

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AS A VIRTUAL MEETING ON
16th NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.00PM

This virtual meeting was held using Zoom software

(Voting was recorded by a show of hands where Councillors were able to access the meeting using a camera and could be seen by the Town Clerk; Councillors who had no access to a camera were asked to speak out or use the CHAT function on Zoom)

PRESENT

Council Members The Mayor, Cllr A Coleman, Cllrs S Billett, R Coleman, S Collingridge, L Davies, C Edginton White, P Gittins MBE, P Harrison, H Lacy, M Maher, D Morehead, R Stanczyszyn

In attendance: 2 Members of the Public
 S Hudson - Town Clerk

9276 OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor Cllr A Coleman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

9277 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Byng,

9278 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded to submit their Register of Interests and to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary and/or Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Cllr C Edginton White declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item 9282 as a Trustee of the Riverside North Park charity.

9279 COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

Four dispensation requests were received by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting, from Cllrs A Coleman, R Coleman, C Edginton White and P Harrison. The dispensations relate to Members having dual roles as both Councillors for Bewdley Town Council and Wyre Forest District Council. The dispensation requests cover all meetings up to May 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to **Approve** the dispensation requests as presented, to allow Members to stay in the meeting, speak and/or vote on matters for which the member has made a declaration of interest pursuant to Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

9280 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

i. **Members of the public.**

A member of the Civic Society spoke with regard to the proposed transfer of Bewdley Museum, Guildhall and Jubilee Gardens to an independent trust. The speaker raised concerns about the future of the museum collections, land and buildings should the trust fail follow reductions in WFDC funding. Concerns were also raised about the fact that a clause proposed by Bewdley District Councillors, relating to securing the future of Bewdley's heritage should the trust fail, was agreed at WFDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee but written out of the report present to the WFDC Cabinet.

The speaker hoped that the Town Council would make strong representation to WFDC to have the clause reinstated before any final decisions were agreed and strongly believed that there should be a Town Council representation on any future trust board.

The Mayor Cllr A Coleman thanks the speaker and asked that the Museum be added to the Agenda of the December Council meeting

9281 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **Approve** the draft minutes of the Town Council meeting, held on 02/11/2020, as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

9282 LOCALISM

The Town Clerk provided Members with the latest WFDC asset transfer proposals, an old condition report for 6A Load Street and an initial risk assessment.

Following debate and discussion Members agreed to progress with the proposal as presented in table 2 of the WFDC November 2020 Localism document, which included the transfer of the three assets previously agreed by Council 05/10/2020; 6A Load Street, Toilets and Riverside North Park. Concerns were raised about the condition and viability of the paddling pool and the WFDC proposed costs to remove the infrastructure and fill in the pool. The financial implications to the budget were also discussed.

An asset transfer timetable was discussed, it was **Resolved** to **Approve** the following asset transfer dates:

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|--|
| i. | 6A Load Street | 1 st February 2021 |
| ii. | Toilets | 1 st April 2021 |
| iii. | Riverside North Park | 1 st April 2021 with the following conditions |
- The paddling pool is removed completely and that three quotations for the removal work are sought to ensure that there is a minimum reduction in the BTC transfer grant. Also, that the removal work be undertaken when weather conditions allow for least damage to the land.

9283 ITEMS OF URGENCY OR TO NOTE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Museum Trust and Assets
Members raised concerns about the future of the Museum if the trust were to fail and the stewardship of Bewdley's heritage assets. It was also thought that Bewdley Town Council should be represented on the museum trust board. It was agreed that museum discussions should be added to the agenda of the next Town Council meeting in December.
- It was **Resolved** to **Agree** to send flowers to Cllr J Byng and his wife to wish them well.

9284 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – Monday 7th December 2020
7pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....
Mayor/Chairman
7th December 2020

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