



**MINUTES OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6.00PM AT 25(A) LOAD ST**

PRESENT

Councillor J Beeson (Chairman)
Councillor J Byng
Councillor Mrs L Candlin
Councillor S Clee
Councillor R Coleman
Councillor Mrs C Edginton-White
Councillor P Harrison

In attendance: Councillor Mrs A Coleman (Mayor)
Councillor P Edmundson
Nick Farress, Town Clerk

119 Apologies

David Moore, Treasurer.

120 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Edginton-White and Councillor Byng declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 126 as Trustees of the Friends of Riverside North Park. Both Members left the room whilst this grant application was being considered and voted upon.

Councillor Mrs Candlin declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 126 as a Trustee of the Wribbenhall Parish Room. The Member left the room whilst this grant application was being considered and voted upon.

121 Councillor Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

122 Minutes

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 18th October 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

123 Load Street Public Conveniences

A report was received from the Town Clerk setting out proposals for the Town Council to enter into a five year agreement with WFDC whereby the Town Council would become the owners of the two toilet blocks and fully responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings. This would be arranged over a five year period with reducing grant aid from WFDC starting in 2019/20.

AGREED

To accept the proposal and authorise the Town Clerk to continue negotiations with Wyre Forest DC.

124 IT Solution for Town Council Offices

A report was received from the Town Clerk setting out proposals an upgrade to a server hosted system at 25(A) Load Street. This would require new hardware and configuration at a cost of £1600.

AGREED

To accept the recommendations in the Town Clerk’s report and authorise expenditure of up to £1600 on the project.

125 Internet Banking

A report was received from the Town Clerk setting out proposals to move to an internet based payment system and away from cheque payments. This was largely due to the fact that the use of cheques is outdated, issues can occur if signatures are misread and some suppliers no longer accept cheque payments at all. Councillors Mrs Candlin and Clee wished it to be noted that they voted against the recommendation as they felt it important to support local high street banks.

AGREED

To accept the recommendations contained in the Town Clerk’s report and authorise the Town Clerk and Treasurer to implement this change to the Council’s financial arrangements.

126 Town Council Grant Funding 2018/19

AGREED

That the following grants be awarded to local organisations with payments being made in April 2018.

	GRANT 2018/19	Comments
Wyre Forest CAB	£1500	Aim to get a surgery back in Bewdley
Friends of Riverside North Park	£1000	Benches around swan pond
Wribbenhall Parish Room	£500	Defibrillator
Twinning Association	£250	BTC would like a representative on the Committee
Wyre Community Land Trust	£500	Tools for workshop
Bewdley Horticultural Society	£250	Annual Show
Bewdley TCC/Community Housing Tenants Group	£250	Community events in 2018

Bewdley Youth Festival	£500	For the Youth Music Festival only
Community Transport	£900	Moving Offices
Bewdley Rotary Club	£200	Christmas Tree
RBL Poppy Wreaths	£100	
Bewdley Bike Week	£500	Would like to see the event back in the Town
Bewdley Choral Society	£1500	Forest Rivers and Royals 2018
Riverside Dementia Café	£500	Activities and equipment
Bewdley Cricket Club	£250	Junior practice net
Bewdley Carnival Association	£200	Would consider additional £100 if Far Forest and Arley Schools were included.
Total	£8900	

**127 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.

128 Staffing Arrangements

The Town Clerk advised Members that the postholder of the Mayor's PA role has indicated that she will shortly hand in her notice with a leaving date of 5th April 2018. The Town Clerk advised that he was now considering all the roles in the office following the office move and the Council becoming more active and accessible. The Town Clerk also assured Members that support for the Mayor would not be interrupted.

The meeting was declared closed at 7.20pm.

Signed.....
Chairman
Policy and Resources Committee