



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5th MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Coleman (Mayor)
Councillor Mr J Beeson
Councillor Mr J Byng
Councillor Mrs L Candlin
Councillor Mr S Clee
Councillor Mr R Coleman
Councillor Mrs E Davies
Councillor Mrs C Edginton-White
Councillor Mr P Edmundson (from 7.10pm)
Councillor Miss M Fishwick
Councillor Mr P Harrison
Councillor Mr D Killingworth
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Nick Farress – Town Clerk
Kyle Daisley – Community Engagement Officer
District/County Councillor Becky Vale
County Councillor Ian Hardiman
PCSO Toby Stephenson
4 Members of the Public

8568 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Young Mayor Louisa Coleman, David Moore (Treasurer) and Councillor Edmundson apologised for arriving late.

8569 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8573 (payment of salaries) as his wife is a Council employee. Councillor Byng did not vote on this item.

8570 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

None

8571 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT

The Mayor thanked both the Town Council's Lengthsman and the community volunteers on Queensway for their work gritting roads and pavements with the Council's new salt spreaders. Thanks also went to Ian Williams who tirelessly campaigned for the footpath to be resurfaced between Wyre Hill and the play area.

**8572 MINUTES
AGREED**

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th February 2018 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8573

ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for February 2018 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 2017 to 28th February 2018.

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 £40,409.36
 - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,559.39
 - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,252.29
 - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
 - with HMRC (VAT) of £10,719.09
- (iii) that the reconciliation statement be noted;
- (iv) that the Council's income and expenditure for the current financial year from 1st April 2017 to 28th February 2018 be noted.

8574

DIAMOND BUSES

Councillor Edmundson presented a report recommending that this Council writes to the Traffic Commissioner setting out the concerns the Council has with their services serving Bewdley. This follows a number of local complaints about reliability, temperature during cold weather, driver conduct and general timing issues.

AGREED

- (i) That the Town Clerk writes to the Traffic Commissioner as set out above;
- (ii) That the Town Clerk writes to Worcestershire County Council to ask whether they are satisfied with the service provided by Diamond to concessionary bus pass holders.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 19th February 2018 were noted.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 7th February were noted.

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CALC UPDATE

Councillor Killingworth in his capacity as Chair of the Worcestershire Association of Local Councils advised Councillors on the importance of ongoing training and development, and to keep an eye on the weekly CALC Update for opportunities. Some Members pointed out that training that they had been booked onto had been cancelled at the last minute due to lack of interest, which was a case in point. Councillor Killingworth also presented a letter from Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to the Chair of NALC setting out his support and recognition of the work of town and parish councils which was welcomed.

8578

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES

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

7th March, 6.00pm Planning Committee (Guildhall)

12th March Commonwealth Day, Flag Flying at Wyre Forest House

12th March, 1.00pm Town Plan Working Group (25(A) Load Street)
12th March, 7.00pm Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (25(A) Load Street)
19th March, 6.00pm Community Development Committee (Venue TBA)
24th March, Greener Living Fair, Volunteers Required Please
7th April, Community Showcase Event, Volunteers Required Please
9th April, Annual Town Meeting, 7.00pm St George's Hall

The meeting was closed at 7.52pm

Signed.....
Mayor

April Meeting of the Town Council

Town Council Meeting - Public Period

Questions raised by members of the public

Mr Rod Stanczyszyn asked about the status of a planning permission that exists on a site at Kendal Lodge, Dowles Road (09/0611) and why it features in the Wyre Forest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2016 when nothing has happened on the site for getting on for 9 years. Councillor Edginton-White said that the Planning Committee would look into this matter.

Mr Philip Mansell asked about:

- Fly tipping on "switchback" road from Bewdley to Stourport still has not been removed;
- Lights in Dog Lane car park are not working correctly;
- Update on the Welch Gate traffic congestion issues.

Mr Ian Williams wished to thank the Town Council and in particular Councillor Becky Vale in supporting the resurfacing of the path from Wyre Hill to the Play Area which has now been completed.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

PCSO Toby Stephenson updated the Council on some changes at Sergeant and Inspector level to take effect from 1st April 2018 and that investigations are ongoing into a spate of break ins and anti-social behaviour in the town over the last week. Councillor Killingworth expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of consistency at Inspector level at the news that the newly appointed Inspector was being redeployed after only 10 weeks.

District and County Councillor Reports and Questions

District and County Councillor Becky Vale reported on the following items:

- The extractor fan on the Severn Restaurant is an ongoing issue but is being dealt with and has now involved the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing at the District Council.
- Dowles Road flooding – Highways are looking into solutions in relation to standing water and drainage issues.
- The new Senior Highways Engineer is off on sick leave which means that some projects, like No Road, have slipped through the net. The Town

Clerk had raised this again following resident complaints and has been followed up with the new officer at Highways.

- The PSPO in Jubilee Gardens is to be “policed” more robustly following complaints about dog fouling.
- The Riverside North Play Area is to be closed for resurfacing and will re-open for Easter.
- Councillor Vale would also take up the issues raised by Mr Mansell in the public section.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported on the following:

- Worcestershire County Council met on 15th February when it approved the Budget proposals for 2018/19. There is a 1.94% increase in Council Tax and a 3% increase in its Adult Social Care precept, in total just below a 5% increase. The increase on a band D property will be circa £56 per annum.
- The County's new Chief Executive Paul Robinson is due to start on 19th March. Sadly, The County's interim Chief Executive, Steve Stewart passed away suddenly on 28th March.
- Council Leaders across Worcestershire have announced that Worcestershire will relocate 50 more Syrian Refugees across the county.
- The District's Full Council meeting on 21st February approved its Medium Term Financial Strategy. This included a 1.94% Council Tax increase, an allocation of £1,000 Community Leadership Fund for each councillor and a further Localism Fund of £50k.
- Green Street Depot: Following the District Council's approval of the capital funding, planning permission has been achieved for the £3m investment at the Green Street Depot. The District hopes to go out to tender very soon for the building works.
- The District Council has announced that a development partner has been selected, Cordwell Property Group of Belbroughton, for Phase 1 of Lionfields in Kidderminster which will be a mixed use development anchored by a Cinema.
- Kidderminster's Churchfields urban village development: In February the Government announced nearly £2.7m of funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to help unlock this brown field land for development. Further funding also should become available from the Worcestershire LEP and the GBSLEP in the near future.
- Felled Willow Tree at Beale's Corner: Cllr Vale and I met with Paul Round and Alvan Kingston last week. Paul Round has agreed to provide an up to date summary explaining details during the coming week and this will be forwarded to all interested parties.
- Zebra Crossing at Catchems End: Firstly, I am sticking to my request that sturdy “tactiles” be procured by Highways and installed. Secondly, I have raised a request for the crossing's surface itself to be repaired in the interests of safety especially for visually impaired persons.
- Cats Eyes replacement on the A456 by pass has not, as scheduled, been carried out. I have chased Highways for an explanation.
- High School safety concerns and parking problems: The County's officers are still exploring the possibility of extending the Leisure Centre Car Park to accommodate buses and coaches instead of these, as presently, driving onto the school frontage.

Councillor Davies asked whether the parking problems at Beale's Corner could be re-visited following complaints about large vehicles not giving way causing some near misses.