



**BEWDLEY**  
Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.30PM AT THE GUILDHALL**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Linda Candlin (Chair)  
Cllr Calne Edginton-White  
Cllr Liz Davies  
Cllr Mary Fishwick  
Mrs Cat Banks (from 5.40pm)  
Mr Martin Guard  
Mr Peter Michael (from 5.45pm)  
Mr Richard Perrin

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

**114 Apologies**

Councillor Killingworth, Councillor Yarranton and Alison Bakr

**115 Declarations of Interest**

None

**116 Dispensations**

None

**Public Question Time**

There were 4 Members of the Public. See below.

**117 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**118 Together Group**

Councillor Liz Davies was welcomed to the Committee by the Chairman and went on to report on the most recent activities undertaken by the Together Group. Numbers are steady and the re-launch of the lunch club was seen as a success. Richard Perrin and Cat Banks both offered to help publicise the work of the Group and the Town Clerk will forward the relevant information.

**AGREED**

That the notes and actions of the meeting of the Group held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 are accepted and approved.

**119 Road Safety working Group**

The notes of meetings of the Group held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September were received with a verbal update from the Town Clerk following the latest meeting held today. Councillor Becky Vale had joined the Working Group and will organise for a senior highways officer to attend the next meeting to discuss some of the initiatives put forward in more detail. The Community Speed Watch

scheme is progressing with the Safer Roads Partnership currently risk assessing the Group's chosen locations for enforcement. Kyle Daisley asked whether younger people could be involved in the scheme. The Town Clerk agreed to check and report back.

#### **AGREED**

To accept and approve the actions and recommendations contained in the meeting notes and the Town Clerk's verbal report as above.

### **120 Neighbourhood Plan**

The notes of a meeting of the Steering Group held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August were received and noted. The Town Clerk updated the meeting on a proposed change to the timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan that will need to accommodate the revised provisional district Local Plan adoption date of 2019. The Town Clerk went on to say that for legal reasons, the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to be able to progress in its current form due to the selected sites currently being located in the Green Belt. This was not apparent during early meetings with WFDC when the sites were mutually agreed. The Steering Group would be recommending a decision on how to proceed at a meeting following this one and the Town Clerk would update Members in due course. It was also agreed that the Town Council should make a statement explaining the reason for the revision to the timetable. Discussion then took place around whether the Town Council should produce a traditional "Town Plan" in the meantime. The Town Clerk advised that town plans as a concept had been around for some time and a lot of towns used these as a basis for their Neighbourhood Plan. Although town plans have no legal weight, they can include a wider range of issues which are not land use related and set out strategic priorities for the Council and the community.

#### **AGREED**

- (i) That the notes and actions of the Steering Group from its meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August are accepted and approved.
- (ii) That the Chairman of the Steering Group and the Town Clerk be authorised to make a statement on the revised timetable following the meeting of the Steering Group to be held after this meeting;
- (iii) That this Committee makes a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee to accept the principle of a Town Plan for Bewdley via the Town Clerk.

### **121 Events Working Group**

Councillor Calne Edginton White Chair of the Events Working Group and Kyle Daisley the Community Engagement and Events Officer gave a joint report on the Town Council's events programme and market offer. The Town Council have also been a partner in a number of community events including the Heritage Festival which has been widely hailed as a great success. Preparations for the Christmas event were well underway which will again be a Victorian theme. The stage will again be erected in Load Street with a variety of acts plus a market set out as it was in 2016. There will be some extra activities for children including a film in St George's Hall, horse and carriage rides with Santa, a nativity and a lantern parade through the Museum. Kyle Daisley raised a concern that the marching band had disbanded and asked for any suggestions about how they could be replaced. Councillor Edginton-White reported that the yellow and blue bunting that had been put up for the Heritage Festival and the Velo Birmingham event would stay up until after the Bewdley Festival on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **AGREED**

- (i) That the Working Group be authorised to continue planning the Christmas 2017 event based on the above outline plans.

### **122 Safer Wyre Forest**

The revised terms of reference of the Safer Wyre Forest Tasking Group were presented by the Town Clerk who currently represents Bewdley Town Council at Group meetings.

#### **AGREED**

That the Town Council continues to act as a partner organisation and that the Town Clerk continues as the Council's representative.

### **123 New Car Park and Green Space – Load Street**

The Town Clerk reported that the new car park tender would soon be awarded by WFDC with a provisional completion date of November 2017. However, due to increased costs associated with clearing the site, WFDC will no longer landscape the green space but gift the land to the Town Council "as seen". This means that the Town Council are free to design the space but will need to fund all of the work. There is currently £1000 in this year's budget for the green space. Martin Guard agreed to meet with WFDC to clarify the details of the development and then to draw up some draft plans for the space for the Committee to view.

#### **AGREED**

- (i) That Martin Guard contacts WFDC with a view to discussing the detail of the new car park development and how the green space will be protected during construction;
- (ii) That some draft plans for the green space be drawn up by Martin to present to the Committee at its next meeting in November 2017.

### **124 Late Night Music Venues**

The matter of the increase in the number of late night music venues was discussed. It was noted that the Council's opportunity to comment on the license application for 3 Load Street (Loft Lounge) had expired but our representation should still be made to Worcestershire Regulatory Services prior to the Hearing due to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The Town Clerk would also write to Licensing and to the District Councillors about late night licenses in general in the town suggesting that midnight is late enough for venues to stay open until, particularly in the Conservation Area. Peter Michael suggested that a Public Space Protection Order could be requested of the District Council to make dealing with anti social behaviour easier. The Town Clerk would follow this up.

#### **AGREED**

- (i) That the Town Clerk writes urgently to WRS objecting to the Loft Lounge's application to play music until 2am;
- (ii) That Councillors Candlin and Edginton-White attend the Hearing of the above application on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017;
- (iii) That the Town Clerk writes a general letter to relevant parties setting out the Council's objection to any late night music licenses being granted after the hour of midnight in the town centre/Conservation Area.

### **125 Future Agenda Items**

The issue of motorised scooters using footways would be added to the next Agenda as requested by Councillor Fishwick.

### **Date and Time of Next Meetings**

To note that the next bi-monthly meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 at 5.30pm** in the Guildhall. It was agreed to change the time of Committee meetings to **5.30pm**.

**Public Question Time**

**Mr Brent Wood of 4 Load Street** spoke on behalf of 4 residents who are being disturbed by music into the early hours from the Loft Lounge at 3 Load Street. The residents had objected to the license extension for these premises to play music until 2am currently being considered by WFDC which had resulted in a Hearing to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Councillor Liz Davies suggested that inadequate fire evacuation arrangements may also be of concern at the premises and should be considered as part of the application.

**The meeting closed at 7.05pm**

**Signed.....**

**Chairman Community Development Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**