



BEWDLEY
Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2017 AT 6.00PM AT THE GUILDHALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Linda Candlin (Chair)
Cllr Calne Edginton-White
Cllr Mary Fishwick
Cllr John Beeson
Cllr Derek Killingworth
Mr Martin Guard
Mr Peter Michael

In attendance: Nick Farress, Town Clerk
Kyle Daisley, Community Engagement & Events Officer

55 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Richard Perrin, Mrs Cat Banks and Mrs Alison Bakr.

56 Declarations of Interest

None.

57 Dispensations

None.

Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

58 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

59 Neighbourhood Plan

Actions and Notes from the last meeting of the NP Steering Group were noted. The Town Clerk announced that the next public consultation event to publicise the draft objectives and policies would be held on Saturday 18th March 2017 at Wribbenhall Parish Room. The Committee thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their work on the Plan so far.

60 Bewdley Traders Group

Councillor Edginton-White gave an update from the last meeting of the Bewdley Traders Group. Issues under discussion were:

- Former BDT "town" website and the potential use of this by Traders. There had been some confusion over the correct Town Council website which now hosts details of town events and services and will also have a business directory. The Town Clerk confirmed that this had now been clarified with the Group.

- Medium/long term town planning was raised. Again, the Town Clerk has subsequently sent links to both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Town Council's Corporate Plan to the Group for information.
- Traders were keen to look for opportunities for organisations to pool resources and activities for the benefit of the town.
- It was noted that Bewdley needs to find a "unique selling point" to be able to promote the town more effectively. The use of a visitor survey was suggested and Peter Michael agreed to follow this up with Steve Singleton from the District Council.

Councillor Killingworth encouraged traders to attend Town Council meetings and ask questions, they would be most welcome.

Councillor Beeson asked how we can move the Town Council website higher up on Google searches. Councillor Beeson had a contact that may be able to help with this and will forward details to the Town Clerk. Councillor Beeson also asked when the new town leaflet will be published. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had a quote of around £2000 for 20000 leaflets. The Town Council have a £1000 budget and funding would be sought from other sources.

Peter Michael praised the new Community Engagement and Events Officer for his work and concluded that the role was a valuable one in relation to events and overall partnership working.

61 Events & Markets Working Group

Cllr Edginton-White and the Community Engagement and Events Officer presented a joint review of the Victorian Christmas in Bewdley event. It was noted that the event had been the best attended for many years and it was agreed that overall it had been a success. Some learning points for this year's event would be to provide more activities for children and re-instate the parade in some way, perhaps using lanterns. The event also needed a programme and map to make sure all the elements of the event were well publicised.

An overview of the proposed events calendar for 2017 was then presented and it was **AGREED** that the Events Working Group be authorised to continue working on the plans based on the draft provided.

62 Christmas Lights

The Town Clerk reported that there had been some supplier issues with the lights display this year which had resulted in discounts of around £1000 which can be used for this year's scheme. Councillor Gordon Yarranton had part funded an extension to the lights into Wribbenhall along with WFDC and has indicated that he would be willing to fund a further extension. Extending the lights into Dog Lane Mews was also planned. Councillor Beeson requested that the lights go up earlier this year to avoid last minute panics.

Councillor Edginton-White suggested that an audit should take place of all electrical installations that could potentially be used for lights and highlight any necessary improvements. The Town Clerk agreed to work with Councillor Edginton-White on this project.

63 Health Services Liaison Group

The Minutes of the first meeting of the Group were presented and noted. Councillor Killingworth asked that the audible alarm for the car park barrier is chased up as a safety concern. The Town Clerk agreed to do this.

64 Green Space, Load Street Car Park

Martin Guard reported that he had met with Steve Brant from WFDC on the proposed layout of the car park and therefore the exact size that the transferred green space would be. He encouraged WFDC to make sure that the Town Council retains all of the space as it is now even if that meant adjusting the layout of the car park slightly. An accurate survey and plan is awaited from WFDC before being able to work on the plan for the green space any further. The Town Clerk will write to WFDC to request that the size of the green space remains as is before the agreement to its transfer is finalised.

A report by the Town Clerk was presented following a public vote on the name of the green space which had over 100 responses. It was **AGREED** to defer this until the next meeting as it was deemed too soon to name the space without knowing its dimensions or layout.

65 Community Flood Volunteers

Cllr Edginton-White advised that a meeting of signed up volunteers is due to take place on Wednesday 18th January where a number of new volunteers would also be welcomed.

66 Tesco Car Park – Pedestrian Safety

The Committee still felt that car parking arrangements at the Tesco Express store in Load Street compromised pedestrian safety, despite Tesco painting a “zebra crossing” from the pavement to the store entrance. It was noted that Tesco had agreed to close the car park but had reneged on this, offering road marking as an alternative. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk writes to Worcestershire County Council as the highway authority to outline this Committee’s concerns.

67 Future Agenda Items

Any future Agenda items are to be sent to the Town Clerk before Monday 13th March for inclusion on the next Agenda.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

To note that the next bi-monthly meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held on **Monday 20th MARCH 2017** at **6.00 pm** in the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed.....
Chairman Community Development Committee
20th March 2017