

**BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2009 IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mr D Killingworth (Mayor)  
Councillor Dr J Adams  
Councillor Mr G Bulmer  
Councillor Mrs E Davies  
Councillor Mrs L Edginton  
Councillor Mr J Foulkes  
Councillor Mr P Gittins  
Councillor Miss A Mace  
Councillor Mr J Phillips  
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

In attendance: Mr S Inman - Town Clerk,  
Four members of the Public,

**6810 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from  
Councillors Clee, Keen and Stallwood

**6811 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Edginton declared a Prejudicial Interest in minute number  
6819 Severnside North – Limited Vehicular Access as a resident of  
Severnside North and left the room during consideration of that item

**6812 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Mayor provided a summary of his visits, engagements and  
activities during the course of the last four weeks since the date of the  
last Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August

**6813 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
3 AUGUST 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 were agreed as a  
true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

**6814 ACCOUNTS FOR AUGUST 2009**

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

**6815 REPAIR TO MAYOR'S CHAIN LEATHER CASE**

The Town Clerk presented a report as to the costs of repair of the  
leather case in which the Mayor's Chain was stored. He had  
obtained a quotation for such work to be done in the sum of £120 plus

VAT. This sum was considerably less than the likely cost of a replacement case.

**AGREED** that the leather case be repaired by Just Leather of The Hopmarket Worcester at a cost of £120 plus VAT

**6816 COUNCIL BUDGET 2010/11**

The Council's Finance Working Group had met on two occasions to deliberate upon the Council's budgetary requirements for the next financial year 2010/11. The Town Clerk produced a report to which there was appended what was at this stage strictly a draft budget prepared by the Working Group with an indicative increase in Council Tax of 1.72% for ongoing regular expenditure coupled with some reduction in the overall budget for discretionary expenditure.

The Working Group could not be certain as to whether any grant by way of Section 136 monies would be forthcoming from the District Council and had therefore concluded that in that eventuality no monies would be transferred across from the Town Council's own `precept.

The Town Clerk invited comments that could be taken on board either now or in the coming weeks as to spending priorities or reductions in expenditure by the Working Group at its future meetings.

**AGREED** that the draft budget as produced by the Working Group be used as the basis for continuing work to be carried out by them at their next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October with a view to a further report being presented to Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and a formal budget being brought forward for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**6817 BT "ADOPT YOUR LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK" SCHEME – WESTBOURNE STREET KIOSK**

British Telecom had written to the Town Council inviting them to adopt any telephone kiosk that would otherwise be declared redundant through lack of use for a price of £1. The telephony would be removed but ownership would be transferred to enable the Council to use the kiosk for whatever might be of most benefit to the local community. The scheme had the in principle support of English Heritage.

Members considered issues that could arise as to cost of putting the kiosk into good repair now and of keeping it so maintained, the cost of security including the provision of locks and whether having it relocated within the Museum or Jubilee Gardens might be beneficial.

**AGREED** that if the kiosk was to be declared redundant through non-use then in preference to it being removed, the Council would consider

the principle of adoption but that before entering into any formal commitment the Town Clerk should ascertain the likely costs of repair, the cost of having it made secure and seek the views of Bewdley Museum and the District Council's Parks Department as to its suitability for relocation within the Museum complex or the Jubilee Gardens.

**6818 AIR QUALITY – WELCH GATE**

The Council had considered this matter at its last meeting and had requested the Clerk to write to the County Council expressing concern as to the length of time it was taking to produce any trial traffic management scheme that might alleviate the pollution levels at this location. Correspondence passing between the County Council and local residents had suggested that a detailed design might be available by 7<sup>th</sup> August. However, it was noted that it had not proved possible for that timescale to be maintained.

**AGREED** that the Town Council express its disappointment at the time taken to produce any traffic management scheme that would alleviate the problem of pollution at Welch Gate and urge the County Council to give this work greater priority given this was well known as a pollution “hot-spot” both within the Wyre Forest District and Worcestershire itself.

**6819 SEVERNSIDE NORTH – LIMITED VEHICULAR ACCESS**

The Council had considered this matter at its last meeting since when the Clerk had met with representatives of West Mercia Police (Traffic Management) and County Council (Highway Engineers) both of whom had indicated lack of support on various grounds for what had been proposed namely limited access to homes and businesses. The Clerk had also received a reply to his letter from the County Council's Head of Integrated Transport which suggested better enforcement of existing parking restrictions and further investigation of the obstruction of footways by tables and chairs from businesses operating along Severnside North would be preferable than creating a limited access scheme.

**AGREED**

(i) that the Town Clerk write to the District Council to request that any conditions relating to the position of tables and chairs on the footpath be enforced so that sufficient width was available for pedestrians and also to request that parking restrictions along Severnside North be enforced and

(ii) that a meeting be convened with all interested parties to discuss the issues raised to date in more detail.

**6820 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL**

The Town Clerk reported that he had been in contact with D&G Electrical Services Limited who, last year had been given the contract to install, maintain and remove the Christmas lighting and features at a base price of £3,900. D&G had indicated verbally that they would be prepared to repeat the work this year for the same price. There was a benefit of engaging a local contractor who knew what was required but for future years it may be appropriate to invite other bids to test the market.

**AGREED** that subject to a written quotation being provided by D&G Electrical Services Limited in the sum of £3900, they be awarded the contract for installation, maintenance and removal of this year's Christmas Lights.

**6821 CIVIC AWARDS 2009**

The annual Civic Awards were given to persons nominated by members of the public for valuable contributions made on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the community. The procedure and format had become established and subject to confirmation of the timetable and dates, it could be repeated.

**AGREED**

- (i) that the Council proceed with the Civic Awards Scheme and invite nominations from members of the public;
- (ii) that the Mayor together with Councillors Foulkes, Gittins, Mace and Stallwood be appointed as a Working Group to select award winners and that the Group meet on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 5.30pm for such purpose;
- (iii) that the Awards Ceremony be fixed for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**6822 NALC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

The National Association of Local Councils were promoting a "Leadership Academy" at Warwick University for Councillors spread over four days this September at a cost of £808.45.

**AGREED** that no action be taken

**6823 STREET AMENITY LICENCE – SOUTHSIDE CAFÉ BAR SEVERNSIDE SOUTH**

At its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August the Council had considered this application and had taken the view that the close proximity of the tables to Severnside South made this an unsafe operation and that what was proposed was excessive in terms of numbers of tables and chairs. However, that decision had been made without the benefit of either a

location plan or photographs being available. The applicant had now lodged photographs of the intended site with the District Council and the Clerk advised that it would be proper to consider the application afresh.

**AGREED** that having been made aware of the exact location of the tables and chairs, the District Council be advised that the Town Council would support the application in principle but for reasons of safety any consent be subject to the following caveats and conditions:

- (i) that the maximum number of tables and chairs permitted should be 5 and 20 respectively and not 10 and 40 as proposed;
- (ii) that the tables and chairs be positioned as shown on the photographs and as now in place on the quayside
- (iii) that a sufficiently wide gap of at least 1.5 metres be maintained between any tables/chairs and the roadway;
- (iv) that the consent should not be given on days when the newly established street market was operating as the area would become too obstructed.

#### **6824 RIDDINGS BROOK WRIBBENHALL FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

Councillor Davies reported upon a meeting she had attended in the previous week of the Riddings Brook Flood Group. At that meeting there had been representatives of the Environment Agency who had indicated that a flood alleviation scheme had been drawn up but required funding for which it had to compete with other projects in the Midlands. It had been suggested that the chances of getting funding were improved if there was the promise of community support including some financial aid. The Flood Group were proposing to put forward a sum of £500 and Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council would also be asked to contribute as their area would also benefit from the scheme.

**AGREED** that the Council support the scheme as being of benefit to the area and would offer a sum up to a maximum of £1000 to the Environment Agency if the project were to be given the go ahead

#### **6825 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The following written reports were noted:

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|--|------------------|
| (i) Patient Participation Group          | Councillor Adams |
| (ii) Health & Community Facilities Group | Councillor Adams |

#### **6826 FINANCE/BUDGET WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meetings of the Finance/Budget Working Group held on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August were received and noted

**6827 BRIDGE ILLUMINATION WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meeting of the Bridge Illumination Working Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> August were noted and received

**6828 BEWDLEY RESIDENTS' FLOOD COMMITTEE**

The Council noted a written update from Mrs Gill Holland as to various meetings and projects that were ongoing with the Environment Agency and in particular the setting up of the next Emergency Planning Bewdley Flood Liaison Group at the end of October.

**6829 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – HABBERLEY ROAD**

Councillor Yarranton reported that another accident had occurred in Habberley Road recently and that the installation of speed activated warning signs along this stretch of road was now a priority

**6829 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reported on issues concerning the urgent works that had been carried out by Wyre Forest District Council to remove pigeon droppings and other material from the Guildhall roof space the “deep clean” of carpets and cupboards that was due to be carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

He reminded Councillors of the next meeting of the Finance/Budget Working Group to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the Civic Awards Working Group to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Public Period.**

Mrs Pat Jones a resident of Severnside North asked the Council to persist with their attempts to get some form of limited vehicular access to Severnside North.

She understood that PC Julian Turner of West Mercia Police Traffic management was not in favour and likewise the local County Council Member John Champion.

However, when she had talked to visitors at the week-end, many had expressed surprise that there was still open access to cars and motor bikes.

She had managed to collect approx 450 signatures on a Petition that was headed:

“Please help us to improve Bewdley’s river frontage.” and went on to say:

“I would like to see Severnside North fully pedestrianised (except for access). I think that the tables and chairs enhance the walk but that traffic including motorcycles is unnecessary and hazardous.”

She presented the Petition to the Mayor who thanked her and indicated that the matter was due to be further discussed later as an agenda item