

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2009 IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mr D Killingworth (Mayor)

Councillor Dr J Adams  
Councillor Mr G Bulmer  
Councillor Mr S Clee  
Councillor Mrs E Davies  
Councillor Mrs L Edginton  
Councillor Mr J Foulkes  
Councillor Mr P Gittins  
Councillor Mrs J Keen  
Councillor Miss A Mace  
Councillor Mr J Phillips  
Councillor Mrs B Stallwood  
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Mr S Inman - Town Clerk,  
Mr D. Moore - Treasurer,  
Four members of the Public,

**6785 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

**6786 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Davies declared a Prejudicial Interest in minute number 6791 Bewdley Market as a Director of the Bewdley Development Trust.

**6787 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Mayor provided a summary of his visits, engagements and activities during the course of the last five weeks since the date of the last Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**6788 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 were agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

**6789 WYRE FOREST PARISH GAMES**

Councillor Gittins announced the result of the Wyre Forest Parish Games for 2009 in which Bewdley had come fourth and presented the Mayor with a signed certificate.

**6790 ACCOUNTS FOR JULY 2009**

The Treasurer presented the schedule of accounts for payment for July 2009 which were then approved and signed by the Mayor with authority thereby given for the requisite cheques to be drawn.

**6791 BEWDLEY TOWN MARKET**

Councillors had before them a copy of the report that gone to the Wyre Forest District Council Cabinet dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 in which there had been a recommendation that Bewdley Development Trust be authorised to grant permission (subject to conditions) to persons to hold a market on a weekly basis (Saturday) not exceeding 5 stalls for a period of 12 months. It was proposed to site the market on Severnside South. The Report had indicated that the Town Council had been involved in the development of this proposal and was fully supportive. The Town Clerk summarised the correspondence and contacts there had been recently with the District Council which had been limited to expressing support in principle for the re-establishment of the market on Severnside South as part of the District Council's overall consultation exercise but which had not extended to any comment on who should be responsible for its management.

**AGREED**

- (i) that the Council confirm its support in principle for the re-establishment of the market on Saturdays on Severnside South;
- (ii) that as a condition stalls should not be erected on site before 8.00am (as opposed to 7.00am) in the draft conditions;
- (iii) that the Town Clerk should write formally to correct the assumption that the Council had been involved in the development of the proposal for the market being managed by Bewdley Development Trust;
- (iv) that in the circumstances with the decision having been made, no objection would be raised to the role given to Bewdley Development Trust and
- (v) that for the future on such important items to Bewdley, the Town Council would appreciate earlier and more formal consultation by the District Council on any issues and details.

**6792 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT GAMBLING POLICY CONSULTATION**

The District Council had issued a draft Gambling Policy under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 for consultation and discussion amongst interested parties and representative bodies setting out its duties under the Act for the period 2010 to 2013.

**AGREED** that as a policy document it was satisfactory and provided a sufficient outline for the future licensing of any premises that fell within the remit of the Act and that the Town Clerk should complete the Consultation Response Form accordingly

**6793 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 569 (PART) BEWDLEY DIVERSION ORDER 2009**

The Council considered the terms and description of this proposed Footpath Diversion Order as it applied to the footpath at The Outlook situated off Cleobury Road.

**AGREED** that no objections be raised to the terms of the proposed Diversion Order.

**6794 HISTORIC TOWNS FORUM**

The Historic Towns Forum (HTF) had written and indicated that with the expectation that Town Councils will be assuming greater responsibilities in the future, it had made changes to its organisation and was able to welcome Parish and Town Councils to its membership. Their letter outlined the events and benefits available for members at a cost of £200 per annum.

**AGREED** that in view of the Council's ability to liaise with other bodies and organisations on issues relating to the conservation of historic towns and with there being no provision in the current year's budget for such membership and with no guarantee of such provision being available in the future, membership of the Historic Towns Forum should be declined.

**6795 AIR QUALITY IN WELCH GATE**

Councillor Gittins produced a report as to the continuing problem of air pollution and quality in Welch Gate. This had been highlighted by correspondence passing between Mr John Devlin of 12 Welch Gate Bewdley and the County Council expressing some impatience by him at the lack of progress and implementation of any scheme during the course of the last 18 months. The County Council had indicated that work was being undertaken on the design of materials and signing and on any changes to traffic management that would be needed.

**AGREED** that notwithstanding the reference to some activity taking place, the Town Clerk should request an update of action being taken and/or contemplated to reduce the level of pollution caused through traffic at Welch Gate seek a further assurance from the County Council that work was being undertaken and that it would be concluded and implemented speedily and that this item be placed on the agenda again at the next Council meeting.

**6796 THE NODE MIXED REFUSE FACILITY – LOAD STREET CAR PARK**

Councillor Gittins spoke to his report tabled to the Council for "The Node" to be re-sited from its present position in the Load Street Car Park on the grounds that it had been sited there for a trial period of six months which had now expired and that it was causing an obstruction to pedestrians including disabled persons and that it should be re-sited either to the Blackstone picnic site or to the Dog Lane car park. Questions were raised as to the type of rubbish deposited; the

frequency of it being emptied and its position in a busy area. There were however, arguments expressed as to the convenience for it remaining where it was and there was no agreement as to where it might be re-sited.

**AGREED** that no action be taken.

**6797 FUNDING OF FLOWER BED DISPLAYS**

The Council had before them the report of Councillor Mace which drew attention to the relatively small number of floral displays and flower beds in Bewdley compared with Kidderminster which had an excellent show and were to be congratulated. She pointed to the difference in standard between the two towns and questioned why if there had been cutbacks in funding floral displays in Bewdley, the same did not apply to Kidderminster. How they funded their displays whether from the District Council and/or other sources would be good to know.

**AGREED** that a letter be sent to Wyre Forest District Council asking for a financial breakdown of their spending on flower beds and displays as between the towns of Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley and that any shortfall spent on a per capita basis for Bewdley by the District Council be made good.

**6798 YOUTH OF TODAY LOCAL COUNCILLOR SHADOWING PROGRAMME**

“The Youth of Today”, an organisation within the British Youth Council had written to invite the Town Council to participate in their Local Councillor Shadowing Programme due to be launched in the autumn whereby a young person would be linked with a councillor for 25 hours over a period of one to six weeks to witness their role and responsibilities within the community. However, the Mayor had also been in contact with Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre as to the involvement and encouragement of local pupils in civic affairs.

**AGREED** that the Council would not participate in the Youth of Today scheme but instead should make further contact with Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre to encourage their pupils to become more engaged in the political process and governing of their town and area.

**6799 HERITAGE SUNDAY – 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

Heritage Sunday was due to take place this year on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Traditionally, the Council had opened up the Guildhall for visitors to see various exhibits and talk to the Mayor and Councillors accompanied by either the Town Constable and one or more of the Macebearers in their regalia. There were no fixed times or other formalities.

**AGREED** that the Town Clerk should approach the Town Constable and Macebearers to ascertain their availability and that Councillors themselves should confirm and submit their preferred times for attendance to the Town Clerk with a view to a rota being established.

**6800 SPEED ACTIVATED SIGNS**

County Councillor John Campion had written to advise that the County Council were funding a number of speed activated signs to be used in areas that would not normally qualify for permanent speed reduction measures. He asked the Council to identify three locations in the Bewdley Division for the possible siting of these devices.

**AGREED** that County Councillor Campion be thanked for his offer and that the three locations should be Long Bank, Dowles Road and Cleobury Road and in that order or priority.

**6801 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

Councillor Foulkes requested that the Council meeting fixed for 5<sup>th</sup> October should be postponed by one week to 12<sup>th</sup> October as he and his colleagues from the Conservative Group would be attending the Conservative Party Conference on that day at Manchester.

**AGREED** that the request should be declined and the meeting timetabled for 5<sup>th</sup> October should remain in place.

**6802 STREET AMENITY LICENCE SOUTHSIDE CAFÉ BAR**

The Council agreed to deal with this matter as an item of urgent business in view of the consultation timescale.

The Council were being consulted by the District Council following an application to them by Mr Adam Wilcox for a licence to place up to 10 tables and 40 chairs on the paved area of Severnside South for the purpose of serving food and drinks. No plan had been submitted.

**AGREED** that the District Council be advised that the Town Council would not support the application on the grounds of the obstruction of the pavement and open area caused by the tables and chairs; the safety risk of customers and cafe staff crossing and mingling with the vehicular traffic using Severnside South and the overall scale of the proposed operation which was excessive for the site

**6803 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The following written and verbal reports were noted:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| (i) Community Transport Helpline                                     | Councillor Mace    |
| (ii) Bewdley Museum Management Committee                             | Councillor Bulmer  |
| (iii) Bewdley Development Trust Environment<br>and Town Centre Group | Councillor Foulkes |
| (iv) Riddings Brook Public Meeting                                   | Councillor Davies  |

In respect of the Bewdley Museum it was further **agreed** that a letter of congratulation should be sent to the Manager of the Bewdley Museum as to its tremendous success in terms of visitor numbers, displays and having won a prestigious award linked to its refurbishment and expansion.

**6804 BRIDGE ILLUMINATION WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July having been circulated by the Town Clerk were received.

**6805 HIGHWAY & FOOTPATH CLOSURES**

The Council noted the proposed closure of Park Lane for one day on or after 18<sup>th</sup> August and Footpath 14 at Bark Hill for two weeks on or after 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**6806 BEWDLEY FESTIVAL 2009**

The Council noted the letter Jenny Paddock Festival Director advising of the various events to which the Mayor and Councillors were invited during the period 2<sup>nd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**6807 BEWDLEY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Town Centre Group held on Monday 11th May 2009.

**6808 BEWDLEY FLOOD LIAISON GROUP**

The Council received the notes of the Bewdley Flood Liaison Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**6809 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the following:

- (i) Bridge Illumination Working Group – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 1.00pm
- (ii) Power of Wellbeing Training – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm
- (iii) Finance Working Group – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Signed.....  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2009

## **Public Period.**

### **Jubilee Gardens/Proposed Orchard Area**

Mrs Roslyn Zalin referred to the proposals to create an orchard in the fenced off woodland area of land adjoining the Jubilee Gardens. She felt that given the lack of play facilities for children in the centre of Bewdley some thought should be given to allocating part of the land for that purpose.

### **Traffic in High Street**

Mrs Zalin, herself a resident of the High Street, spoke about the volume of traffic in the High Street which was generally narrow throughout and particularly the difficulties at its junction with Load Street. She produced and circulated photographs illustrating some of the problems. She queried whether some scheme could be introduced to create a one-way system involving Severnside South and Lax Lane