



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4th DECEMBER 2017 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
Councillor Miss M Fishwick
Councillor Mr P Harrison
Councillor Mr D Killingworth
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Nick Farress – Town Clerk
David Moore – Treasurer
Kyle Daisley – Community Engagement and Events Officer
District/County Councillor Becky Vale
District Councillor Rod Wilson
County Councillor Ian Hardiman
6 Members of the Public

8531 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Louisa Coleman (Young Mayor).

8532 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8536 as his wife is a Council employee. He did not vote on the item.

8533 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

None

8534 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT

The Mayor said how pleased she had been with the Christmas lights switch on event on Saturday 2nd December with particular thanks to Councillors Mrs Edginton-White, Mrs Candlin, Roger Coleman and Byng for their contributions towards the event. Thanks were also extended to the Town Clerk and the Community Engagement and Events Officer for their hard work in organising the event and on the day itself. The Mayor also mentioned the contribution made by Peter Michael, the WFDC Town Centre's Manager who accompanied the Mayor to judge the shop windows. The winner was Lilly Dilly's in Welch Gate. The Mayor also thanked the Chairs of Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council for attending, along with the Mayors of Kidderminster and Stourport. Councillor Beeson also wished to extend his personal thanks to the Community Engagement and Events Officer for dealing with a medical incident involving a family member during the event.

8535

**MINUTES
AGREED**

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

8536

ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for November 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 2017 to 30th November 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 £95,103.06
- with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,555.50
- 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 30th November 2017 be noted.

8537

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 20th November 2017 were presented by Councillor Candlin, along with a report from Councillor Edmundson in relation to the proposed new Neighbourhood Plan timetable. Councillor Edginton-White also thanked the Community Engagement and Events Officer for his work on the Christmas lights switch on and also on the 2018 events calendar which was agreed at the Committee meeting.

AGREED

(i) that the draft Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 20th November 2017 are noted.

(ii) that the recommendation of the Committee (Minute 132) to move forward with the draft Neighbourhood Plan with the specific housing sites removed is agreed.

8538

DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACE – LYTTLETON ROAD

A consultation document from WCC in relation to the creation of a disabled person's parking place outside 16 Lyttleton Road was received.

AGREED

That no objection is made and that the Town Clerk respond accordingly.

8539

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 1st November were noted.

8540

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES

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

(i) Planning Committee – 6th December 2017, 6.00pm

(ii) Policy and Resources Committee – 11th December 2017, 5.30pm

- (iii) Office closed for Christmas from 22nd December until 2nd January 2018.
- (iv) Full Council – 2nd January 2018, 7.00pm (may be subject to change)
- (v) Planning Committee – 3rd January 2018, 6.00pm Guildhall
- (vi) Licensing of Rev Megan Gibbins, St Anne’s Church – 14th January 2018

8541 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AGREED

That in view of the confidential nature of business about to be conducted, the press and public were asked to leave the meeting.

8542 TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

A report was presented by the Town Clerk recommending a short/medium term solution to the problem of the Council’s inadequate office accommodation. This solution would not affect the Council’s corporate aims of bringing the Guildhall back into the town’s ownership, nor purchasing a suitable property in the town in the future.

AGREED

To authorise the Town Clerk to enter into negotiations with the letting agent/landlord to secure a lease on the suite of offices behind 25 Load Street at an annual rental of up to £5500 and for an initial period of three years.

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....
Mayor

8th January 2018

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

Mr Mansell of Welch Gate raised a concern about the lack of lighting in Dog Lane car park. In his view, it is very dangerous for members of the public using the car park. Councillor Beeson said that he had received an assurance from officers at WFDC that this will be dealt with as soon as practicably possible. Mr Mansell also asked whether a new litter and fly tipping campaign could be considered in the New Year.

Mrs Gill Holland of Beale’s Corner raised a concern about the traffic management at Beale’s Corner during the Christmas lights switch on event as there didn’t seem to be any marshals stationed there to let the park and ride buses turn around. Councillor Edginton-White responded by saying that the Town Council had paid 2 officers from Signal Traffic Management to manage the road closures and that for safety reasons, no traffic was permitted into the road closure area without specific permission, including the park and ride buses which used a circular route back to the school.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

There were no police representatives but a written report had been provided by PCSO Jeni Bray.

District and County Councillor Reports and Questions

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

- The Environment Agency is dealing with fly tipping in Ribbesford parish.
- WFDC would support a new anti-litter campaign.
- A repair application is being made by WCC to Historic England so work can start on the Severnside South balustrade in the 2018/19 financial year.
- Any issues or complaints about the new Load Street car park should be directed to Steve Brant, Operational Services Manager at WFDC. This can be done via the Town Clerk.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported on the following items:

- Lodge Close parking and Bewdley High School safety concerns – a meeting has been held with senior engineers at WCC and some fresh proposals will soon be presented to concerned persons.
- Tactile paving at the zebra crossing at Catchems End is still outstanding.
- Work to renew the “cat’s eyes” on the bypass will commence after April 2018.
- The WCC tree team will be inspecting the 3 trees of concern to residents in Sandbourne Drive in due course.
- A meeting with Regulatory Services and the police has been held in relation to anti-social behaviour at night from licensed premises. Evidence showed no real cause for concern but any incidents should be reported to the police using the 101 service.

District Councillor Rod Wilson reported that despite seeing lots of comments on Facebook in relation to policing issues and crime, only one person attended the recent “mobile PACT” which was in the car park in Load Street recently. He encouraged all crime and anti-social behaviour to be reported to 101.

Councillor Killingworth asked whether additional signage could be provided at Wharton Park and the Safari Park to discourage HGV’s from accessing the town centre unnecessarily. Councillor Hardiman said he would look into this.

Councillor Killingworth also raised concern at the lack of “due diligence” when it came to the new car park in Load street and the spiralling costs. Councillor Hardiman clarified that the delays and extra costs were not acceptable but were largely down to the previous contractor needing more funds to complete the car park due to an unstable wall which forced WFDC to re-tender.

Councillor Beeson thanked Cllr Rod Wilson for dealing with the rat problem he had reported and Councillor Davies thanked Cllr Becky Vale for taking up the issue of the bridge and the works required to the balustrading.

Councillor Edginton-White asked whether the existing Load Street car park would be resurfaced as part of the new car park project. Cllr Beeson said he had received an assurance from WFDC that it would be.