



BEWDLEY Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY

PRESENT

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

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk
Mrs Barbara Byng – Assistant Clerk
Mr David Moore - Treasurer
8 members of the public

- 8235 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Councillor Mrs Davies (due to a family bereavement), Richard Jones (Lengthsman) and Alan King (NHW).
- 8236 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None
- 8237 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.
- 8238 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT**
The Mayor's list of engagements during January was circulated. Of particular note was the Environment Agency (EA) public meeting held at Bewdley Baptist Church and the Wyre Forest Young Musician of the Year competition at St George's Hall. The Mayor also extended her thanks to her Deputy and other Councillors who had attended engagements on the Mayor's behalf.
- 8239 MINUTES AGREED**
That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th January 2016 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8240

ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts for payment for January 2015 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 2015 to 31st January 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 £55,162.50
 - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,543.11
 - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,000.00
 - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
 - with HMRC (VAT) of £4,951.01
- (iii) that the reconciliation statement be noted;
- (iv) that the Council's income and expenditure for the current financial year from 1st April 2015 to 31st January 2016 be noted.

8241

BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/2017

A report was received from the Chairman of the Finance Committee recommending the 2016/2017 budget. The Committee recommended that the Town Council's shortfall in income vs expenditure in 2016/2017 should be funded partly by using reserves, and partly by raising Council Tax by 3.5%. This would take the Average Band D annual charge to £26.61 and represent a rise of 2p per week.

An **AMENDMENT** was tabled by Councillor Mrs Candlin, seconded by Councillor Alton that the increase in Council Tax should be 0% and that the shortfall should be solely funded using the Council's reserves.

Councillor Candlin requested a named vote on the **AMENDMENT** the results of which were:

Councillor Alton – FOR
Councillor Beeson – AGAINST
Councillor Candlin – FOR
Councillor Clee – AGAINST
Councillor A Coleman – FOR
Councillor R Coleman – AGAINST
Councillor Edginton-White – FOR
Councillor Edmundson - AGAINST
Councillor Fishwick – AGAINST
Councillor Killingworth – AGAINST
Councillor Mace – AGAINST
Councillor Yarranton – AGAINST

With eight votes against the amendment and four in favour, the **AMENDMENT** was declared **LOST**.

On the original motion to raise Council Tax by 3.5%, Councillor Candlin requested a named vote the results of which were:

Councillor Alton – AGAINST

Councillor Beeson – FOR
Councillor Candlin – AGAINST
Councillor Clee – FOR
Councillor A Coleman – AGAINST
Councillor R Coleman – FOR
Councillor Edmundson - FOR
Councillor Edginton-White – AGAINST
Councillor Fishwick – FOR
Councillor Killingworth – FOR
Councillor Mace – FOR
Councillor Yarranton – FOR

With eight votes for the motion and four against it was therefore

AGREED

(i) that the Council now set its budget for 2016/2017 in terms of expenditure as shown on the budget schedule prepared by the Treasurer;

(ii) that a precept of £94,864 be levied by way of Council Tax at a Band D household equivalent of £26.61;

(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.

8242

BETTER BEWDLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Candlin presented the Draft Minutes of the Better Bewdley Advisory Committee held on the 18th January 2016. This included reports from working parties, Peter Michael (WFDC) joining the Committee and the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. Volunteers were also sought to look into road safety issues in the town, including 20mph speed limits.

AGREED

(i) that the Draft Minutes and recommendations made be accepted.

(ii) that Councillors Killingworth, Mace, Beeson and Candlin form the working group for road safety, to be joined by Barbara Longmore of Bewdley Civic Society.

8243

CAR PARKING FEES

A report was received from Councillor Beeson in relation to a proposed rise in car parking fees in District Council owned car parks.

AGREED

That the Town Clerk writes to WFDC asking for Bewdley to be exempted from these rises for a period of 12 months, given the current disruption whilst the new medical centre is constructed.

8244

YOUNG MAYOR SCHEME

A report was received from Councillor Killingworth proposing that this Council work with the Bewdley School to establish a Young Mayor Scheme in the town.

AGREED

That this Scheme be supported and that discussions take place with the Bewdley School to take this forward.

8245 FORMER BEWDLEY MEDICAL CENTRE SITE

A report was received from Councillor Beeson proposing that the site of the former medical centre site and/or the new centre be named after the pioneering GP's who established one of the first purpose built medical centres in the country. It was noted that the District Council are responsible for road naming and that the current GPs should be involved in any discussion about naming the current medical centre

AGREED

- (i) that a dialogue is opened with WFDC about naming certain aspects of the old site;
- (ii) that the current GPs are approached as to naming the new medical centre;
- (iii) that the Better Bewdley Advisory Committee places this item on its Agenda for consideration of suitable names;
- (iv) that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group examines the feasibility of having a naming policy in the Plan for future development sites.

8246 CORPORATE POLICIES

A report was received from the Town Clerk asking the Council to adopt a suite of updated corporate policies to comply with the model Publication Scheme.

AGREED

That the matter be referred to the Staffing Committee to look at the policies in more detail.

8247 NOTIFICATION OF ROAD CLOSURE

A notification of a road closure at Sandy Bank from the 8th February was noted.

8248 FRIENDS OF RIVERSIDE NORTH PARK

A report received from Councillors Edginton-White, Killingworth and Candlin following a meeting of the Friends group was noted.

8249 ST ANNE'S CHURCH ROOF REPAIRS

Information relating to the proposed closures in Load Street in the early summer to facilitate these works was received. It was noted that Traders had indicated their preference to use Severnside South/Lax Lane as a diversionary route. Councillors were encouraged to make their views known to the County Council.

8250 TOGETHER GROUP MEETING NOTES

The notes of the latest meeting of the Together Advisory Group were noted.

8251 BEALES CORNER FLOOD DEFENCES PUBLIC MEETING

A verbal report was given by Councillor Edginton-White following a public meeting relating to the Beale's Corner Temporary Barrier and Property Level Protection. This meeting was well attended and received information from the Environment Agency about the possible continuation

of the temporary barrier solution for a further four years. However, this was dependent on the community providing volunteers to manage the barriers once in situ so that the EA can demonstrate cost savings. It was noted that the Fire and Rescue Service are interested in supporting the community with this, and a request was made to invite them to any meetings to discuss community involvement.

8252 CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Worcestershire County Council in response to a Council complaint about Diamond Bus services was noted.

8253 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- (i) Finance Committee – Tuesday 16th February 6pm at the Guildhall
- (ii) Parish Conference – Wed 24th February 6pm at County Hall
- (iii) Better Bewdley Advisory Committee – 21st March 6pm at St Anne’s Primary School
- (iii) Annual Town Meeting – Tues 12th April at St George’s Hall
- (iv) Mayor Making (Annual Meeting of the Council) – Fri 13th May

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....
Mayor
7th March 2016

Town Council Meeting - Public Period

Questions raised by members of the public

Philip Mansell of Welch Gate wished to raise concern about taxis parking on the pedestrian crossing at night, and about inconsiderate parking on the parking bay outside Merchants. He also asked why the roof of the new medical centre was made of zinc and not tiled.

Rod Wilson of 18 Baldwin Road reported that 12 people had attended the recent PACT meeting, but only two of those were members of the public. The main issue discussed was speeding. He asked whether the next meeting could be at the Guildhall to try and attract more interest. He will liaise with the Town Clerk when a new meeting date has been identified.

Adrian Finn of New Road expressed concern about the number of cars parking on footpaths and verges, particularly in the Wribbenhall area. This issue could be overcome via the use of bollards to prevent parking. Councillor Yarranton reiterated that vehicles obstructing highways or footways should be reported to the police. The Mayor advised Mr Finn to compile a list of streets where this is a real problem and forward this to the Town Clerk.

Richard Perrin of Park Lane commended the Town Council on proposing a Young Mayor Scheme.

Wendy Hill of Bewdley asked whether there was any interest in organising the Bewdley in Bloom event this year. Councillor Killingworth advised that the Town

Council are currently in conversation with WFDC on this subject and agreed to pass on her contact details to the Town Clerk.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

PC Thomas reported that there had been an increase in violent crime which was disappointing, but to put it in context “violent crime” ranged from verbal disorder right through to corporate manslaughter and only one of these crimes involved alcohol. There had been some positive stop and search arrests for drug offences. PC Thomas also spoke in support of the “Facewatch” scheme for businesses and would contact the Town Clerk about demonstrating this system to Councillors. He also clarified that consensual sexual relations between persons under 16 were recorded as “sexual offences”, but in reality these rarely resulted in prosecutions.

District and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Campion reported on the following items:

- The Facewatch scheme would need the support of traders in the town to be successful.
- If people spot taxis parking illegally, their plate number should be taken and reported to the District Council. The new taxi rank that should alleviate this problem will take around 6 months to come into force.
- Gardener’s Meadow Car Park extension has now been completed.
- Lower Park was reopened two weeks early following the listed building roof works.
- The renovation of the Museum/TIC frontage is well under way.