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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

**Present:**

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

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the February meeting.

**02.01.25 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Winward and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

**02.02.25 Declaration of interests.**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**02.03.25 Public Participation Session.**

There were no members of public present.

**02.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 duly signed by the Chair.

**02.05.25 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. The next step will be a meeting to discuss the proposals. The Clerk and our MP continue to chase the Post Office regarding the ongoing lack of Post Office services in Cleobury Mortimer. Council noted a number of national anniversaries this year including VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and confirmed the purchase of a VE Day Flag. The Clerk has met with Highway representatives regarding maintenance and improvements to the public car parks.
- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:
  1. Health, Safety and Environmental Report - Cllr Abbatiello reported on the action taken to remove ice from a path in the QEII Park. Further work is required to manage the surface water drainage and options being explored will be brought to a future meeting for discussion.
  2. Finance Committee Report – Cllr Hainsworth reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting where the 2024-25 accounts were reviewed and the budget for 2025-26 was discussed. The precept will significantly increase next year as the funding is needed to provide services. Cllr James confirmed that the Town Council will also need to support Shropshire Council more to improve the environment around Cleobury.
  3. Christmas Lights Working Group Report – Cllr James reported on the recent Christmas Lights Working Group meeting and the plans for more lights and electricity connection points for 2025. The next meeting is on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.
  4. Festival Working Group Report – Cllr James reported on the recent Festival Working Group meeting. There has been a lot of feedback on last year's Festival and improvements to the plans for this year's event are well under way. The Festival timings may be changed and business traders will be charged a pitch fee to help cover the costs of the event.
- c) Councillor Updates:
  - Cllr Hainsworth reiterated his concerns about the vehicle activated sign at Newbridge which has not worked for several months. This has been reported to Shropshire Council and Unitary Cllr Butler confirmed he will chase this issue up again as well as the two faulty streetlights. Cllr Hainsworth reported an issue with a fence blocking a path near Curdale. Cllr Abbatiello will check the site and report on Fix My Street.
  - Cllr Burns raised concerns that Lloyds Bank are closing their branches in Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Kidderminster this year and there is still no update on when our Post Office will re-open.
  - Cllr James raised concerns about the lack of street sweeping in Cleobury and that many drains are full of silt. Cllr Butler will raise this with Shropshire Council and will also try to arrange a meeting with Street Scene to discuss working together on such maintenance.
  - Cllr Abbatiello reported some mess on the Playing Field. The Clerk will contact the Rugby Club and the booking arrangements will be reviewed.

*Initials.....DA.....*



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**02.06.25 Unitary Councillors' Reports.**

The Unitary Councillors had provided a written report prior to the meeting. Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler commented further on the opportunities for the Town Council to consider working with Shropshire Council's Street Scene, Teme Leisure and Library Services. Shropshire Council has received further information on its Financial Settlement from central government. Shropshire receives the third lowest settlement in England and its corresponding spend is up 3.1% hence further cuts will need to be made in 2025-26. There has been a record number of responses to the latest budget consultation and it is unlikely that the proposed three-weekly collection of general waste will go ahead. It is most likely that there will be a full review of all waste collection services in time for the food waste collection which comes into effect next year.

Cllr Butler is concerned there may be an increase in the numbers of houses to be built in Cleobury Mortimer following the government's changes to housing policy. As Shropshire no longer has a five-year housing land supply, Cllr Butler feels this may leave Cleobury vulnerable to speculative development, especially with the increased capacity at the new sewage treatment plant.

Cllr Butler is part of the Working Group of residents and neighbours of the proposed Nursing Home. The site will receive planning consent once the Section 106 agreement has been signed.

Cllr Butler is also working with the Save the Manor House Group.

Cllr James asked if Shropshire Council will review the recently introduced booking system for the Household Recycling Centres due to concerns about fly-tipping. Cllr Butler stated the booking system was a trial and will be reviewed but it has helped reduce the amount of waste being brought into Shropshire from out of the county.

**02.07.25 Financial Matters.**

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

Alan Guest Mowing Services – Cleaning - £480.00  
D M Payroll Services – Payroll administration (October 2024 – March 2025) - £96.00  
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (January 2025) - £30.00  
E L Jones – Printing Tourism Leaflets - £162.40  
Trevor Brooke Grab Services – Green Waste Collection (Cemetery) - £264.00  
Payments for approved invoices received after the Agenda was published:  
Shropshire HR – Training and Support - £99.00  
ICCM – Training Courses - £372.00  
Market Hall – Room Hire (January) - £50.00  
S Dolphin – Administration Support - £480.00.

**b) Council RESOLVED to approve payments made since the last meeting:**

A Wakeman – Testing of Christmas lights - £120.00 (Online)  
Viking – Toilet Supplies - £92.36 (Debit Card)  
Food Bank – Donation received - £11.00 (Online)  
Amazon – Office and Maintenance Supplies - £84.19 (Debit Card)  
Cleobury Café – Refreshments for Christmas Lights volunteers - £89.90 (Debit Card)  
Screwfix – Grit box and fire extinguisher - £139.98 (Debit Card).

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

Bank Interest - £67.51  
Cemetery Income - £305.00  
Food Bank Donation - £11.00.

**d) Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed Budget and Precept for 2025-26. The Precept for the parish will be £195,000.**

**e) Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed Fees and Charges for 2025-26.**

**02.08.25 Tree Management Works**

Council considered the quotations for additional tree safety work in the QEII Park and Cemetery and approved Quote 1 for £3,100.00.

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**02.09.25 Planning Matters.**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

1. Reference: 24/04866/LBC (validated: 09/01/2025)  
Address: 3 Lacon Court, Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8PB  
Proposal: Internal alterations to layout, relocation of historical parquet floor, adjustment and repair of exterior brickwork, widening of front door and replacement of iron steps with brick and stone steps.  
Applicant: Ms Jessica Davey (3 Lacon Court, Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer).  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 25/00107/TCA (validated: 15/01/2025)  
Address: Ronville, Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8EG  
Proposal: Reduce by 50% to hedge height two sections of Leylandii (G1&G2) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.  
Applicant: Mrs Lindsey P Straughton.  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

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

1. Reference: 24/02559/FUL (validated: 15/07/2024)  
Address: The Leasowes, Tenbury Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0AB  
Proposal: Replacement of existing dwelling with new self-build dwelling unit.  
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. Reference: 24/04248/FUL (validated: 18/11/2024)  
Address: Retail Units At 8 And 9 Talbot Square, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BQ  
Proposal: Change of use of ground floor retail units and removal of conservatory (No 9) to 2No, one bedroom flats.  
Decision: Grant Permission.
3. 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.  
Outcome: No Objection.
4. 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.  
Decision: Grant Permission.

**02.10.25 Policies and Procedures**

Council RESOLVED to approve the updated Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessments.

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

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 7pm.

**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 12-13.

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

**02.12.25 Employment Matters**

Cllr Burns updated Council members on recent employment matters.

*Initials....DA.....*



**02.13.25**

**Market Hall**

Council considered a proposal from Cllr Abbatiello regarding office leases.

The Meeting closed at 8.13pm.

Signed:.....*David Abbatiello*.....Chair

*3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025*  
Date.....