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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

**Present:**

Cllr Martin Winward (Chair), and Cllr David Abbatiello (Vice-Chair), Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Sally Burns, Cllr Tina Hobin and Town Clerk Mrs D McBride.

Cllr Martin Winward welcomed everyone to the January meeting and informed those present to be respectful of the Nolan Principles. Council members and staff introduced themselves to the members of public present.

**01.01.25 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ken Walsh, Unitary Cllr Simon Harris and Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

**01.02.25 Declaration of interests.**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**01.03.25 Public Participation Session.**

There were five members of public present. Points raised:

- For the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January a copy of the Lights report prepared last year as well as an indication of the budget available for new infrastructure and lighting will be supplied. It was agreed that the lights around the Memorial Garden and the extended section up to the Tenbury Road crossroads were well received this season. Permission will be sought from High Street residents to attach lights to their properties as well as replacing some fixings this year. Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers who installed the Christmas lights and are taking them down on 12<sup>th</sup> January.
- A resident informed Council of ongoing issues regarding vehicles being driven close to his property on Redthorne Hill causing further damage to his property. The local Estate office and police have been informed but have not followed up on these reports. The nearest CCTV camera is being checked by Council contractors. The resident was advised to contact Citizens Advice for support. Council agreed for the Clerk to write to local Estate Manager about this matter to support the resident and chase up the CCTV contractor for a response.

**01.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. The Clerk has written to the project lead of the Primary School fence proposal, requesting they hold an open public meeting with Shropshire Council, the Shropshire Gateway Education Trust, Primary School and the Town Council. This is to ensure that all information is presented and in the public domain so that parishioners have full access to all the facts before the matter is brought to the Town Council for a decision on whether to release the legal rights over the land. The Clerk has been in touch with Post Office and also our MP regarding the ongoing lack of Post Office services in Cleobury Mortimer.
- b) Committee Reports:
  1. Employment Committee – Cllr Burns reported on the meeting held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. To support the Clerk during the Deputy Clerk's absence, councillors will continue to hold the Council mobile phone on a rota basis.
- c) Councillor Updates:
  - Cllr Hainsworth informed the meeting that the vehicle activated sign at Newbridge has not worked for several months. This is an accident blackspot and Shropshire Council should deal with this issue more seriously. The Clerk has previously reported the faulty sign and two streetlights not working in the same location and will chase these up again.
  - Cllr James ran the Council surgery in December. There was another comment regarding the missing CCTV camera near the Fire Station. The Clerk will chase this up with the contractor.
  - Cllr Winward reported some lights were not working in the QEII Park and will provide locations of the lights to the Clerk so that the contractors can schedule repairs.

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**01.06.25 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

The Unitary Councillors had provided a written report prior to the meeting. Cllr Burns felt that the Unitary Councillors should provide feedback on happenings at Shirehall from December as well as looking forward to 2025. Cllr Winward will report back to the Unitary Councillors on this and other outstanding Shropshire Council matters.

**01.07.25 Financial Matters.**

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

Cleobury Country – Quarterly Rent (December 2024 – February 2025) - £1,199.99

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (November & December 2024) - £127.50

Mrs D McBride – reimbursement for 123-reg SSL Certificates - £143.98

Payments for approved invoices received after the Agenda was published:

Market Hall – Room Hire (December) - £50.00

R Price – Emergency Tree Work in QEII Park - £1,950.00. Council were pleased with the prompt action taken by Mr Price during Storm Darragh.

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

Bank Interest - £95.10

Cemetery Income - £305.00

Christmas Stalls Income - £160.00

Environmental Maintenance Grant - £750.00

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

Viking – Toilet and Office Supplies - £85.94

Petty Cash – top-up - £200.00

**01.08.25 Planning Matters.**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

1. Reference: 24/04699/FUL (validated: 12/12/2024)

Address: 2 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DZ

Proposal: Change of Use From C3 to C2 Children's Home for 2 Children.

Applicant: Just Call 4 Care Services Ltd (2 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8DZ).

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

2. Reference: 24/04786/TCA (validated: 23/12/2024)

Address: Sunny Bank, Eagle Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8RA

Proposal: Fell and replace 2no. Arborvitae (Thuja plicata) (T1 & T2) and 1no. Hawthorn (Crataegus) (T3) and prune back 2no. overhanging branches from 1no. Gum tree (Eucalyptus) (T4) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.

Applicant: Jane Davis.

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

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

1. Reference: 24/03495/FUL (validated: 30/10/2024)

Address: 3 Lacon Court, Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PB

Proposal: Installation of replacement oil tank (retrospective)

Decision: Grant Permission.

2. Reference: 24/03961/FUL (validated: 29/10/2024)

Address: Cleobury Mortimer Methodist Church, Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BN

Proposal: Demolition of the existing youth centre and the erection of a rear extension

Decision: Refuse.

3. Reference: 24/02649/FUL (validated: 25/09/2024)

Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN

Proposal: Installation of replacement and additional below-ground drainage infrastructure, to include replacement of existing drainage blanket with underground tank

Decision: Grant Permission.

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4. Reference: 24/04188/TCA (validated: 26/10/2024)  
Address: High Green, 2 Bristol Place, Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BZ  
Proposal: Reduce to 20ft 1no Ash, to 10ft 1no Ash, fell 2no Fir & reduce to 10ft 3no Sycamore (See Schedule) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area  
Decision: Consent by right – trees.
  5. Reference: 24/04295/TCA (validated: 11/11/2024)  
Address: 2 Beechcote Lodge, The Hurst, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8EG  
Proposal: Reduce lower branches by 2metres of 2no. Yew trees (T1 and T2) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area  
Decision: No Objection.

**01.09.25 Public Path Diversion Orders**

1. Proposed Diversion – footpath 55 (part). Council had no objection to the proposal.
2. Proposed Diversion – footpath 52 (part). Council supports this proposal as it understands the need to have a clear and separate path away from the estate buildings and vehicles. The proposed path will provide a safer route for pedestrians and allow for the proposed extension of the business site. To support the new route, the Council will ask if the new path could be created from stone to provide a firm surface to walk along. This would clearly mark the path as the correct route for people to use.

**01.10.25 Local Policing**

1. The local policing priorities for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for our Safer Neighbourhood Team were set as 1, Anti-Social Behaviour including drugs issues, littering and noise; 2, Anti-Social Driving including speeding; 3, Other Traffic Offences including inconsiderate and illegal parking.
2. Questions and topics for discussion with the local police team who will be attending the March 2025 Council meeting will include the priorities above but also concerns that reported incidents are not being followed up on. Cllr Burns will find out what issues are affecting young people as reported through the schools and whether the police still visit the schools.

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

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 6.30pm.

**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 items 12-15.

**At 7.51pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.52pm.**

**01.12.25 Employment Matters**

Cllr Burns reported that the Employment Committee had met and she is the Chair, with Cllr Hainsworth as Vice-Chair. Cllr Burns gave a brief update on recent employment matters.

**01.13.25 Market Hall**

Cllr Abbatiello provided an update on employment and financial matters of the Market Hall.

**01.14.25 Review of Contractors for future working with Town Council**

Council reviewed the standards required for contractors.

**01.15.25 Financial support enquiry for a Shropshire Council funded community service.**

Council discussed this enquiry and agreed that the Chair and Clerk will meet representatives to find out more about their financial position and future business plan proposals.

**The Meeting closed at 8.46pm.**

*David Abbatiello*

*3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025*

Signed:.....Chair

Date.....