



**BEWDLEY**  
Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE  
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 AT 4.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mr S Clee (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs L Candlin  
Councillor Mrs A Coleman  
Councillor Mrs E Davies  
Councillor Mrs Calne Edginton-White  
Councillor Mr P Edmundson  
Councillor Mr D Killingworth

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk  
Mr David Moore - Treasurer

**038 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Mr Edmundson apologised for lateness, arriving at 5.05pm.

**039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**040 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**041 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**042 PURCHASE OF GIS MAPPING SOFTWARE**

The Town Clerk presented a report recommending the purchase of GIS mapping software from Pear Technologies who specialise in supplying to town and parish councils.

**AGREED**

That the Town Clerk purchases this software at cost of £1775 including training. The cost of this would be spread interest free over 5 years at a cost of £355 per year and budgeted for accordingly.

**043 UPDATE ON BORROWING APPROVAL**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the borrowing approval application. The application had been sent to CALC and ratified by them on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The DCLG would now need to approve the application which can take up to 15 working days.

**044 BUDGET 2017/2018**

The Town Clerk presented two versions of the 2017/18 budget. One included the property purchase costs, and one without. Both versions included the mapping software.

The purchase of the former Barclays Bank building was still on the agenda in principle, but it was noted that the estate agent had indicated that there had been some other significant interest in the property. It was decided that the Council should continue to pursue this strategic aim, regardless of the specific property, and should therefore set the budget with this in mind. The Council should place itself in a position to act quickly should a potential property enter the market in the future.

**AGREED**

That this Committee recommend to Council that the 2017/2018 budget including the property purchase costs be accepted, and a precept of £35.70 per band D household per year be levied.

**045 CORPORATE PLAN**

The Town Clerk presented a draft Corporate Plan for the Council covering the next three years until 2019. The Plan had been prepared by the Town Clerk and the Corporate Plan Working Group and includes a set of policy aims and objectives along with an action plan.

**AGREED**

That subject to any further comments made by Committee members to be received by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, this Committee recommends to Council that the Plan be adopted and published with annual reviews.

**046 CIVIC AWARD SCHEME AND FREEMAN SCHEME**

This had been deferred from the previous meeting and was introduced by Councillor Edmundson. The Town Clerk had drawn up a set of policy guidelines and eligibility criteria for the Honorary Freeman/Freeewoman which were accepted and adopted.

The Civic Award Scheme already had a set of criteria that the Council had been using for some time which should continue to be used. However, it was proposed that the following be added:

- The Mayor and two cross party Councillors sit on a panel to choose the recipient of that civic year's Award.
- That only one Award per civic year be given.
- No previous recipient would be given an Award under any circumstances.
- That the presentation be made at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council by the outgoing Mayor.
- That a new "Thank You" award be given by the Mayor each year at the Annual Meeting to recognise those who deserve recognition but do not qualify for a Civic Award. This would be entirely at the discretion of the outgoing Mayor.

**AGREED**

- (i) To adopt the draft Scheme of Enrolment to the Freeman/Freewoman Scheme as per the Town Clerk's recommendation;
- (ii) To amend the Civic Award Scheme as set out above.

**047 RIVERSIDE NORTH PADDLING POOL**

A letter from WFDC was presented making a full and final offer in relation to the Town Council taking over the paddling pool at Riverside North Park. The Committee had previously rejected this asset transfer due to the ongoing costs of maintenance and given the state of the facility. The Committee's view remains the same on the matter.

**AGREED**

- (i) that the Town Clerk writes to WFDC referring to the decision made by this Committee in June 2016 which stated that the Council is not in a position to take on this asset;
- (ii) that the Town Clerk writes to the Friends of Riverside North Park to advise them of the situation out of courtesy.

**048 EVENING BUS SERVICE**

A response from WCC to a letter sent by this Committee in relation to evening bus services was received which set out the fact that WCC do not have any influence over such services. However, the Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by a new local commercial operator who may wish to trial a service over the summer season. As a town council, we have powers to publicise such services but not operate or pay for them. The Town Clerk agreed to keep Members informed of any progress.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.

**Signed.....**

**Chairman**

**Policy and Resources Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**