



BEWDLEY
Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 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 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: Mr Ian Miller – CEO of Wyre Forest DC
Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk
Mr David Moore – Treasurer
Louisa Coleman – Young Mayor
Melbryn Kruff-Welton – Deputy Young Mayor
County Cllr Ian Hardiman
6 Members of the Public

8499

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Stephen Clee, Kyle Daisley (Community Engagement and Events Officer), Barbara Byng (Assistant Clerk), Councillor Rod Wilson and Councillor Becky Vale.

8500

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8504 due to his wife being a council employee. Councillor Byng did not vote on this item. Councillor Davies declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 8507 as this item referred directly to herself. Both Councillors stayed in the room for the relevant items.

8501

COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

None

8502

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT

The Mayor reported on a busy summer season and was pleased to be working so closely with the Mayors of Kidderminster and Stourport. Of particular note were the Son et Luminaire rehearsals which were held in St Anne's Church and a subsequent interview on BBC H&W, Kidderminster's "SheepFest" event and the opening of Lilly Dilly's new shop in Welch Gate. The Mayor commented on how great it is to see so many new businesses opening in the town.

The Young Mayor reported that she had been on holiday but returns to school this week and there will be a full report next month.

**8503 MINUTES
AGREED**

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th August 2017 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8504 ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for August 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 31st August 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 £77,485.63
 - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10, 554.17
 - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,252.29
 - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
 - with HMRC (VAT) of £7,511.35
- (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 31st August 2017 be noted.

8505 WEST MERCIA FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION

Councillors further considered the proposals recommending that the Police and Crime Commissioner takes over the governance of the Fire and Rescue service. This followed a presentation by the Commissioner as requested at the last full Council meeting.

AGREED

- (i) that the proposals are supported in principle and that a positive response should be sent by the Town Clerk to the consultation;
- (ii) that all comments raised by Members are to be conveyed to the Commissioner including those from Members who voted against;
- (iii) that Members are to submit their comments for inclusion in the response to the Town Clerk by Friday 8th September.

8506 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillor Beeson presented the draft Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on the 21st August 2017 which were noted. Minute 098 required a decision from the Council in relation to the Mayoral Succession proposals which had been referred to the Committee by full Council on the 2nd May 2017

AGREED

- (i) that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee are duly noted;
- (ii) that the recommendations made in Minute 098 are accepted in full with no amendments.

- 8507 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – ADDITIONAL MEMBER AGREED**
That the number of Councillors on the Community Development Committee is increased from five to six and that Cllr Liz Davies is appointed to this Committee with immediate effect.
- 8508 APPLICATION FOR A NEW STREET TRADING LICENCE**
An application to operate a mobile ice cream vending bicycle in Bewdley was considered by Members as part of a consultation by Wyre Forest DC.
- AGREED**
(i) that the Council raise no objection to the application and that the Town Clerk responds to WFDC accordingly;
(ii) that the following comments are also sent with the response:
- That the bike is located in a position that has due regard for public safety;
 - That the vendor is made aware that there is already three permanent ice cream outlets in Bewdley adjacent to the riverside.
- 8509 EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S CERTIFICATE AND OPINION**
The certificate of completion of the 2016/2017 accounts was noted. There were no comments made by the auditor.
- 8510 PLANNING COMMITTEE**
The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 2nd August 2017 were noted.
- 8511 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES**
The Town Clerk brought the following administrative matters and diary dates to the attention of the Council:
6th September 6.00pm Planning Committee – Guildhall
9/10th September Bewdley Heritage Festival – Severnside North and South, Guildhall & Museum. VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO MAN THE GUILDHALL ON SUNDAY.
18th September 5.30pm Community Development Committee – Guildhall
18th September 7.00pm Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Guildhall
2nd October 7.00pm Council – Guildhall

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm

Signed.....
Mayor
2nd October 2017

Town Council Meeting - Public Period

Questions raised by members of the public

Mrs Penny Griffiths thanked the Town Council for the recent bunting installation and for the floral displays which were particularly good this year. Mrs Griffiths went on to ask whether there was any truth in the fact that WFDC have agreed a sale of the land behind the Fire Station for a sum of £100k. Ian Miller, CEO of WFDC responded by saying that no such sale had been agreed of any land owned by WFDC in the Dog Lane area.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

The police representative sent apologies, but a written report was circulated to Councillors. The Mayor mentioned that a mobile police surgery would take place in Load Street car park on Wednesday 6th September and encouraged Members to attend.

District and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Ian Hardiman updated the meeting on behalf of **Councillor Becky Vale** on the following issues:

- A rat infestation on Queensway has been reported to Worcestershire Regulatory Services for urgent action;
- A County engineer visited Dowles Road in the last week and has raised work orders to deal with uneven road surfaces, blocked gullies and overhanging trees.

Councillor Ian Hardiman updated the meeting on the following issues:

- White line renewal at Beales Corner will be chased up;
- Around 2000 people responded during the 8 week consultation on WFDC's emerging Local Plan and more than 1800 people attended the drop in sessions to give their views on the proposed options and to ask questions;
- Orange fencing by the Bewdley Hotel has now been removed;
- Discussions are ongoing in relation to a "Clearway" outside the school on Stourport Road where only buses will be permitted to stop. This will avoid the need for buses to enter the school site;
- The vegetation at Catchem's End will be attended to by WFDC once traffic management can be organised but Cllr Hardiman expressed frustration that this was still outstanding;
- The installation of yellow tactile paving at the Wribbenhall zebra crossing was due to be carried out last week but engineers were called out to an urgent job.

Councillor Liz Davies thanked Cllr Vale for her assistance with the rat problem but was disappointed with the slow response by Worcestershire Regulatory Services in dealing with the matter.

Councillor Gordon Yarranton asked Councillor Hardiman if he could look into the resurfacing in New Road which had not been completed to a very high standard and was causing issues with adjacent properties.

Ian Miller – Wyre Forest District Council Chief Executive

Mr Miller spoke about WFDC's financial position, the emerging Local Plan and about the ongoing partnership working between the Town and District Councils. Mr Miller was quite clear that the District Council has a funding shortfall to meet and this would require a possible reduction in some non-statutory services in the future. He encouraged the Town Council to, as it has done and continues to, look at taking on more services from the District Council in order to preserve local services in Bewdley. He pointed out that the Band D annual Council Tax amount for Bewdley was significantly lower than the national average for the parish council sector, and suggested that there was therefore scope to look at further local service delivery and asset transfers in the near future.

Councillor Edmundson asked when the emerging Local Plan is likely to be adopted. Mr Miller replied that it is due to be adopted in Feb 2019 and would forward the current agreed project plan to the Town Clerk.

Councillor Edginton-White asked that Mr Miller send a summary of his very useful contribution to the Town Clerk which he agreed to do.

The Mayor thanked Mr Miller for his time in attending the meeting and for his comprehensive report.