



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs A Coleman (Mayor)  
Councillor Mr J Beeson  
Councillor Mr J Byng  
Councillor Mrs L Candlin  
Councillor Mr R Coleman  
Councillor Mrs C Edginton-White  
Councillor Mr P Edmundson  
Councillor Miss M Fishwick  
Councillor Mr P Harrison  
Councillor Mr D Killingworth  
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Nick Farress – Town Clerk  
David Moore – Treasurer  
Melbryn Krufft-Welton – Deputy Young Mayor  
3 Members of the Public

**8522**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Mrs E Davies and Mr S Clee, Louisa Coleman (Young Mayor), District Councillor Rod Wilson, County Councillors Becky Vale and Ian Hardiman and Kyle Daisley, Community Engagement and Events Officer.

**8523**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Byng declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute 8527 as his wife is a Council employee.  
Councillors Beeson, Killingworth, Candlin and Edginton-White declared Other Disclosable Interests in Minute 8529 due their respective connections as Trustees and Landlord of the Youth Café.

**8524**

**COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**

None

**8525**

**MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS & MONTHLY REPORT**

The Mayor reported on another busy month. Of note were the Soup Trail which was organised very well by the Council's Events Officer, the opening of the 30<sup>th</sup> Bewdley Festival and the Summer Reading Challenge awards. The Mayor was proud to represent Bewdley at two civic services in Leominster and Tenbury Wells and thanked her deputy, Councillor Candlin and her Consort, Councillor Roger Coleman for their support throughout the month..

**8526**

**MINUTES  
AGREED**

That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

8527

**ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered the revised schedule of accounts and payments for October 2017 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 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**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 £102,093.32
  - with Unity Bank deposit account of £10,555.50
  - with Scottish Widows deposit account of £30,252.29
  - with Cambridge Building Society saver account of £30,000.00
  - with HMRC (VAT) of £8,506.32
- (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 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 be noted.

8528

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 4th October 2017 were noted.

8529

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The draft Minutes of a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were noted. Councillor Edmundson sought clarification about the proposed "Town Plan" and how this may not be good timing considering the current position with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Plan (which is distinct from the Neighbourhood Plan as it can contain non land use related issues) proposal had been agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee with delegation given to the Community Development Committee to progress at its next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

8530

**ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AND DIARY DATES**

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

- (i) 11th November – 2 minutes silence at War Memorial at 11am.
- (ii) 12th November – Remembrance Sunday. 10.30 at Guildhall for robing.
- (iii) 12<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday at All Saints. 4pm at Wribbenhall Parish Room for robing.
- (iv) 20th November – Community Development Committee, Guildhall, 7.00pm
- (v) 21<sup>st</sup> November – Millennium Green AGM, 6.00pm at Shaw Hedge Road Community Centre
- (vi) 2nd December – Victorian Christmas in Bewdley. Switch On at 5.30pm
- (vii) 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Licensing of Rev Megan Gibbins, St Anne's Church

Due to some earlier confusion, the Town Clerk would re-circulate the adopted Scheme of Delegation document to all Members following the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 7.48pm

**Signed**.....  
**Mayor**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

## **Town Council Meeting - Public Period**

### **Questions raised by members of the public**

**Mr Rod Stanczyszyn** updated Members on the Appeal against the non determination by WFDC of an application for 195 homes off The Lakes Road by Gladman Developments. The 8 day Inquiry had ended the previous week and the Inspector was now considering the evidence before making a decision. Mr Stanczyszyn asked the Council to strongly object to the agreement made between WCC, WFDC and Gladman that changing priorities at the bottom of Welch Gate and changing 6 buses for “eco-friendly” vehicles will solve the air quality issues in Welch Gate as a result of the development.

Councillor Edginton-White expressed her thanks to WFDC for taking on Gladman and objecting to this development which is not wanted or needed on this site. However, it is clear that there is still work to do to bring WCC round to thinking about the needs of Bewdley and not simply applying a standard response to highways issues in the town.

The Mayor thanked Councillors Edginton-White and Edmundson for representing the Town Council so effectively at the Inquiry.

**Mr Ian Williams** thanked Councillor Edginton-White for representing the town at the Gladman Inquiry but was disappointed by the lack of attendance of other Councillors from the Town, District and County Councils. The Mayor explained that the Council had appointed Cllr Edginton-White as its representative but could not speak for the District or County Councillors.

### **Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

PCSO Nathan Chater reported that it had been quiet in the town centre during the month, but there had been a spate of rural crime which the SNT had been dealing with. There had been few calls about anti-social behaviour in the town and very few linked to the night time economy. There had been reports of drug dealing on Severnside South which was being investigated and PC Thomas is working with licensing around disruption from Arches bar. Graffiti under the bridge arches was also being investigated, and it had led the police to the High School. There was a mobile PACT surgery in Load Street car park in October but only one issue was raised with the police. Councillor Edmundson asked whether a weekend surgery could be held as this would attract more interest as the town would be busier. Councillor Candlin asked about the recent murder in the town which had not been mentioned in the PCSO's report. PSCO Chater stated that he doesn't know any more than has been publicly reported as he was not involved in investigations of that scale. Councillor Coleman asked about the new inspector and why Wyre Forest couldn't seem to retain an SNT Inspector for very long. The Town Clerk advised Members that he would be making contact with the new SNT Inspector next week when he starts and arrange a Police Liaison Group meeting.

### **District and County Councillor Reports**

Councillors Vale and Hardiman provided written reports of their activities over the month.

Councillor Beeson expressed his dissatisfaction over reports that the new Load Street car park would not now be completed until Easter 2018. Cllr Beeson read out a string of e-mails which had stated that the car park would be finished by the spring of this year, then the summer, then Christmas and now spring 2018. He also was alarmed that this Council's contribution of £4000 towards car park improvements in 2015 had not been referenced in the recent press release.