



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

Present:

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

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the July meeting and reminded everyone to be mindful of the Code of Conduct.

07.01.25 Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

07.02.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

07.03.25 Public Participation Session.

Unitary Cllrs Pamela Davies and David Davies and two members of public were present.

- Mr Smith informed Council that he and two volunteers will prepare a report for Council with their proposals to plant locally-grown oak trees. It is noted that Severn Trent will have some at the new treatment plant. The Chair reminded Mr Smith that the group need to consider landowner permission, planting and maintenance of the trees when formulating their report.

07.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on Monday 2nd June 2025 and Monday 23rd June 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 2nd June 2025 and Monday 23rd June 2025, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report. The Chair and Clerk attended a Primary School assembly and gave out prizes for a dog mess awareness poster competition. The Post Office did not re-open as planned on 27th June. The Clerk has written to the Post Office for an explanation and update but there has been no response.
There have been a few comments about some unkempt graves in the Cemetery. Volunteers have been strimming some of these graves. The question of maintenance responsibilities of graves in the Cemetery will be addressed at the next Cemetery Regulations review.
Traffic Engineering have stated they do not have the finances for a traffic review of the Hurst but offered to paint a white line in front of the house to direct traffic away from the property. The maintenance assistants have completed their brush cutter and hedge trimming courses. Chainsaw maintenance and crosscutting courses are being held on 31st July and 1st August. The new CCTV maintenance company will be on-site on 4th August to start reviewing the system. They will provide a quote for any replacement cameras required.
The Festival was a great success and the mix of performances and activities worked really well. Next year we will provide more seating, improve the location of the performance tent and extend the performances into the evening, investigate a more adequate PA system, consider recycling plastics and look at hiring portable toilets.
Cllrs Abbatiello, Hainsworth, Smith and the Clerk met with representatives of Cleobury Country regarding the Library. Shropshire Council's Culture and Communities Manager would now like to meet with the Council to discuss the matter further.
Reports of damage to a hedge and crops in a field behind Stanbury Place have been reported to Citizen Housing who confirmed they will secure the area by the end of August.
- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:
 1. Severn Trent Meeting Report.
Cllrs Abbatiello, Hainsworth, James, Hobin and the Clerk met with representatives of Severn Trent and their contractor Mott McDonald Bentley on 23rd June to receive an update on the new site development. The ground work is now complete and construction will start soon.
 2. Employment Committee Meeting Report
The Employment Committee met on Friday 4th July. All matters discussed are confidential.
 3. Festival Working Group Report
This was covered in the Office Report. Council agreed it was a great success.

Initials....DA.....



c) Councillor Updates:

- Cllr Hobin asked if Council could write and welcome all new businesses in town. The Chair confirmed he has visited most of them already.
- Cllr James asked if Council would support a letter to all residents of Stanbury Place informing them of the damage that had been caused at the rear of the estate and to note that the path does not extend into the field. Council approved this proposal and Cllr James will hand deliver the letters.
- Cllr Hainsworth commented that the vehicle activated sign at Quarry Bank is still not working. The sign was installed as this area is an accident blackspot but the sign has been out of action for many months again.
- Cllr Smith commented that dog mess seems to be worse again in town. Council agreed that this is difficult to prevent despite putting up signs, providing free dog mess bags and bins.
- Cllr Burns confirmed that the Council Office will be moving to the Market Hall on Thursday 10th July.
- Cllr Abbatiello informed Council that a sign has been put up at the main entrance to the Bike Trail informing people that hogweed is present and that we are clearing it.
- Cllr Abbatiello noted that space has been created in Office 4 at the Market Hall to store the new Christmas Lights but access is restricted to this room to Council members and staff only. When the lights are needed the working group volunteers will need to make appropriate arrangements to access the lights.

07.06.25 Unitary Councillor's Report.

Unitary Councillor Davies agreed that the continuing delay of reopening the Post Office and the lack of information was very poor. Cllr Hainsworth stressed the ongoing concern that we have no bank either and the branches of Lloyds Bank in neighbouring towns are all closing this year. Cllr James asked Cllr Davies to follow up on her report concerning the email from Heather Kidd, Leader of Shropshire Council about pot holes and how they will make sure that contracts for potholing are implemented efficiently. Cllr James asked what this will mean in reality, also how long will it take for Shropshire Council to permit local parish councils to repair small pot holes themselves – can Cllr Davies chase this up? There were further comments about the poor workmanship of most pot hole repairs, the lack of quality control and there being no logical approach to fill all holes in one location fully. There seems to be no accountability at Shropshire Council regarding this concern.

Cllr Davies confirmed she had been in touch with Traffic Engineering asking for measures to help prevent damage to a property on the Hurst from vehicles. The Town Council confirmed their support for painting a white line in front of the property.

07.07.25 Financial Matters.

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

Cleobury Country – Office Rent (1st June – 10th July) - £531.52
Country Skills – Grass Cutting (June) - £2,240.00
JDH Business Services Ltd – Internal Audit - £661.20
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (May – July) - £156.00
A J Gallagher – Insurance premium to increase Fidelity Guarantee cover - £167.51
Trevor Brooke Grab Services – Green Waste Collection from Cemetery - £276.00
Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass – Festival entertainment - £250.00
Mr P Raymond - Tin Drum / Festival Entertainment - £300.00
Hands on Printing – Festival Printing - £84.50
Cleobury Community Hub – Festival Climbing Wall - £550.00 (not £500 as per Agenda)
Twit Twoo – Falconry/ Festival Entertainment - £200.00
D J Paran – Festival Entertainment - £80.00
Connexus – St Mary's Place Room Hire for Childe Endowment meeting - £10.00
Satellite Industries – Cemetery portaloo - £1,074.00 (not P P Sanitation – Cemetery Portaloo - £954.95 + VAT as out of stock)
T S Shropshire – CCTV Maintenance Contract - £2,975.83
Disco Daddy – Festival 2026 Entertainment - £200.00
Playsafety – RoSPA inspections - £460.80.
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
Lower Bush Farm – Brush cutter and hedge cutter training courses - £720.00
Norris & Miles – solicitor fees - £342.00.

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- b) **Council RESOLVED to approve payments made since the last meeting:**
Viking – Toilet and office supplies - £144.92 (Debit Card)
Amazon – Maintenance and office supplies - £198.72 (Debit Card)
Wayfair – Gazebo - £134.98 (Debit Card)
Midlands Co-operative – Cash Withdrawal (Petty Cash) - £200.00 (Debit Card)
Argos – Laptop (S.137 Market Hall) - £449.00 (Debit Card)
Shropshire Council – Licence for Festival - £21.00 (Debit Card)
Smyths – Gift Vouchers (Prizes) - £90.00 (Debit Card).
- c) **Council approved the following S.137 payment:**
Cleobury Mortimer & District CFR's – Festival First Aid support - £200.00.
- d) **Council noted receipt of the following income:**
Bank Interest - £49.40
Cemetery Receipts - £2,450.00
Festival Traders' fees - £240.00
Neighbourhood Fund - £61.23.
- e) **Council approved the new quotation for the street lighting electricity contract. The proposed cost will be £5,250 per annum based on a two-year contract with SSE.**
- f) **Council considered the options to address issues with three lighting columns in the QEII Park and agreed that they should be replaced. This will be at no cost to the Town Council.**
- g) **Council approved and signed the updated direct debit instructions for West Mercia Energy and Blisstech Solutions.**

07.08.25 Planning Matters.

- a) **New Planning Applications:**
- Reference: 25/01887/LBC (validated: 18/06/2025)
Address: Vine House, 40 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DQ
Proposal: Change of existing conservatory roof materials
Applicant: Mr Rob Parr (40 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8DQ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
 - Reference: 25/01886/FUL (validated: 20/06/2025)
Address: Vine House, 40 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DQ
Proposal: Change of existing conservatory roof materials
Applicant: Mr Rob Parr (40 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8DQ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
- b) **Planning Decisions (For Information Only):**
- Reference: 24/03787/FUL (validated: 02/10/2024)
Address: Cleobury Hills Care Home, High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8DN
Proposal: Proposed 58 bedroom residential care accommodation, access, amenity space and associated works (Resubmission of 23/03056/FUL)
Decision: Grant Permission.
 - Reference: 25/01472/PA3MA (validated: 17/04/2025)
Address: Redthorne Farm, Redthorne Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14
Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use from Commercial, Business and Service use Class E to Dwellinghouse use Class C3
Decision: Prior Approval Not Required.
 - 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
Decision: Grant Permission.

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07.09.25 Shropshire Council consultation

Council agreed to respond to Shropshire Council's 'Call for Information' consultation. The Town Clerk/Deputy Clerk will complete the response form in time for the closing date of 18th August. Council members can send their comments, for inclusion in the response, to the Clerk's office by the end of July.

07.10.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th August 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 11-12.

At 7.24pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.26pm.

07.11.25 Employment Matters

Council received an update on recent employment matters.

07.12.25 Playing Field update

Council discussed recent correspondence regarding the Primary School's fence proposal. Council agreed to arrange two open public meetings to inform residents of the School's proposals and the covenants in the deeds and hear residents' views before taking a view on how to proceed. The meetings will be held on Thursday 31st July and Thursday 4th September 2025.

The Meeting closed at 8.06pm.

David Abbatiello

Signed:.....Chair

4th August 2025

Date:.....