



# BEWDLEY Town Council

## **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mr J Beeson (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs L Candlin  
Councillor Mr S Clee  
Councillor Mrs A Coleman  
Councillor Mr R Coleman  
Councillor Mrs E Davies  
Councillor Mrs C Edginton-White  
Councillor Mr P Edmundson  
Councillor Miss M Fishwick  
Councillor Mr D Killingworth  
Councillor Miss A Mace

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk  
Mrs Barbara Byng – Assistant Town Clerk  
Mr David Moore – Treasurer  
Mr Kyle Daisley – Community Engagement and Events Officer

#### **8385 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Yarranton and District Councillor Rod Wilson.

#### **8386 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **8387 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

#### **8388 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT**

The Mayor reported on a busy month with three Christmas lights switch on events (one of which attended by Cllr Calne Edginton-White) and the Bewdley Civic Society Annual Dinner. The Mayor commented that the Victorian Christmas in Bewdley event had been very well attended, with local traders reporting the busiest event for a number of years. The Mayor also thanked Councillors Edginton-White, Killingworth and Edmundson for their support during the month.

The Mayor then announced that Councillor Anne Mace would be stepping down as a Town Councillor on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December due to ill health. The Mayor paid tribute to Cllr Mace's long and diligent service as a Town Councillor and Past Mayor and wished her well for the future. The Mayor presented Councillor Mace with a gift which she accepted with thanks.

8389

**MINUTES  
AGREED**

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th November 2016 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8390

**ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for November 2016 drawn up by the Treasurer, together with the balances held at Unity Bank, Cambridge Building Society, Scottish Widows and HM Revenue & Customs and the current budgetary position as to income and expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30th November 2016.

**AGREED**

(i) that the revised schedule of accounts be approved and signed by the Mayor with authority thereby given for the requisite cheques to be drawn;

(ii) that the cash balances be noted as follows:

- with Unity Bank current account of £96,708.01
- with Unity Bank deposit account of £10, 548.37
- with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,011.53
- with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,101.10
- with HMRC (VAT) of £703.76

(iii) that the reconciliation statement be noted;

(iv) that the Council's income and expenditure for the current financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30th November 2016 be noted.

8391

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Candlin presented the Minutes of the Community Development Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

Cllr R Coleman spoke about the success of "shared spaces" in relation to the new Load Street car park layout, whilst Cllr Edginton-White suggested that safety issues around the route to/from the new medical centre need urgent attention. Both suggestions were noted by District Councillor Vale for consideration.

The Town Clerk agreed to chase up proposed Health Liaison Group meeting dates.

Cllr Edginton-White sent out a plea for volunteers to act as "flood wardens" during the temporary barrier deployment. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk.

**AGREED**

That the Minutes be accepted and actions noted.

8392

**APPLICATION FOR BORROWING APPROVAL**

The Town Clerk presented a report in relation to the Town Council applying to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for approval to borrow money to fund the purchase of a property which showed public support for the project.

**AGREED**

The results of the survey were accepted as positive and agreed that they be included as evidence of public support within the application for borrowing approval previously agreed by Council.

**8393 WYRE FOREST LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST**

A letter from District Councillor Fran Oborski was presented asking the Town Council to nominate a representative to sit on the Board of Trustees of the Wyre Forest Local Children's Trust.

**AGREED**

That on a nomination by Councillor Edginton-White, Councillor Derek Killingworth will be the Town Council's representative.

**8394 CHANGES TO CAR PARKING PROVISION IN BEWDLEY**

A letter from District Councillor Becky Vale was presented setting out some proposed changes to free car parking provision in the town to take effect in October 2017 which was noted.

**8395 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES**

The Town Clerk brought the following administrative matters and diary dates to the attention of the Council:

- (i) 8th December, Crime Free Christmas pop up shop, Youth Café
- (ii) 8th December, Together Group Christmas Lunch
- (iii) 18th December, Local Produce Market 10am-4pm
- (iv) 20th December, Policy and Resources Committee 4.30pm Guildhall
- (v) 3rd January 2017, Planning Committee and Council 5.30pm onwards

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....  
Mayor  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

**Town Council Meeting - Public Period**

**Questions raised by members of the public**

**Mr Mansell of Welch Gate** asked about what actions are being taken to alleviate air pollution in Welch Gate. The issue has been going on for far too long and is having detrimental effects on health. The Mayor commented that there is a meeting being held shortly between the District Council and County Council in relation to longer term local planning in order to find a permanent solution.

**Mrs Gill Holland of Beales Corner** asked that more warning is given to motorists over the details of road closures and diversion routes during events.

**Mr Rod Stanczyszyn** asked whether electric car charging points could be included in the new car park design. District Councillor Vale, portfolio holder for Operational Services, agreed to take this suggestion to the relevant officers at the District Council.

**Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

There were no police representatives present but the monthly newsletter was circulated with no issues raised.

## District and County Councillor Reports

District Councillor Becky Vale thanked Town Councillors for their valuable help and advice since becoming a new District Councillor.

Councillor Vale reported that improvement work on Dog Lane car park would start this week with the installation of a new lighting column. Councillor Mace asked that the ticket machine locations are carefully chosen to minimise walking distance between car park and machines.

In relation to Cllr Vale's letter (Minute 8393), Town Councillors pointed out that the letter implied that the proposals had already been agreed and that "consulting" the Town Council when the decisions had already been made had little point. Cllr Vale explained that the proposals had not been through the Scrutiny process yet, and that she felt it was important to keep the Council informed as early as possible. Councillors outlined how important car parking provision is for both residents and visitors and that the loss of free parking would be very damaging. It was noted, however, that Thursdays were not good for free parking as this clashed with the market in Kidderminster. Cllr Killingworth asked why the free parking was being withdrawn considering that the District Council made a surplus on car parking during the last financial year.

Councillor R Coleman asked whether asbestos had been removed from the site of the old Library/Medical Centre which was confirmed by Cllr Clee.

Councillor Vale also mentioned that a free drop in centre helping people reduce their energy costs will be in Bewdley Library on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, that the District Council are supporting the White Ribbon Campaign and that a contractor had been appointed to demolish Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre.

Councillor Killingworth gave the apologies of District Councillor Rod Wilson, and wished to officially thank Cllr Wilson for his donation to the Youth Café. Cllr Wilson had also contacted the medical centre to ask them to fit an audible alarm to their car park barrier to assist people with visual impairments.