



BEWDLEY Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 6.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL**

PRESENT

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

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk
Mr David Moore - Treasurer
Councillor Miss Mary Fishwick

026 APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs Davies, Miss Mace and Mr Edmundson.

027 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Candlin and Killingworth declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 034 as Trustees of Bewdley Youth Café. Both Members left the room during this item.

Councillor Mrs Edginton-White declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 034 as having a family connection to the landlord of the Youth Café. Councillor Edginton-White remained in the room and voted on the item.

028 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

029 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 15th August 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

030 BUDGET WORKING GROUP

A draft Budget for 2017/2018 was presented by the Budget Working Group. Taking into account the priorities and objectives set out during the debate, it was recommended that the council tax rise by 10p per week for each householder based on the current tax base figure. This rise also acknowledges the shortfall in funding from WFDC over the next two years. It was agreed to move £400 from the Grants heading and place it under the Christmas Lights heading.

AGREED

(i) That the draft Budget for 2017/2018 is accepted and recommended to Council.

031 CIVIC AWARD SCHEME AND FREEMAN SCHEME

It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by the Committee that this item is deferred to the next meeting to allow Councillor Edmundson to present his report.

032 LATE NIGHT BUS SERVICE

Reports by Councillor Edmundson and the Town Clerk were presented by the Chairman in the Councillor's absence in relation to the provision of an evening bus service at weekends.

AGREED

- (i) To write to Worcestershire County Council to ask for a late night weekend bus service to be considered;
- (ii) To support the Council's use of the General Power of Competence subject to the qualifying criteria being met to potentially provide such a service in the future;
- (iii) Subject to (ii) above, agree to include plans to introduce an evening bus service in the Council's draft Corporate Plan.

033 LOCAL GOV'T FINANCE – PARISH COUNCIL REFERENDUMS

A consultation by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was presented by the Town Clerk, including responses by WFDC and NALC rejecting proposals to extend council tax rise referendum principles to town and parish councils.

AGREED

To ask the Town Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council, reiterating the views of WFDC and NALC in that:

- (i) the percentage increases quoted do not translate into significant absolute sums;
- (ii) the consultation does not appreciate the reasons behind such increases;
- (iii) the sums quoted represent a tiny fraction of total public expenditure.

034 SECOND ROUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications (second round) were received from Bewdley Youth Café and All Saints PCC.

AGREED

- (i) To award Bewdley Youth Café £1500 towards equipment and staffing for their outreach project;
- (ii) To award All Saints PCC £500 towards fitting out a new kitchenette.

035 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.

036 TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

The Town Clerk presented a report in relation to Town Council accommodation.

AGREED

That the actions recommended in the Town Clerk's report be accepted.

037 ASSET TRANSFER

The Town Clerk presented a report in relation to an offer of land as an asset transfer by WFDC.

AGREED

To accept the recommendations made by the Town Clerk and continue negotiations with WFDC.

The meeting closed at 7.01pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Policy and Resources Committee – 20th December 2016