



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 1st September 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 (in-part), Town Clerk Mrs D McBride and Deputy Town Clerk Miss S Dolphin.

Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the September meeting and reminded everyone to follow the Code of Conduct.

09.01.25 Apologies for absence.

There were apologies from Cllr Geoff Hainsworth and Cllr Helen Smith.

09.02.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

09.03.25 Public Participation Session.

Cllr Heather Kidd (Leader of Shropshire Council), Unitary Cllr James Owen (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Housing), Unitary Cllrs Pamela Davies and David Davies plus twenty-six members of public were present.

- The Chair of the new Sports and Social Association asked for a council representative to be a liaison link between the two organisations (without voting rights). Council will consider this.
- A Director of Cleobury Country was interested to hear about funding for the Library this evening. Following the last Council meeting where it was stated that no-one attended a meeting from Cleobury Country to discuss the future of the Library, a resident stated that Cleobury Country was not invited by Shropshire Council to that meeting.
- A resident remarked that despite comments from school parents that school children are asked to check for dog mess, glass and drugs items on the Playing Field the police have not had any reports of such items being found on the Playing Field.
- A resident commented that the rugby pitch is not being maintained and is not fit to play on. Is it possible that the rugby pitch could be transferred to the community to compensate for the proposed loss of part of the Playing Field?
- A statement was read out regarding the future of Cleobury Sports Centre. The current operator, Teme Leisure, has given notice to quit following the withdrawal of funding from Shropshire Council. A Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre will be set up to help fund-raise the shortfall. The Manager of Teme Leisure explained that funding from Shropshire Council had reduced over the years and has now stopped. Teme Leisure is a social enterprise business and has subsidized the Cleobury Sports Centre by £68,000 as the Centre does not cover its costs and this cannot continue. The Manager confirmed that they would withdraw their notice if the grant funding of £23,500 was provided as they do not want to close the Centre. They understand Shropshire Council's financial situation and have offered to keep the Cleobury Centre open provided Ludlow also stayed open beyond 2027 but this was not accepted. Cllr Kidd explained that Shropshire Council is looking at a new leisure strategy from August 2027 and tendering for contracts will start soon. She stated that there is no money in the budget for Teme Leisure but they have no intention to see the Centre closed and other options need to be looked at. There is no revenue funding available this year but they can help with capital projects. Community fund-raising and support can be more meaningful and opens the opportunity to obtain grants.

09.04.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th August 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th August 2025, duly signed by the Chair.

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

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Office Report.
- Since the open meeting on Thursday 31st July, the Primary School's fence proposal has generated various correspondence and media attention. There have been some informal meetings with School representatives and it is hoped to have a proposed solution in time for the next meeting on Thursday 4th September.

Initials.....GH

....



- Proposed changes to the Christmas event include starting at 4pm with a children's Christmas film and refreshments available in church. The brass band will play Christmas Carols on the paved area outside Church accompanied by the Church/School Choir from 5pm, with the lights being switched on at 6pm.
 - Following previous meetings with Cleobury Country and Shropshire Council we have not received any further information regarding the Library, however, Unitary Cllr Davies has been in touch with Library Services asking them to set up a secure agreement for the staffing element of the Library. Discussions are underway between Cleobury Country and Shropshire Council about funding arrangements.
 - This year's Charter Day Service will be held on Sunday 14th September at St Mary's Church.
 - Officers from Shropshire Council have met on site with the owner of the Manor House. They discussed his future plans for the building, the recent internal repairs and duly carried out an internal inspection. They were satisfied that the current repairs are limited to like-for-like repairs and that internal historic fixtures and fittings remain in place. Furthermore they were satisfied that the roof remains sound and the building is wind and weathertight.
 - The project team for the new water treatment plant have invited the Town Council to visit their new site this autumn. They would like to provide a guided tour of the site, share the progress made to date and outline the remaining work ahead. They are proposing a late afternoon to early evening visit to ensure there is sufficient daylight for a safe and informative tour. The date and time of the visit will be confirmed.
- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:
There were no Committee or Working Group Reports.
- c) Councillor Updates:
Thanks were expressed to Deputy Town Clerk Miss Dolphin for arranging the volunteer team to renovate and improve the facilities at the Bike Trail in the QEII Park.

09.06.25 Unitary Councillor's Report.

Unitary Councillor Davies had sent a written report which had been circulated.

09.07.25 Financial Matters.

- a) **Council RESOLVED to approve the following invoices for payment:**
DM Payroll Services Ltd – Payroll Service (April – September 2025) - £115.20
Country Skills – Grass Cutting (August) - £2,240.00
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire - £25.00
Norris & Miles – Solicitor's Fees – £342.00
Crystal Thought – New Website (balance payment) - £900.00.
- b) **To approve payments made since the last meeting:**
Plastic Card People – Identity Badges - £59.94 (Debit Card)
Amazon – Maintenance and Office Supplies - £81.72 (Debit Card)
Tackle Store – Safety Harness – £44.36 (Debit Card)
Office Furniture Online – Office Chairs - £288.00 (Debit Card)
UK Office Direct – Desk Display Boards - £329.95 (Debit Card)
- c) **Council noted receipt of the following income:**
Bank Interest - £17.26
Cemetery Receipt - £325.00.
- d) Council reviewed and approved the quotation by our approved contractor, TS Shropshire, to replace faulty CCTV equipment. This will cost £5,032.85.
- e) Council reviewed the quotations to upgrade the office computer equipment and approved a quotation of £2,008.00.

Initials...GH...



09.08.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/02799/TDC (validated: 05/08/2025)
Address: 15B High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DG
Proposal: Technical matters application for the construction of 3 dwellings
Applicant: Mr D McGindley (15 B High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DG)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposals. Whilst the site had been cleared prior to the original planning application, there is no mention of Biodiversity Net Gain and no plans to improve the site once the development takes place. There is no reference to the Tree Preservation Order on an adjacent tree. The site is within the Conservation Area and also Pudding Brook Wildlife Corridor as identified in the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan. No consideration has been given to the requirements in these documents. There are concerns about the environmental impact on the watercourse from potential contaminants in the land and the proposed soakaway drainage systems. The site should be assessed for these concerns to mitigate any impact on Pudding Brook.

b) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. 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)
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. 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)
Decision: Grant Permission.
3. Reference: 24/03387/PMBPA (validated: 12/09/2024)
Address: Proposed Residential Conversion Of Former Agricultural Building at Mortimer Hill
Proposal: Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q for the change of use from agricultural to form one residential unit to include all works
Applicant: Mr Ian Swancott (3 Mortimer Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8QQ)
Decision: Appeal Dismissed.

09.09.25 West Mercia Police Consultation

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Town and Parish Survey was delegated to the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk to complete.

09.10.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th October 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 7.30pm there was a short break. The Meeting reconvened at 7.40pm.

09.11.25 Employment Matters

Council received an update on recent employment matters.

09.12.25 Playing Field update



Council and School Academy members will present the latest fence proposal to the community on Thursday 4th September at St Mary's. It is hoped that there will be further interaction with the community and all parties to move the matter towards a conclusion.

The Meeting closed at 8.41pm.

Signed:.....G Hainsworth.....Chair

Date.....06.10.25.....