



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th August 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 August meeting and reminded everyone to follow the Code of Conduct.

08.01.25 Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

08.02.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

08.03.25 Public Participation Session.

Unitary Cllrs Pamela Davies and David Davies plus eight members of public were present. Comments were made in support of the Town Council's public meeting last week regarding the Primary School's proposal to erect a fence across part of the Playing Field. It was felt the meeting was presented well and gave the opportunity to discuss the issues and listen to all points. There are strong feelings and some statements are being challenged on both sides. The Deed and covenants for the land will be put on the Town Council website. There have been no reports of any drugs or glass on the field at any time but there are occasional incidents of dog mess and loose dogs but this needs to be put into context as most people act responsibly. Questions about correspondence with the School were raised. Council confirmed that, after the open meeting, it sent a letter to the School but once again was told they would only speak through their solicitor. Members of public commented that there were no representatives from the School or people in favour of the fence here this evening, also that there are other options other than a fence. Spray markings on the Playing Field, on both sides of the proposed fence have caused concern but there is no firm information on when a fence would be erected. Cllr Davies commented that she has also received phone calls objecting to the fence. The Town Council is considering its legal advice and the cost of challenging the School's proposal but its current focus is to have face-to-face meetings with School and Shropshire Council representatives to reach an agreeable solution to this issue.

08.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025.

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

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

a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report.

The outcome of the open meeting regarding the Primary School's fence proposal was that it is essential to find a community solution to this community issue.

The Maintenance Assistants have now completed their ITA 2-day Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting Course.

Cllr Abbatiello, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Burns, Cllr James and the Clerk met with Pete Banford, Shropshire Council's Culture & Communities Manager and Unitary Cllr James Owen (Portfolio Holder) to discuss the future of the Library in the Cleobury Country Centre. Shropshire Council is struggling for funding to pay Cleobury Country for running the Library. Mr Banford had commented that he was disappointed that no-one from Cleobury Country was at this meeting.

The VJ Commemorative event will take place on Friday 15th August, commencing with bell ringing at 6pm followed by prayers in the Memorial Garden and a march up to the Playing Field then light the Beacon once everyone has convened

The Charter Day Service will be held on Sunday 14th September, 10am at St Mary's Church. Letters have been delivered to every property at Stanbury Place explaining the problems with the fence at the rear of the site. Citizen Housing have confirmed they will repair the fence by the end of August.

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There has been correspondence with Shropshire Council regarding the lime trees on Church Street and High Street. These trees are Shropshire Council's but we pay for the maintenance (trimming/pleaching). Until recently, the cost was partly met by Shropshire Council but this is no longer the case. We pay the full amount with some support from the Horticultural Society. Shropshire Council have been asked if they would set up a Service Level Agreement for this tree trimming work as we have no written agreement in place. The defective lime tree on Church Street has not been removed yet and we have requested a replacement lime tree. The Town Council was copied into correspondence from the Save The Manor House group to Shropshire Council's Historic Environment Team regarding the condition of the building and seeking assurance that recent work being carried out in the building is permissible. The Policy and Environment Service Manager acknowledged the concerns and stated the owner had informed him of general maintenance work that was to be carried out this summer and that the owner is aware of the rules around the listed building status.

b) Committee and Working Group Reports:

1. Library Meeting Report.

This was covered in the Clerk's Report.

2. Town Meeting Report

In addition to comments made during the Public session earlier, the consensus was that the public meeting to discuss the issues around the School's fence proposal was successful.

3. Finance Committee Report

The draft Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 28th July had been circulated. The Finance Committee needs at least one more councillor to ensure that meetings will be quorate and that there is robust oversight of the accounts and internal systems. Council approved the nominations for Cllr Smith and Cllr Burns to join this Committee.

c) Councillor Updates:

- Cllr Hainsworth commented that some people felt it was difficult to hear everything at the town meeting in the back of the church and an improved sound system will be looked into. As so many people wanted to speak can the meeting time be extended for the next meeting? Council agreed to extend the meeting to 90 minutes. Also, can Cllr Davies take up the matter of the vehicle activated sign at Quarry Bank with Shropshire Council. Fix My Street says the work is complete but the sign is still not working. This is a health and safety issue at an accident blackspot.
- Cllr Smith raised concerns that vehicles are being damaged by potholes on Ronhill Lane.
- Cllr James received a complaint from a resident about the lack of maintenance on the pavement to the Blount Arms. This is Shropshire Council's responsibility. Unitary Cllr Davies is also following this up. Several people have commented on the lack of action to replace a damaged drain cover in the pavement on the High Street. Mobility scooters cannot get over the trench and this needs urgent attention. Comments regarding the new barbers resulted in Council agreeing to ask Shropshire Council if business rates are due to be paid.

08.06.25 Unitary Councillor's Report.

Unitary Councillor Davies had sent a written report which had been circulated. Cllr Davies confirmed that Shropshire Council approved a further £1.5m to be spent on the new biochar site in Ludlow. Cllr Davies has met with representatives of Cleobury Country regarding the Library. Shropshire Council has stated there is no extra money for the Library. Cllr Burns stated that town councillors being asked for their personal political views is wholly inappropriate. This occurred at the July Market when the Council surgery was held.

08.07.25 Financial Matters.

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

SALC – Councillor Training Course - £40.00

Country Skills – Grass Cutting (July) - £2,240.00

Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Fees Account – Meeting Hire - £20.00

The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:

Market Hall Trust – quarterly rent - £1,150.00

Trevor Brooke Grab Services – green waste collection - £276.00.

Initials.....DA...

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b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Bank Interest - £18.41
Cemetery Receipt - £975.00
Rugby Club – Playing Field Hire - £200.00.
Environmental Maintenance Grant - £750.00.
Horticultural Society – Donation towards lime tree pleaching - £450.00.

08.08.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/02537/FUL (validated: 15/07/2025)
Address: 4 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QD
Proposal: Erection of part single part two storey rear extension, single storey front extension and detached garage, replacement of tiles with cladding to front elevation, replacement windows/fascia, application of render, installation of 15No solar panels to principal roofline
Applicant: Mr Dan Morgan (4 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8QD)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
2. Reference: 25/02412/ TCA (validated: 01/07/2025)
Address: Eltrebeth, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QE
Proposal: Reduction of 1no. Apple tree (as per schedule) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mrs E Burton
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
3. Reference: 25/01888/DSA106 (validated: 04/07/2025)
Address: Honeysuckle Cottage, Redthorne Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8QH
Proposal: Discharge of S106 agreement attached to planning application SS/1/07/19775/F
Applicant: Mr & Mrs R Sloan
Outcome: Council felt it could not comment on this application at this stage as insufficient information has been provided. A full copy of the Section 106 Agreement should be provided with an explanation of what part of the S.106 is being requested to be discharged. It is not clear if this property is tied to Agricultural use or is a Local Needs Exception Site Dwelling. Council will ask the Planning Officer to hold this request in abeyance until all details have been made available to enable the Town Council to make an informed comment.
4. Reference: 25/02498/FUL (validated: 24/07/2025)
Address: Electra House, 18 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DG
Proposal: Proposed refurbishment and alterations to upper storeys to provide 2No. flats with new pedestrian access and demolition of redundant dilapidated single storey extensions
Applicant: Mr Waliur Rahman (99 Lewisham Road, Smethwick, B66 2DD)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
5. Reference: 25/02499/LBC (validated: 24/07/2025)
Address: Electra House, 18 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DG
Proposal: Proposed refurbishment and alterations to upper storeys to provide 2No. flats with new pedestrian access and demolition of redundant dilapidated single storey extensions
Applicant: Mr Waliur Rahman (99 Lewisham Road, Smethwick, B66 2DD)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 25/01554/FUL (validated: 08/05/2025)
Address: 15 Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8BX
Proposal: Conversion of first and second floors to two residential flats
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. Reference: 25/01700/LBC (validated: 07/05/2025)
Address: 15 Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8BX
Proposal: Works to facilitate the conversion of first and second floors to two flats, additional works to ground floor for accessibility
Decision: Grant Permission.

Initials.....DA...



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3. Reference: 25/01842/TCA (validated 20/05/2025)
Address: 3 Castle Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DA
Proposal: Fell 1no. Hawthorn (T2) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Decision - Consent by Right – Trees.

08.09.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st September 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 10-11.

At 7.20pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.23pm.

08.10.25 Employment Matters

Council received an update on recent employment matters and reviewed salaries in line with National Joint Council arrangements.

08.11.25 Playing Field update

Council discussed recent correspondence regarding the Primary School's fence proposal since the public meeting on 31st July and the options on how to proceed. It is strongly hoped that the School will engage in face-to-face communications with the Town Council again and a compromise between all parties can be reached.

The Meeting closed at 8.36pm.

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

Date...01/09/2025.....