



BEWDLEY Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 3rd APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

PRESENT

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

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

8426 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

8427 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8431 due to his wife being a council employee. Councillor Byng did not vote on this item.

8428 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

None

8429 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT

The Mayor reported on a very successful Mayor's Charity Dinner which was held at the Hop Pole Inn. Thanks were extended to the Landlords for their hospitality. The event raised £700 for the Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Mayor was also on a team representing Bewdley at the Parish Charity Games organised by WFDC. Bewdley finished fourth out of five entries. The Mayor reported with sadness the death of Eda Wormald, one of the last Mayors of the Borough of Bewdley in 1971. The Town Clerk was asked to send a letter of condolence to the family. The Union flag at the Guildhall would remain at half-mast.

8430 MINUTES AGREED

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6th March 2017 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8431

ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for March 2017 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 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

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 £40,822.46
 - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,551.55
 - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,011.53
 - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
 - with HMRC (VAT) of £2,710.32
- (iii) that the reconciliation statement be noted;
- (iv) that the Council's income and expenditure for the current financial year from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 be noted.

8432

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillor Clee presented the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 15th March 2017.

AGREED

That the Minutes be accepted and actions noted.

8433

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Candlin presented the Minutes of the Community Development Committee held on 20th March 2017. Councillor Candlin congratulated all involved in putting on such an excellent market on Sunday 2nd April using the new operator LSD Promotions. Cllr Edginton-White commented on the poor attendance of the police representatives recently and asked that a meeting of the Police Liaison Group is called as soon as possible. A meeting was due to take place on 19th April 2017.

AGREED

The Minutes be accepted and actions agreed.

8434

YOUNG MAYOR'S PENDANT

A report was presented by the Town Clerk asking for approval to purchase a Young Mayor's Pendant at a cost of £158.56. Councillors were not clear however on the role of the Young Mayor particularly at Council meetings and asked the Town Clerk to clarify this.

AGREED

- (i) To purchase a Young Mayor's Pendant at a cost of £158.66;
- (ii) That the Town Clerk clarifies the role of the Young Mayor and circulates this to Members in due course.

8435

DBS CHECKS FOR COUNCILLORS

Councillor Candlin presented a report recommending that Councillors go through the Disclosure and Barring Service checking system in relation to their potential contact with children and vulnerable adults. It was uncertain as to the value of such action which would be entirely voluntary. Some justification was agreed in relation to the Together Group Councillors and volunteers, but even then it is unlikely that any Councillor

would be alone with such a person. The recommendation was that the Town Clerk research this further and report back.

Councillor Candlin asked for a named vote, the results of which were:

Cllr Beeson – FOR
Cllr Byng – FOR
Cllr Candlin – FOR
Cllr Clee – AGAINST
Cllr A Coleman – FOR
Cllr R Coleman – FOR
Cllr Davies – FOR
Cllr Edginton-White – FOR
Cllr Edmundson – ABSTAIN
Cllr Fishwick – FOR
Cllr Harrison – AGAINST
Cllr Killingworth – FOR
Cllr Yarranton - AGAINST

With 9 FOR and 3 AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTION the motion was carried.

AGREED

That the Town Clerk researches the legalities of such a checking process and the potential associated costs and report back to Council.

8436

COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING

Councillor Byng presented a verbal report asking for support to start a community litter pick campaign in Wribbenhall. Cllr Byng would be happy to co-ordinate such an initiative which would involve education and active involvement.

AGREED

To support this initiative and ask Councillor Byng to liaise with the Town Clerk as to publicity and advertising via the press, Town Council website and social media channels.

8437

CORRESPONDENCE

A response from Worcestershire County Council following last month's request to make Yew Tree Lane a one way street was noted.

8438

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES

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

- (i) 8th April, Community Showcase Event, St George's Hall, 10am – 3pm
- (ii) 10th April, Annual Town Meeting – Councillor reports required please
- (iii) 17th April "Make It or Bake It" event – Severnside, Easter Monday
- (iv) 18th April, Policy and Resources Committee, 6.30pm Guildhall
- (v) 19th April, Police Liaison Group 2pm Guildhall
- (vi) 23rd April, St George's Day Parade, 10.30am Guildhall – Robed
- (vii) 2nd May (Tuesday) Planning Committee and full Council (Bank Holiday on 1st May)

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....
Mayor
2nd May 2017

Town Council Meeting - Public Period

Questions raised by members of the public

Mr Phil Mansell of Welch Gate wished to express concern about the poor state of repair of the Youth Café building. As a Trustee, Cllr Killingworth reported that the Café is due for a re-decoration inside and out before the summer.

Mr Rod Stanczyszyn of Dry Mill Lane wished to congratulate those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Event held on the 18th March at Wribbenhall Parish Room. Mr Stanczyszyn was thanked for his remarks and for his interest in the Plan's progress. He also asked about when the former workhouse building in High Street was due to be dealt with as the building was seriously neglected. The Mayor advised there were fairly advanced talks ongoing with the owner involving WFDC and the Civic Society amongst others.

Mr Rod Wilson asked whether Councillor Edmundson should resign over his decision to join the Labour Party and seek re-election based on his new Party's values.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

The police representative sent apologies and referred to the monthly report which was circulated.

District and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Campion said, in relation to the former workhouse, that WFDC did have compulsory purchase powers but the cost to the taxpayer needed to be considered very carefully. He also reported on the completed footway works at the top of Load Street and thanked the Council for its support over the last 12 years whilst he has been a County Councillor. Cllr Campion would not be seeking re-election to the County Council in May due to his role as the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.