



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

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

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

04.01.25 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Geoff Hainsworth and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

04.02.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

04.03.25 Public Participation Session.

There were no members of public present at this point.

04.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2025.

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

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. There has been a tidy-up of the Playing Field container and it's surroundings with only the cricket roller remaining on the Field. There will be some non-league cricket matches this summer. The Primary School is keen to progress their plan to fence off a section of the Field. Council has reiterated its reasoning for the school to hold an open public meeting to ensure all residents are made aware of the implications of fencing off this land as it would prevent residents exercising their legal right to use this land. The Clerk has chased up Shropshire Council regarding the maintenance and improvements required in the two public car parks. Cllr Butler stated that this work needs to be scheduled but also, some grants do not cover staffing costs to fulfil the grant project. There has been an increased number of reports of dog mess around the Primary School and Love Lane Play Area recently. All incidents should be reported to Shropshire Council. Cllr Butler confirmed the Dog Warden will visit Cleobury.
- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:
 1. Finance Committee Report – The Clerk reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting where the 2024-25 accounts and asset register were reviewed and the internal auditor was appointed. The banking arrangements were reviewed and it was agreed that all direct debits will be transferred from Lloyds Bank to Unity Trust by September 2025 and then the Lloyds Bank accounts will be closed.
 2. Christmas Lights Working Group Report – Cllr James reported on the recent Christmas Lights Working Group meeting. Storage arrangements for the lights are under review and power supplies awaited at the Wells, junction of Lion Lane/Church Street and on the High Street near The Lamp. The Working Group propose keeping the lights up until Candlemas, in early February, going forwards.

A member of public walked into the meeting and stated her concerns with traffic and anti-social behaviour on the Hurst. She has installed gates to keep vehicles off her property and is seeking CCTV from Shrewsbury. Council noted her comments and will ask Highways if they can provide some bollards.

3. Festival Working Group Report – Cllr Hobin reported on the recent Festival Working Group meeting. Plans for this year's event are going well and there will be more activities this year including a treasure hunt, fancy dress competition and a tug-of-war. Cllr Hobin is working on sponsorship and would like to have more community groups involved at the Festival.
- c) Councillor Updates:
There were no further updates from councillors.

Initials.....DA



04.06.25 Unitary Council Update.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler has recently passed on a number of residents' comments regarding overgrown hedges and dog mess to the Clerk. Shropshire Council's period 11 financial report is due to be published this week. The projected year-end figures should be the same as last year. New savings in 2025-26 are just £8m but Shropshire Council still has to find £38m savings from 2024-25 plus a further £11m to cover extra expenditure. This is being achieved through downsizing and reshaping the council. Shropshire Council hopes to receive a favourable settlement in June's Local Government Spending Review. Shropshire may incur another level of taxation when combined with other counties to become a mayoral authority. Votes for the new Unitary ward councillor will be counted on Friday 2nd May following the election. The Town Council will have three vacant seats and can co-opt this summer. It is noted that the role is unpaid but an allowance could be considered. Central government is also considering whether to permit hybrid meetings. For local authorities, if this goes ahead, it would allow councillors to attend meetings remotely.

04.07.25 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £37.50
Shropshire Council – Business Rates 2025-26 - £379.24
Prysmian – Street Light Maintenance - £76.50
Country Skills – Grass Cutting (March) - £1,120.00
S Dolphin – Administration Support - £755.00
Blachere Illumination UK Ltd – Christmas Lights - £5,820.00
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire (March) - £87.50
Shropshire HR – Service Fees - £346.50
Anthony Arnold – Circus Skills (Festival) - £415.00
Mr T G Morris – Tree work at Cemetery and QEII Park - £3,100.00.

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

Blackpole Recycling Ltd – Skip Hire - £276.00 (Debit Card).

c) Council considered the following S.137 payment:

Flourish & Nourish – Community Garden Notice Board and Insurance - £700.00. Council approved the grant application in principle and payment will be made once the relevant invoices for the insurance and the notice board have been received. Council will ask that there is acknowledgement of this money on the notice board and in any promotional media.

d) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Bank Interest - £56.59
Cemetery Receipt - £975.00.

04.08.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/00832/TCA (validated: 04/03/2025)
Address: Lacon House, 27 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DQ
Proposal: Fell 1no Black Poplar within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mr Simon Harper (Lacon House, 27 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8DQ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposal but would ask that a suitable replacement tree is planted to encourage biodiversity in the Conservation Area.
2. Reference: 25/00967/FUL (validated: 31/03/2025)
Address: 2 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DZ
Proposal: Single storey side extension including erection of conservatory to rear and front porch.
Applicant: Just Call 4 Care Services (2 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8DZ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

Initials.....DA.....



b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 24/04241/FUL (validated: 08/11/2024)
Address: Cleobury Garage, 15B High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DG
Proposal: Application for technical details approval of permission in principle application (23/05119/PIP) for construction of 1No. 4 bed self-build and 2No. 3 bed self-build dwellings
Decision: Withdrawn.
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
Decision: Consent by Right – Trees.
3. 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
Decision: Grant Permission.

04.09.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 12th May 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 10-12.

At 7.28pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.29pm.

04.10.25 Employment Matters

Cllr Burns updated Council members on recent employment matters.

04.11.25 Market Hall update

Cllr Abbatiello updated Council on the finances and management of the Market Hall.

04.12.25 Playing Field update

Cllr Burns and Cllr Abbatiello updated Council on recent discussions with external organisations regarding the future of the Playing Field.

The Meeting closed at 8.28pm.

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

Date.....12th May 2025....