



# BEWDLEY Town Council

## **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd JANUARY 2017 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 C Edginton-White  
Councillor Mr P Edmundson  
Councillor Miss M Fishwick  
Councillor Mr D Killingworth  
Councillor Mr G Yarranton (until 7.50pm)

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

8396

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs E Davies and District Councillors Rod Wilson and Becky Vale.

8397

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Edginton-White declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8401 due to a family business receiving a payment from the Town Council. Cllr Edginton-White left the room for the item.

8398

### **COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**

The Town Clerk clarified that Councillors who reside in Bewdley have a dispensation granted until May 2018 to allow the Council to agree and set its level of council tax each year.

8399

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

December had seen the Mayor attend a number of carol services and Christmas parties, including the Together Group party held at Wribbenhall Parish Room. The Mayor wished to pass on his thanks to all the volunteers who organised the party including Councillors Mrs Candlin, Mrs Davies and Mrs Edginton-White. Also of note was the opening of the new library, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Cub Scouts and the annual Duck Race organised by Kidderminster Lions. The Mayor thanked Councillors Mrs Edginton-White and Killingworth for attending some events on his behalf.

8400

### **MINUTES AGREED**

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th December 2016 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8401

**ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for December 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 31st December 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 £94,419.14
  - 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 £1,033.72
- (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 31st December 2016 be noted.

8402

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Councillor Clee presented the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. It was noted in particular that the Committee had clarified with Wyre Forest DC that the Town Council were not in a position to take on the paddling pool at Riverside North Park as per their request, and wished to re-state that Wyre Forest DC should continue to operate the pool as it falls under their responsibility to provide such facilities albeit on a non-statutory basis.

**AGREED**

That the Minutes be accepted and actions noted.

8403

**CORPORATE PLAN**

Councillor Clee presented the draft Corporate Plan to cover the period up until 2019 to be reviewed annually with its adoption recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee.

**AGREED**

That the Corporate Plan be adopted, published and monitored by the Policy and Resources Committee.

8404

**BUDGET 2017/2018**

A report and draft budget was presented by the Treasurer and Town Clerk as agreed and recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This included the level at which to set the precept for the coming financial year.

**AGREED**

- (i) that the Council now set its budget in terms of expenditure as shown on the schedule attached;
- (ii) that a precept of £128,377 be levied by way of Council Tax at a Band D household equivalent of £35.70;
- (iii) that such precept now be communicated to and demanded of the District Council as the billing authority pursuant to Regulations made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES**

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

- (i) Health Liaison Group – 2pm, 4<sup>th</sup> January at the Guildhall
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 7pm, 9<sup>th</sup> January at the Guildhall
- (iii) Community Development Committee – 6pm, 16<sup>th</sup> January at the Guildhall
- (iv) Police Liaison Group – 2pm 18<sup>th</sup> January at the Guildhall

The Town Clerk also urged Members to respond to Wyre Forest DC's budget consultation. The Town Clerk was authorised to send a response on behalf of the Council due to the short deadline.

Councillor Clee alerted the Mayor and Town Clerk to an upcoming Chairman's meeting to be held in the next few weeks. Cllr Clee agreed to send details to the Town Clerk.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm

Signed.....  
**Mayor**  
**6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Town Council Meeting - Public Period****Questions raised by members of the public**

**Mrs Gill Holland of Beales Corner** wished to express concern over pedestrian safety in Load Street car park which is being used as a cut through to Dog Lane. The Mayor agreed to pass on concerns to District Councillor Vale who is responsible for car parking at District level. Mrs Holland also said how difficult it was to get information about the New Year's Day Duck Race. It was noted that this was not a Town Council event and the Council rely on being provided with information about events from organisers. The way in which to provide information to be included on the Council events pages is regularly advertised.

**Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

PCSO Jeni Bray provided some clarification about the apparent high level of "violent crime" recorded over December. This figure is as expected over the party season with the figures including domestic related incidents. Burglary figures were good considering the time of year. PCSO Bray also mentioned a Smart Water scheme which acts as a deterrent that may benefit the town and will drop some information in to the Town Clerk.

**District and County Councillor Reports**

Councillor Yarranton reported that the yellow lines had now been installed in Sandbourne Drive to improve safety in this area particularly during school time.

Councillor Killingworth raised a question about recent funding given by Wyre Forest District Council to Bewdley Development Trust (BDT), as he was of the understanding that BDT had wound down its activities. Councillor Killingworth also supported the Town Council's position that Wyre Forest District Council should continue to fund the paddling pool, and suggested that this funding could have been used for this purpose.