
Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

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

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the March meeting.

03.01.25 Election of Chair and receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Abbatiello was elected Chair and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

03.02.25 Election of Vice-Chair and receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr James was elected Vice-Chair and will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the next meeting.

03.03.25 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Guy James.

03.04.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

03.05.25 Presentation by Inspector Damien Kelly, West Mercia Police on local policing.

Inspector Damien Kelly, Sergeant Steve Mason and PCSO Declan Miller introduced themselves to the meeting. Inspector Kelly spoke about the Local Policing Community Charter and the priorities which each parish submits to the police team. The police focus on the top four priorities, which in this area of 83 parishes are: thefts, drugs, speeding and anti-social driving. Police work involves educating people, offering advice to try and prevent crime, reassuring the public as well as investigating issues. They often tackle specific issues through for example, Operation Whitebeam which targets rural crime. People are encouraged to sign up for Neighbourhood Matters and always report any issues to the police either by telephone, email or online. PCSO Miller gave a report on policing in the Cleobury Mortimer area. In February there were 23 reported incidents to be investigated. Officers also carried out 50 vehicle checks, nine farm visits and some visits to local schools. Cllr Burns asked if the police would attend the monthly Market in Cleobury to increase their visibility in town. The Clerk will send the Market dates to PCSO Miller.

03.06.25 Public Participation Session.

There were no members of public present.

03.07.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025 duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. The Town Council and Primary School are running a poster competition to highlight the need to dispose of dog mess correctly. The Council will also run a couple of presentations to the pupils regarding the work of the Town Council and local government. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss the proposed fence across the Playing Field. The Clerk and Cllr Abbatiello met with Highway officers and Unitary Cllr Butler regarding Street Scene services. The faulty vehicle activated sign and streetlights at Newbridge are being followed up. Plans are underway for the VE Day 80th Anniversary on Thursday 8th May. A request for a Memorial Tree was considered and Council felt the best location would be in the Churchyard, subject to approval by St Mary's.
- b) There were no Councillor Updates.

03.09.25 Unitary Councillors' Reports.

The Unitary Councillors had provided a written report prior to the meeting. Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler confirmed that Shropshire Council had approved its budget for 2025-26. They will receive a £26m loan from central Government to help cover the transformation of the Council and balance the books until the sale of assets is complete.

Initials....DA.....



Shirehall is likely to be sold with planning consent for residential development. The Childe Endowment Trust is relaunching on 1st April for young people to apply for funding for education and training purposes. The election purdah period starts on Monday 10th March. Candidates for election will be announced on 2nd April.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris thanked the Town Council for its support and tolerance over the last four years. He has enjoyed coming to our meetings and this is his last meeting as a Unitary Councillor. He will continue to press for conservation action on the Manor House but is mindful it is not the only property on the High Street which is listed and needs attention. Cllr Hainsworth expressed his concern that footpaths on the Mawley estate have been closed again after only recently being re-opened.

03.10.25 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £45.00
A Wakeman Electrical Services Ltd – replacement meter box lid for toilets - £102.00
Payments for approved invoices received after the Agenda was published:
A Wakeman Electrical Services Ltd – Christmas Lights electrical work - £36.00
Market Hall – Room Hire (February) - £50.00

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

Amazon – Maintenance and Office Supplies - £141.30 (Debit Card)
Viking – Office Supplies - £125.06 (Debit Card)
B & Q – Toilet Supplies - £12.69 (Debit Card)
J W Plant – VE Day flag - £44.80 (Debit Card)

c) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Bank Interest - £65.25
Cemetery Receipts - £955.00

d) The Chair signed the approved budget for 2025-26.

03.11.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/00374/FUL (validated: 07/02/2025)
Address: 2 Ludlow Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DY
Proposal: Creation of vehicle access to include formation of hard-standing
Applicant: Mr Gavin Bower
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

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.
Decision: Grant Permission.

03.12.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 6.30pm.

Exclusion of public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2)

Initials....DA.....



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 8.21pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 8.22pm.

03.13.25 Employment Matters

Cllr Burns updated Council members on recent employment matters.

The Meeting closed at 8.41pm.

David Abbatiello

Signed:.....Chair

7th April 2025

Date:.....