



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 6.30pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

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

The Chair, Cllr Abbatiello welcomed everyone to the November meeting and reminded councillors to abide by the Code of Conduct.

11.01.25 Apologies for absence.

There were apologies from Unitary Cllr Pamela Davies.

11.02.25 Co-option of new councillors.

This item was deferred until the December meeting.

11.03.25 Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

11.04.25 Public Participation Session.

There were 12 members of public present. Points raised were:

- A resident informed Council of his plans to extend Ronville Cottage. Council will consider this once a formal planning application has been submitted.
- Mr Todd informed the Council that a proposal to put Christmas feature lights on the flag pole can be disregarded as the lights will be now be installed on the Parish Hall as originally intended when purchased. Appropriate plugs have now been fitted onto the strings of Christmas lights for the main street.
- The Chair of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) Cllr Ray Wickson spoke about the role of SALC and the proposed partnership with Town and Parish Councils and Shropshire Council under the banner 'Shropshire Together'. Some local councils are starting a pilot scheme in April 2026 to assist Shropshire Council with the provision of services. Cllr Wickson asked the Town Council to consider the Shropshire Together Parish Charter and provide some feedback on the proposals. Local councils may not need to precept money for providing additional services but if Shropshire Council cannot deliver a balanced budget this year some services may be cut unless parishes take such services on. Cllr Wickson also encouraged the Town Council to get involved at the local SALC Area Committee meetings.

11.05.25 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October 2025, duly signed by the Chair.

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

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

Severn Trent Treatment Plant

Council agreed that Mr Smith (Tree Warden) could be invited to our next meeting with Severn Trent on Tuesday 25th November to receive an update on the progress of the site. Mr Smith will ask Severn Trent for clarification regarding their plans to restore and improve the site for biodiversity as well as planting some locally grown oak trees.

- b) Committee and Working Group Reports:

1. The Christmas Lights Meeting Report had been circulated. It was noted that the request to consider using the flag pole for Christmas lights has now been withdrawn.
2. The recent Employment Committee meeting was inquorate so did not go ahead.
3. Cllr Abbatiello reported that there have been two positive meetings with representatives from the Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre and Teme Leisure to discuss the funding required by Teme Leisure to keep the Sports Centre open.
4. Cllr Hainsworth confirmed the draft Minutes from the recent Finance Committee have been circulated and highlighted that time had been spent on the budget preparation for 2026-27.
5. Cllr Smith had sent a report following her visit to see the Youth Forum in action.

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6. Mr Smith, Tree Warden had sent an interim report on the Memorial Oaks Project. Fifty saplings, grown from locally-sourced acorns five years ago, are ready for planting out across the parish. A Severn Treescapes Officer is very supportive and wants to assist with our project with a hope to connect significant woodland areas from the Wyre to the Wye. A not-for-profit charity will be set up to cover the project in conjunction with support from Severn Landscapes.

c) Councillor Updates:

- Cllr James asked, on behalf of a resident, if the Town Council could recognise the work of our Community First Responder and perhaps make a contribution to the local fund. Council confirmed that it fully appreciates all that our local Responder does and we do make payments to the First Responders when they provide first aid cover at our events. Council will invite the First Responders to make a grant application for further funding.
- Cllr Smith confirmed that she and Cllr Abbatiello attended a site visit at the Cleobury Sports Centre to view the services on offer there.

11.07.25 Unitary Councillor's Report.

Cllr Davies had sent a written report which had been circulated. There were no questions but Council expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Cllr Davies on local issues.

11.08.25 Financial Matters.

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

Country Skills – Grass Cutting (October) - £1,120.00
TS Shropshire Ltd – CCTV upgrades and replacement equipment - £6,039.42
Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire (October) - £57.60
Wicksteed – Replacement parts for Play Area gate - £27.46
Sciotech – Secure document disposal - £7.20
Prysmian – New socket for Christmas Lighting & repair to Childe Road streetlight - £599.86
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
Country Skills – Grass Cutting (October – final cut) - £1,120.00
Royal British legion – Remembrance Wreath - £20.00
Cleobury Country – Room Hire (October) - £111.60
Market Hall – Quarterly Rent for three offices - £1,175.00
NBB Recycling – Three picnic benches for the QEII Park - £1,765.80.

b) Council RESOLVED to approve the following debit card payments made:

Medisave – Defibrillator spares - £167.99
Shropshire Council – Green Bin Permit - £56.00
Amazon – Office and maintenance equipment - £169.68
Glasdon – Bin accessories - £28.33
Morris Bufton – Strimmer Cord - £10.95
Screwfix – Maintenance supplies - £111.97
Hire Equipment (Ludlow) - Cherry picker for assessing flag pole - £120.00
Viking – Stationery - £38.73
Hands-on-Printing – Printing for public meeting - £16.00
Midlands Co-op – Petty Cash top-up - £200.00.

c) Council considered and approved the following S.137 payment:

South Shropshire Youth Forum – Outreach Work - £3,000.00.

d) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Bank Interest - £13.07
Cemetery Receipt - £350.00

e) Council considered the proposal to purchase business cards for councillors and officers. Cllr Hainsworth felt that issuing business cards is a professional practice for our business. Council resolved to purchase generic business cards at £14 for 250.

f) Council moved the proposed consultation regarding the budget for 2026/2027 to the confidential session.

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11.09.25 Planning Matters.

a) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 25/03664/ADV (validated: 13/10/2025)
Address: Kings Arms, Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BS
Proposal: Erect and display one hanging sign with trough light, one amenity sign, sign written gable with one flood light, two lantern lights
Applicant: MS Concept Signs (C/o Agent).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
2. Reference: 25/03706/LBC (validated: 13/10/2025)
Address: Kings Arms, Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8BS
Proposal: Listed Building consent for 1No hanging sign with trough light, 1No amenity sign, sign written gable with 1No flood light, 2No lantern lights
Applicant: Ms Concept Signs (Kings Arms Church Street, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8BS).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
3. Reference: 25/03725/FUL (validated: 06/10/2025)
Address: Mill Bank, 5 Tenbury Mead, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8RF
Proposal: Erection of a detached single garage
Applicant: Mr. G. McCulloch (5 Tenbury Mead, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8RF).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

b) Planning Appeal:

1. Reference: 25/03415/REF – Application Reference: 25/02799/TDC
Address: 15B High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire.
Proposal: Technical matters (Reference 25/02799/TDC) for the Application for the construction of 3 dwellings (PIP 23/05119/PIP)
Applicant: Mr D McGindley.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to re-iterate its objection to the proposal.

c) Planning Decisions (For Information Only):

1. Reference: 25/02537/FUL
Address: 4 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QD
Proposal: Erection of part single storey part two storey rear extension, single storey front extension and detached garage, replacement of hanging tiles with cladding to front elevation, replacement windows/fascia, application of render, installation of 15No roof mounted solar panels to principal roofline.
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. Reference: 25/03015/TCA
Address: 38A Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8AB
Proposal: Fell 1no. multi-stemmed Leylandii within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.
Decision: Consent by Right – Trees.
3. Reference: 25/03418/TCA
Address: 6 Lion Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QD
Proposal: Reduce to height of hedge and cut back overhang from roadside of group of Sycamore (G1) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.
Decision: No Objection.

11.10.25 Memorial Bench Applications.

Council approved the Memorial Bench application for a bench to be installed on the Playing Field subject to the applicant sending a photograph of the proposed bench. Officers will meet with the applicant to confirm the actual siting. An application for a bench at the Cemetery will be forthcoming in the near future.

11.11.25 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 6.30pm.

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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 12 - 13.

11.12.25 Employment Matters.

Council discussed current employment matters and agreed to advertise the two vacancies.

11.13.25 Playing Field update.

Council discussed the verbal update from Shropshire Council regarding the Primary School fence proposal and agreed the next step would be to obtain written confirmation before meeting with School representatives.

11.08.25 Financial Matters.

- f) Council considered and approved the proposed consultation regarding the budget for 2026/2027 with a few minor amendments. The letter will be sent to every household this month to outline the effect of precepting money for the Cleobury Sports Centre.

The Meeting closed at 8.56pm.

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

Date: 1st December 2025