



# BEWDLEY Town Council

## **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4th APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs C Edginton-White (Mayor)  
Councillor Mr J Beeson  
Councillor Mrs L Candlin  
Councillor Mr S Clee  
Councillor Mrs A Coleman  
Councillor Mr R Coleman  
Councillor Mrs E Davies  
Councillor Mr P Edmundson  
Councillor Miss M Fishwick  
Councillor Mr D Killingworth  
Councillor Miss A Mace  
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Mr Nick Farress – Town Clerk  
Mrs Barbara Byng – Assistant Clerk

- 8270 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies were received from Councillor Alton and Mr David Moore (Treasurer).
- 8271 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were none.
- 8272 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**  
There were none.
- 8273 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT**  
The Mayor's list of engagements during March was circulated. Activities of particular note were the Kidderminster Lions Duck Race, the Neighbourhood Plan consultation and the outreach work being done through the Together Group. Events coming up included the St George's Parade and two Mayor's charity events on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- 8274 MINUTES AGREED**  
That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th March 2016 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.
- 8275 ACCOUNTS**  
The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts for payment for March 2016 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

**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 £27,758.24
  - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,543.11
  - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,000.00
  - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
  - with HMRC (VAT) of £8,528.02
- (iii) that the reconciliation statement be noted;
- (iv) that the Council's income and expenditure for the current financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31st March 2016 be noted.

**8276**

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Town Clerk presented a report in relation to a new proposed new Committee structure for the Council for the 2016/2017 municipal year.

**AGREED**

- (i) that the proposed Committee structure is approved;
- (ii) that the appended Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation is adopted;
- (iii) that the Town Clerk is delegated to facilitate the changes and set dates for the remainder of the municipal year.

**8277**

**CLOSURE OF GP UNIT AT KIDDERMINSTER HOSPITAL**

Councillor Davies presented a report in relation to the proposed closure of the Wyre Forest Community Unit (GP Unit) at Kidderminster Hospital. The report set out concerns for the care of vulnerable people in Bewdley should this closure go ahead. The motion called for this Council to object to the closure of this unit on the basis that this would be detrimental to the people of Bewdley.

Councillor Davies asked for a named vote the results of which were as follows:

- Councillor Beeson – FOR
- Councillor Candlin – FOR
- Councillor Clee – FOR
- Councillor A Coleman – FOR
- Councillor R Coleman – FOR
- Councillor E Davies - FOR
- Councillor Edginton-White – FOR
- Councillor Edmundson - FOR
- Councillor Fishwick – FOR
- Councillor Killingworth – FOR
- Councillor Mace – FOR
- Councillor Yarranton – FOR

**AGREED**

- (i) that the Council agree to make representations to the Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS Trust to ask for the Unit to remain open and operational;

- (ii) that the Town Clerk writes to other Parish Councils in North Worcestershire via CALC alerting them to this issue;
- (iii) that the Town Clerk issues a press release to this effect.

**8278 TOGETHER GROUP**

The notes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were presented by Councillor Mace which included the Group's disappointment with the partnership agreement with Reconnections.

**AGREED**

That the formal partnership arrangement with Reconnections be terminated with immediate effect and that the Town Clerk writes to Reconnections conveying this decision.

**8279 BETTER BEWDLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were presented by Councillor Candlin.

**AGREED**

That the Minutes be accepted and recommendations made be actioned including:

- (i) that the Town Clerk write to the proprietors of the new Medical Centre with some suggested names for the consulting rooms;
- (ii) that town centre litter problems would be placed on the Agenda for the next Traders Group meeting to investigate how businesses could help with this problem.

**8280 COUNTY COUNCIL LENGTHSMAN SCHEME 2016/2017**

The Town Clerk advised that the agreement paperwork had been delayed but he had received confirmation from WCC that the scheme would continue in 2016/2017 with the same budget as previously.

**AGREED**

That the Town Clerk be authorised to sign the annual agreement with the County Council when received.

**8281 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCRUTINY PANEL**

A request to respond to a survey about issues that should be dealt with by this panel was noted.

**8282 WYRE FOREST AREA CALC**

A verbal report was received from Councillor Killingworth following a meeting of Wyre Forest Area CALC and Parish Forum. This was noted.

**8283 WFDC EMERGENCY PLANNING FORUM**

A report received from Councillor Mace following a meeting of the Emergency Planning Forum on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 was noted.

**8284 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

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

- (i) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April 7pm at the Guildhall
- (ii) Annual Town Meeting – Tues 12<sup>th</sup> April at St George’s Hall –  
**Reports from Councillors will be required by 5<sup>th</sup> April latest.**
- (iii) Finance Committee – Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April 6pm at the Guildhall
- (iv) St George’s Parade – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April
- (v) Mayor’s Charity Ball – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May West Midlands Safari Park
- (vi) Mayor Making – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May Guildhall

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm

**Signed**.....  
**Mayor**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

**Town Council Meeting - Public Period**

**Questions raised by members of the public**

**Gill Holland of Beales Corner** wished to congratulate the Council on its new website which was an improvement on the previous one, and asked that as much information as possible relating to Council business is posted online.

**Ian Williams of Maypole Close** raised concerns over the Public Right of Way leading from Wyre Hill to the play area. This matter would be looked into by the Town Clerk and referred to WCC if necessary.

**Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

PCSO Toby Stephenson was late to the meeting due to being called to deal with an incident in the town. When he arrived, Councillors asked if a distinction can be made between crime in Bewdley urban areas and crime in the rural areas covered by the monthly report. PCSO Stephenson agreed that this would be possible and clarified that the majority of crime is currently happening in rural areas which have prompted discussions about establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Far Forest and Rock. There is also a “Crime Mapper” on the West Mercia Police website.

**District and County Councillor Reports**

Councillor Yarranton reported that the bus stop markings at Catchems End are to be renewed in the next 4 weeks, and a new traffic management scheme is being worked on for Stourport Road outside the High School.

**Fairtrade Town Status**

District Councillor Sally Chambers talked about Bewdley renewing its Fairtrade Status and what the roadmap would look like. Following the presentation, it was agreed to add this to the Agenda of the new Community Development Committee.