested grit bin at Stanbury Place to be chased up.
- Cllr Hainsworth and Cllr Tysall asked about the tree work in the QEII Park. The wood will be removed when the Playing Field access is dry enough. The ivy growing up the remaining trees will be removed. Concerns that unknown persons had been cutting and damaging other trees were noted. There was no information about alleged tree cutting prior to the contractors' job.
- Cllr Walsh confirmed that the town is looking a lot cleaner and tidier and asked what was happening with the Perry and Phillips business which is still not open. Cllr Harris stated this was a private business matter but the company will be moving in at some point. Cllr Walsh asked if a bollard could be installed at the top of Viols Walk to prevent vehicles driving down the pavement and grass verge. A scaffolding lorry recently drove down here causing damage.

04.06.24 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

The Unitary Councillors had sent their Annual Report and also a County Report which had been distributed to all members. Cllr Harris commented that a recent Panorama programme titled 'Councils In Crisis' helps explain the situation that Shropshire Council is in, ie with the huge volume of social care costs which have to be met from Council Tax, reducing the money available for other services such as highways, car parks, libraries and leisure services. Cllr Harris has been in contact with the Shropshire Council officer dealing with car park maintenance. The fence at the rear of Childe Road West Car Park is under consideration to be repaired or just removed. Cllr Harris reported that there had been an increase in the number of spills from the sewage treatment plant into the River Rea last year - (2023 – 46 events, 2022 – 38 events) but overall it was for a reduced period of time (2022 - 386 hours, 2023 – 254 hours). Regarding the Manor House, Cllr Harris has asked for a Conservation Officer to undertake an external inspection. A request for an internal inspection will be proposed also. Cllr Harris noted that Shropshire Council is working with Veolia to try and prevent any closures of the Household Recycling Centres. Concerns were raised that there would be an increase in fly-tipping if these centres were closed especially with changes to green waste collections.

04.07.24 Financial Matters.

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

ORP Surveillance – Replacement hard drive for CCTV system - £262.80
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire and Training Course - £141.00
SALC – Training Courses - £85.00
Shropshire Council – Business Rates - £379.24

Additional Payments for invoices received after the Agenda was published:

R Price – Tree work and grass cutting - £9,825.00
Ludlow Training Company – Manual Handling Training - £120.00.

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Parish Hall – court costs instalment - £100.00
Bank Interest - £121.78
Cemetery Fees - £550.00

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

Viking – Toilet and Office Supplies - £199.50
The Garden Range – Grass Tiles - £165.00
Stitches – Workwear for staff and volunteers - £338.40
Land Registry – Title Plan and Map - £6.00
Post Office – Stamps - £12.00

d) Council noted the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 25th March 2024. Cllr Abbatiello and Cllr Walsh agreed to be added to the bank mandate.

e) Council RESOLVED to approve the quotation of £900.00 for repairs to the Skate Park equipment.

f) Council RESOLVED to approve the Police/CCTV room lease at the Market Hall. The lease formalises our arrangement to support the Police and CCTV system. It was noted that as part of the improved governance of the Market Hall charity, all regular users should have a lease.

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- g) Council RESOLVED to approve the purchase of a new website domain name, in principle, subject to costings being sought from registered providers.** It was noted that quotes are being obtained to build a new website. These will be discussed at the May Council meeting.

04.08.24 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 24/00881/TCA (validated: 27/02/2024)
Address: Hill House, 2 Castle Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DA
Proposal: Fell 1no Fir within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mr Timothy Elcock
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposal providing it complies with bird-nesting season. We also recommend that there is some replanting to ensure a 10% biodiversity net gain.
2. Reference: 24/00977/TCA (validated: 28/02/2024)
Address: Oakland, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QE
Proposal: Reduce crown by approx. 2m to leave 5.5m above ground of 1no Cherry within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mr Mark Purslow
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to this application. At the time of the Council meeting no documents were available for the Council to make an informed comment. It was noted that, if the Planning Officer was minded to give consent, the Town Council would recommend any work is undertaken outside of bird-nesting season.
3. Reference: 24/00904/FUL (validated: 14/03/2024)
Address: The Coach House, Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Installation of two ventilation grilles in existing retaining wall, and below-ground service connections, for kitchen extract system
Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
4. Reference: 24/00984/LBC (validated: 14/03/2024)
Address: The Coach House, Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Installation of two ventilation tiles, two leaded dormers, four cowls and one louvred panel on Coach House roof, installation of two louvred grilles in adjacent retaining wall plus below-ground service connections
Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
5. Reference: 24/01169/TCA (validated: 25/03/2024)
Address: 27 Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8AB.
Proposal: Fell approx. 4no. leylandii within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.
Applicant: Ms A Stringer
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposal providing it complies with bird-nesting season. We would recommend that the trees are reduced to stumps of hedge height to provide some shelter and value to biodiversity as they rot down. We also recommend that a new hedge is planted that has good biodiversity value to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain for the site.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 24/00389/FUL (validated: 01/02/2024)
Address: Iona, 4 Furlongs Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8AR
Proposal: Erection of single-storey side and rear extension
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. 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
Decision: Grant Permission.

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04.09.24 Public Path Diversion Order

Council RESOLVED to support the official Diversion of Footpath 52 (PART) – New House Farm Industrial Estate. It was noted that this is a wide diversion but it will allow for the further planned development of the Industrial Estate.

04.10.24 Policies and Procedures

Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated CCTV Policy and Procedural Handbook. It was further agreed to obtain assurance from ORP Surveillance that they are checking the system as per our contract and to request up-to-date training for users. The Procedural Handbook and documents at the Market Hall will be replaced with the updated versions. A new key safe will be installed outside the CCTV room.

04.11.24 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 again with the officers and also through our Unitary Councillors. Railings outside the Manor House, for pedestrian safety, will be pursued again. It was agreed to request weed spraying along some pavements to help keep the town looking tidy.

Christmas Lights – Shropshire Council, National Grid and Prysmian will be chased up regarding the new power supplies required.

Street Lights – Prysmian will be chased to ensure the remaining sodium lights are changed to LED.

Youth Shelter in QEII Park – the old paint needs grinding off. Cllr Hainsworth will follow up on this. If the paintwork job is out with our capacity, the structural integrity of the shelter will be checked and a decision made to either pay for external contractors to professionally refurbish the shelter or replace it.

Fields in Trust plaques – these can now be erected in the QEII Park.

Tulips in QEII Park – these were planted by community volunteers, with Council's consent, and it was agreed not to spend taxpayers money to dig them up and move them. Such action would also erode the goodwill of our community volunteers.

Wells – the refurbishment project will be chased up with the working group and the scheme details forwarded to Shropshire Council to keep them informed of our plans.

04.12.24 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th May 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 13.

At 8.43pm there was a short break for members of the public to leave the meeting.

The Meeting reconvened at 8.44pm.

04.13.24 Employment Matters – Cllr Greaves.

It was noted that the new Maintenance Assistant employee had settled well into the role. Councillor vacancies were discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Signed:.....Chair

Date:.....