



BEWDLEY Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th AUGUST 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 C Edginton-White
Councillor Mr P Edmundson
Councillor Miss M Fishwick
Councillor Mr P Harrison
Councillor Mr D Killingworth

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk
Mrs Barbara Byng – Assistant Clerk
Mr David Moore – Treasurer
District and County Cllr Becky Vale (from 7.15pm)
County Cllr Ian Hardiman
6 Members of the Public

8486

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Mr Stephen Clee, Mrs Liz Davies and Mr Gordon Yarranton, Kyle Daisley (Community Engagement and Events Officer), Louisa Coleman (Young Mayor), Melbryn Kruff-Welton (Deputy Young Mayor) and District Councillor Rod Wilson.

8487

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8491 due to his wife being a council employee. Councillor Byng did not vote on this item.

8488

COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

None

8489

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT

The Mayor reported on a busy July with a full diary of events. Of particular note were the Bewdley Festival Launch, the Bewdley Chess Tournament, Bewdley Rotary dinner and learning about the terrific and often challenging work done by the Almshouses Trust. The Mayor was very impressed with Bewdley's local young talent in relation to the Festival and also the Chess tournament where children as young as 6 years of age were learning to play. The Mayor went on to thank Cllrs Candlin, Beeson and Edmundson for deputising for her at the Regatta and Citizen's Advice AGM.

8490

MINUTES AGREED

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2017 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8491

ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for July 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 July 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 £61,757.55
- 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 £6,662.86

(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 July 2017 be noted.

8492

WEST MERCIA FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION

Councillors were presented with the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation document proposing changes to the governance arrangement of the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. Councillors were asked by the Town Clerk to make a decision whether to support or reject the proposals with reasons why in the case of rejection. Councillors felt that they would like to hear more from the Commissioner himself before making a decision, although it was noted that some Councillors had already submitted personal responses.

AGREED

That the Town Clerk ask the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend an informal meeting to set out his proposals in more detail prior to the Council making a decision on how to respond at its meeting on the 4th September 2017.

8493

DBS CHECKS FOR COUNCILLORS

The Town Clerk presented a report following a recommendation by Councillor Candlin that Councillors be subject to DBS checks. The Town Clerk stated that there was no statutory obligation on elected representatives to undergo such a check and could not therefore recommend that this be an appropriate way forward. However, it was recognised that Councillors and other volunteers actively involved in the Together Project which provides activities for often older, vulnerable people could be subject to a Standard DBS check.

AGREED

To ask the Town Clerk to organise for Councillors and other volunteers actively involved in the Together Group social events to undergo Standard Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

8494

CHANGES TO CAR PARK SEASON TICKETS AND VEHICLE HEIGHTS

A report was presented by Councillor Roger Coleman proposing an objection to WFDC increasing the qualifying age for OAP season tickets to 67 and banning any vehicle over 2m high in any WFDC surface car park.

AGREED

To adopt Cllr Coleman's recommendations to object to these proposals and include the report, unedited, as part of the Council's official response to the consultation presented in Minute 8495.

8495 WYRE FOREST DC (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2017 – STATUTORY CONSULTATION

WFDC were asking for the Town Council's views on a number of changes to car parking provision in Wyre Forest which included charge increases and changes to height restrictions.

AGREED

(i) To submit the following response to WFDC:

1. The Council objects to any increases in charges which there has been no justification given. The charges are already high in relation to other similar towns in Worcestershire.

2. The Council does not agree that car parking policy should be standardised across the district as Bewdley attracts very different types of visitors to, say, Kidderminster focussing more on tourism which means that there MUST be provision for coaches, mini buses and camper type vehicles to park in the town. Height barriers and new restrictions on any vehicle over 2m parking on any surface car park does not work for Bewdley.

3. The Council objects to the OAP season ticket qualifying age being raised to 67, considering that the Government is not planning to increase the State Pension age to 67 until 2026. What justification is there for this?

(ii) To append Cllr Coleman's report as Minuted (8494 above) to the response.

8496 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Candlin presented the draft Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 17th July 2017 which were noted.

8497 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Edginton-White presented the approved Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 5th July 2017 which were noted.

8498 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES

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

(i) 14th August 7.00pm Guildhall– Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

(ii) 21st August 6.30pm Guildhall – Policy and Resources Committee

(iii) 4th September 7.00pm Guildhall – Full Council

(iv) 6th September 6.30pm Guildhall – Planning Committee

(v) 9th/10th September – Bewdley Heritage Festival

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm

Signed.....

Mayor

4th September 2017

Town Council Meeting - Public Period

Questions raised by members of the public

Mr Phillip Mansell raised concerns about dog fouling, Police Community Support Officers not being trained in first aid and the untidy state of fields along the switchback road on the approach to Bewdley. Cllr Candlin mentioned the proposed Public Space Protection Order to tackle dog fouling in the town which is fully supported by the Town Council and will make a range of new offences in relation to dog control.

Linda Gallagher of 10 Welch Gate wished to complain about noise and smoking in the street at the Horn and Trumpet Public House in Dog Lane. The Mayor advised that noise complaints need to be directed to the Environmental Health department as this is a licensing query. Similarly, the complaint about a lack of a smoking area within the site should also be directed to the EH department. Cllr Edginton-White advised that there is a licencing "surgery" held at Wyre Forest House each week, details of which are online.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

There was no written report or police attendee.

District and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Ian Hardiman updated the meeting on the following issues:

- White line renewal at Beales Corner will be chased up;
- Orange fencing by the Bewdley Hotel will be removed once the replacement rail has been fitted;
- WCC are monitoring the performance of Diamond buses on routes contracted to them following many complaints;
- 60 minute waiting time had been agreed outside the shops in Spring Hill Rise. 90 minutes proposed by the Town Council would have required a re-consultation which was considered too costly;
- Weed spraying by WCC takes place twice a year – Meadow Rise was sprayed on the 27th June;
- Discussions are ongoing in relation to traffic issues surrounding the High School in Stourport Road;
- Shaw Hedge Road pavement resurfacing has been postponed until September;
- Lodge Close yellow lines are still being considered by WCC as residents rejected a compromise;
- The vegetation at Catchem's End will be attended to by WFDC once traffic management can be organised.

Cllr Candlin thanked Cllr Hardiman for his presence at Town Council and for his comprehensive report.