

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6 APRIL 2009 IN THE GUILDHALL, BEWDLEY

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs B Stallwood
Councillors Mrs J Adams
Councillor Mr G Bulmer
Councillor Mr S Clee (for part of meeting)
Councillor Mrs E Davies
Councillor Mrs L Edginton
Councillor Mr J Foulkes
Councillor Mrs J Keen
Councillor Mr D Killingworth
Councillor Miss A Mace
Councillor Mr P Gittins
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: P. Mann- Town Clerk, D. Moore- Treasurer, 4 members of the Public.

6680. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

6681. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Davies- Personal Interest- Minute 6692- Resident on Habberley Road
Councillor Davies- Prejudicial Interest- Minute 6686- Director of Bewdley Development Trust
Councillor Clee- Prejudicial Interest- Minute 6686- Director of Bewdley Development Trust

6682. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor provided a summary of her activities over the past month.

6683. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2009

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

6684. ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH 2009

These were approved and it was also agreed that, for the time being, the Treasurer makes the VAT claim on an annual basis.

6685. REPORT FROM BEWDLEY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Yarranton gave an update on:

- Safer route to School provisions on Stouport Road and Kidderminster Road for the new Primary School in Stourport Road.

Cllr Campion gave an update on:

- New Bus Shelters on Load Street
- The road works in Richmond Road

- The lack of progress on the replacement block pavers on Severn Side North

6686. DONATION TO BEWDLEY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FOR THE DISCOVER BEWDLEY WEEKEND ON 3 & 4 MAY
Councillors agreed a donation of £1,500.00 in anticipation of receipt of this money in the S.136 Grant from WFDC.

6687. BEWDLEY CARNIVAL FIREWORKS- 5 JUNE
Councillors agreed to support the application from Jennings Fair to operate a small selection of amusements on a small area of Dog Lane Car Park close to the river on the same night as the fireworks.

6688. BEWDLEY SKATE PARK
Cllr Adams agreed to arrange a meeting between Councillors and Alex Bishop to discuss his proposals.

6689. REDUCTION IN LIGHT POLLUTION
Councillors agreed with the proposal for a reduction in street lighting consistent with safety and the Town Clerk was asked to write to the County Council requesting this.

The following items were noted:

6690. THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS
The Town Clerk was asked to write to Mr Williams thanking him for all his services on the Town Council.

6691. REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

i)	Update on lead poisoning in swans	Cllr Adams
ii)	Bewdley Museum Management Cttee	Cllr Adams
iii)	Christmas Lights Committee	Cllr Killingworth
iv)	Chamber of Trade	Cllr Killingworth
v)	Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper	Cllr Killingworth
vi)	Bewdley Youth Café	Cllr Killingworth
vii)	Community Transport Helpline	Cllr Mace
viii)	PACT	Cllr Gittins
ix)	Civic Society	Cllr Gittins

6692. B4190 HABBERLEY ROAD
The Town Clerk's report on the meeting held with County Councillor Derek Prodger and County Officers was noted which included the statement that the speed limits on this road were to be reviewed.

6693. BUSINESS RATES FOR TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
The reduction in Business Rates of 50% to a figure of £745.55 under the Small Business Rate Relief Policy was noted.

6694. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillors agreed that the Town Clerk should enter information onto the County Council website.

6695. TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE POLICY

Councillors noted the increase in excess from £100.00 to £250.00 and agreed that this potential cost be accepted rather than increase the premium by over £800.00.

6696. WYRE HILL PLAY AREA.

Councillors noted the letter sent by the Town Clerk informing WFDC that it would be funding the maintenance of the Play Area for only 6 months and that responsibility for the Play Area after this period would fall on WFDC.

A number of Councillors expressed opposition to the agreement made by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk stated that, under Standing Orders, a decision made by the Town Council can only be reviewed within 6 months if there is a motion asking for this, signed by two Councillors.

6697. S. 136 GRANT FROM WFDC

Councillors noted the letter sent by the Town Clerk to WFDC requesting funding of £12,007 under S. 136.

A number of Councillors expressed opposition to the agreement made by the Town Council in respect of the Wyre Hill Play Area.

6698. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS ETC- INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2009

A summary of the elections to take place was noted.

6699. WFDC DECISIONS

The following decisions were noted:

- £10,000.00 would be available to improve the District's War Memorials
- The phasing out of aid to Parish Councils with 12 months' notice
- Car park charges from Oct 2009

6700. BEWDLEY TWINNING ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE TREE

Information on the planting of a memorial tree was noted.

6701. ENVIRONMENT & TOWN CENTRE GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March were noted.

6702. BEWDLEY EMERGENCY PLANNING FLOOD LIAISON GROUP

The email from the Chairman of the Committee was noted.

6703. RIDDINGS BROOK FLOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

The latest newsletter was noted.

6704. ROAD CLOSURES IN BEWDLEY

Planned closures were noted for:

- i) Wyre Hill, Yew Tree Lane, Hales Park & The Lakes Road
- ii) Severnside North

6705. BEWDLEY BRIDGE

A letter from Bewdley Development Trust to Worcestershire County Council about the serious state of parts of the bridge was noted.

6706. WOLVERHAMPTON AIRPORT ACTION GROUP

The latest update was noted.

(Cllr Clee left the meeting at this point)

6707. LICKHILL & STOURPORT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Information from Worcestershire County Council was noted

6708. CAR PARK CHARGES IN BEWDLEY

A letter from the Chief Executive of WFDC turning down the Town Council's request for free parking after 3.00 p.m. on all Bank Holidays and for the duration of road works in the Town was noted.

The following matters were considered in the confidential section of the meeting.

6709. LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

A 5% increase in the payment from Worcestershire County Council was noted and a corresponding increase for the Lengthsman was agreed.

6710. BEWDLEY BRIDGE ILLUMINATION

Further information was provided on installation costs for the bridge illumination and it was agreed that:

- The project should continue to be progressed.
- The Town Clerk clarifies the additional costs of installation for a cherry picker and traffic management.
- The Town Clerk and Councillors consider other sources of funds.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

5 May 2009

Public Period.

No comments were made.