



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr David Abbatiello (Chair), Cllr Guy James, Cllr Sally Burns, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Tina Hobin, Cllr Helen Smith, Town Clerk Mrs D McBride and Deputy Town Clerk Miss S Dolphin.

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the May meeting.

05.01.25 Election of Chair.

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

05.02.25 Election of Vice Chair.

Cllr Guy James was elected Vice Chair and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

05.03.25 Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

05.04.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

05.05.25 Public Participation Session.

There were five members of public present at this point. Mr Greaves spoke about the Community Hub's planning application and that the Planning Officer needs evidence of community support for the proposals. Mr Todd informed Council that the 292-bus service has been rerouted around Bewdley and now adds 15-20 minutes to the journey from Cleobury to Kidderminster. There has been no consultation through Shropshire Council and Mr Todd would like our new Unitary Councillor to find out if there has been any discussion with Shropshire Council and the service provider about this change.

Unitary Councillor Pamela Davies and Councillor David Davies joined the meeting with introductions made with all Council members and staff.

The Chair reminded all present to respect the protocols of the meeting and that councillors must follow the principles of the Code of Conduct.

05.06.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th April 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. Councillors were reminded to check their Register of Members Interests to ensure they are up-to-date. New members need to complete the digital form online. We have received an enquiry from a resident about extending the 30mph limit along the Bayton Road beyond Redthorne Barns. It was agreed to add this to our list of traffic management requests and arrange a meeting with our new Unitary Councillor to discuss this and other outstanding traffic/highway projects including the Place Plan so that she can help progress these matters with Shropshire Council.
- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:
 1. Festival Working Group Report - Cllr James and Cllr Hobin reported on recent Festival Working Group meetings. Plans for this year's event are going well and publicity is starting this week. It was agreed to put bunting up as well as the advertising banners.
- c) Councillor Updates:

Cllr Abbatiello updated Council regarding a resident's proposal for improvements to the Bike Trail. Plans will be provided at a future meeting for Council's consideration.

Cllr James updated Council regarding a caravan parked on land near the Market Hall. The matter is being looked into by the relevant authorities in conjunction with and supporting the landowner. The CCTV was called into question again following a recent theft of food from a business on the main road. Issues with the CCTV contractor continue as they no longer deal with councils. Quotes for a service contract with a new supplier will be progressed urgently.

Initials...DA....



05.08.25 Unitary Council Update.
Unitary Cllr Pamela Davies had introduced herself earlier and left for another meeting.

05.09.25 Annual Review of Council Procedures and Committees.
a) Councillors' roles on Committees and Working Groups and appointments to External Organisations and Charities were agreed as follows:

Market Hall Committee	All Councillors. Cllr Abbatiello (Chair).
Finance Committee	Cllr Hainsworth (Chair), Cllr James (Vice-Chair), Cllr Abbatiello and Cllr VACANCY.
Grounds Maintenance Contracts Working Group	Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr James, Cllr Abbatiello, Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.
Employment Committee	Cllr Burns, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Abbatiello and Cllr VACANCY.
Disciplinary and Grievance Working Group	Council Chair and Vice-Chair.
Recruitment Working Group	Employment Committee members.
Training and Development Working Group	Employment Committee members.
Public Engagement Committee	All Councillors.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Cllr Burns.
Safeguarding	Cllr Burns.
Dementia Friendly Town Liaison	Cllr Hobin.
Health, Safety and Environmental Committee	Cllr Abbatiello, Cllr James and Cllr Burns.
CCTV Monitoring and Access	Council duty officer/councillor.
Public Security Working Group	Cllr Abbatiello and Mr P Blackburn.
Environmental Impacts Working Group	Cllr James.
Emergency Planning Working Group	Cllr Burns and Town Clerk.

External Organisations

Childe's School Endowment Fund	Cllr VACANCY and Cllr VACANCY
Cyril Edgar Berrington Trust	VACANCY
Shropshire Association of Local Councils	Council Chair.

Cllr Smith will be appointed to some of the vacant roles once she has settled into her new role and undertaken basic training.

Initials....DA.....



b) The dates for Town Council meetings for the forthcoming year were approved as follows:

Town Council Meeting	Monday 12 th May 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 7 th July 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 4 th August 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 1 st September 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 6 th October 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 1 st December 2025
Town Council Meeting	Monday 5 th January 2026
Town Council Meeting	Monday 2 nd February 2026
Town Council Meeting	Monday 2 nd March 2026
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 7 th April 2026
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 5 th May 2026
Annual Town Meeting	Wednesday 13 th May 2026

05.10.25 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (April) - £90.00
 SALC – Annual Affiliation Fees - £1,536.17
 Country Skills – Grass Cutting (April) - £2,240.00 (it was noted that spraying the path edges is now required).
 S Dolphin – Administration Support - 340.00
 Market Hall Trust – Office Rent/Room Hire (April - June) - £525.00
 Institute of Cemetery Management – Annual Membership - £105.00
 The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
 Flourish and Nourish – Community Garden insurance - £207.95
 Mole Control – pest control - £105.00.

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

Viking – Toilet, office and maintenance supplies - £257.59 (Debit Card)
 Amazon – Maintenance and PPE supplies - £35.68 (Debit Card)
 Eco Green Communities – Dog Waste Bags - £251.64 (Debit Card)
 Amazon – Spray - £17.76 (Debit Card)
 Big Dug – Workbench - £248.34 (Debit Card)

c) Council considered the following S.137 payment:

Market Hall Trust – Laptop Computer - £500.00
 Council approved the grant application with a maximum spend of £500. Quotes will need to be sought to show best value has been achieved.

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



d) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Bank Interest - £37.47
Cemetery Receipt - £1,675.00
HMRC – VAT Refund (2023-24) - £13,985.40
Rugby Club – Playing Field Hire - £200.00.
Shropshire Council - Precept - £195,000.00

e) Environmental Maintenance Grant

- i) Council confirmed the grant money spent last year was in accordance with the grant terms, noting that a large proportion of this grant was spent on Shropshire Council's lime trees on the High Street/Church Street.
- ii) Council approved the grant application for 2025-26. Cllr Hainsworth, as Chair of the Finance Committee confirmed that we do have to make difficult financial decisions to pay towards some of Shropshire Council services. This grant offers the opportunity to work together to improve our local environment for the community.

05.11.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/01230/FUL (validated: 28/03/2025)
Address: 7 Langland Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8EH
Proposal: Application of brick cladding to three elevations at ground floor level
Applicant: Mr Ian Taylor (Dhustone House, Clee Hill, Ludlow, SY8 3PH).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 25/01472/PA3MA (validated: 17/04/2025)
Address: Proposed Conversion Of Building At Redthorne Farm, Redthorne Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)
Applicant: Mr T Poyner (4 Withies Bank, Oretton, Nr Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0TB).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
3. Reference: 25/01222/FUL (validated: 24/04/2025)
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
Applicant: Mr Mark Greaves (Former Methodist Church, Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BN).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals. The Community Hub is a valuable community asset, popular and well used by all ages of our community. The additional, and improved amenities will support our growing community providing social, health and wellbeing benefits to everyone.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 24/02158/FUL - Appeal Reference: 24/03303/REF
Address: Enderby, High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DN
Proposal: Creation of dwelling and associated garaging on vacant land
Decision: Appeal Allowed and Planning Permission is granted.
2. Reference: 25/00832/TCA
Address: Lacon House, 27 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DQ
Proposal: Fell one black poplar within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Decision: Consent by Right – Trees.

05.12.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7pm.

Initials....DA....



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 13-17.

At 7.33pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.35pm.

05.13.25 Employment Matters

Cllr Burns updated Council members on recent employment matters.

05.14.25 Market Hall update

Cllr Abbatiello updated Council on the risk management of the Market Hall.

05.15.25 Playing Field update

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

05.16.25 Cemetery Plot request

Council considered a request regarding the purchase of a Cemetery plot.

05.17.25 Subject Access Request

The Clerk updated Council on a recent Subject Access Request.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

2nd June 2025
Date:.....