

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2009 IN THE GUILDHALL BEWDLEY

PRESENT

Councillor Mr D Killingworth (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs E Davies
Councillor Mrs L Edginton
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,
Seven members of the Public,

6830 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Councillors Dr Adams, Bulmer, Clee and Foulkes

6831 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made

6832 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 1st September. He had been busy throughout and was now looking forward to supporting the events at the Bewdley Festival

6833 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2009 were agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

6834 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Yarranton advised the Council that action was being taken:
to install a speed activated sign in Habberley Road
to improve lighting under the railway bridge in Kidderminster Road
to construct the pedestrian crossing by the school in Stourport Road
to relocate the bus stop by the Black Boy in Kidderminster Road

to remove the speed tables in Queensway

6835 ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

The Treasurer presented the schedule of accounts for payment for September 2009 together with details of the out-turn of the income and expenditure budget for the half year to 30th September which showed underlying expenditure to be within that planned.

AGREED

(i) that the schedule of accounts be approved and signed by the Mayor with authority thereby given for the requisite cheques to be drawn and
(ii) that the half year income and expenditure for the period to 30th September be noted

6836 ANNUAL RETURN – AUDIT 2008/09

The Council had before them the report of the Town Clerk to which there was appended the Report and Certificate of the External Auditor. No matters of concern had arisen or needed to be drawn to the Council's attention and consequently an unqualified opinion of the accounts had been given. Arising from the audit there was advice that the interest rates for monies held on deposit should be kept under review.

AGREED that the Council welcome the outcome of the External Audit in giving an unqualified audit opinion and congratulate the Treasurer on his work throughout the year; that the accounts be made available for public inspection and that the Clerk and Treasurer review interest rates available and report back to a subsequent meeting.

6837 WAITING RESTRICTIONS SEVERNSIDE SOUTH CIVIC SPACE

The Council considered a further report from the Town Clerk following discussion of this issue at the meeting on 8th June when it was agreed with some reluctance that the yellow lines should be extended and joined up across the stonework so that enforcement of parking within the civic space could be carried out. The Police and County Council and Bewdley Development Trust had put forward alternative suggestions to counter the ability of vehicles being able to park there including the placing of planters between the bollards, a different alignment of the yellow lines and chains being put in place. However, all of these suggestions brought their own practical problems.

AGREED that the County Council be requested to join up and extend the double yellow lines across the civic space stonework to create a continuous restriction so as to enable action to be taken against vehicles parking and thereby to keep the civic space free from vehicles.

6838 SEVERN TRENT/ENTERPRISE - LOAD STREET WORKS AND CLOSURE

The Council had been informed by Severn Trent that in respect of the works that were due to take place in Load Street in the New Year, Balfour Beatty were no longer the appointed contractor. They had been replaced by Enterprise.

However, notwithstanding that change of contractor the suggestion had been made that to facilitate movement within Load Street whilst the works were being carried out, it would be helpful to suspend the limited waiting spaces so that save for loading and unloading, there would be no parked vehicles. It was believed that the Police were supportive of the proposal

AGREED

(i) that by writing to the County Council, the Council seek the suspension and closure of all parking spaces on Load Street for the period of time equivalent to that taken for the mains utilities renewal works in Load Street to be carried out and.

(ii) that the dialogue between the Council and Severn Trent/Enterprise be renewed and firm assurances provided that the works would still be carried out during the period previously anticipated namely January and February 2010 and that if such timescale should not prove possible then any works should be deferred until October thereby avoiding the critically important tourist season.

6839 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Town Clerk had been asked to place this item on the agenda as there was concern that so far this year the Council (by its representative) had not been involved in any discussions relating to the planning of the event. There were two issues of particular concern namely that the local shops and businesses in Load Street should be able to erect their own stalls outside their own premises if they so wished rather than to have stallholders from outside the area taking up such space and, that given the substantial contribution in terms of funding towards the lights given by the Council, the Mayor should officiate and lead at the switch on ceremony on 5th December.

AGREED that the Town Clerk should convene an urgent meeting with the Christmas Lights Committee in order to be satisfied that all arrangements were in place and confirm who would be taking responsibility for individual matters of organisation and that the two points above be addressed.

6840 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007 AMENDMENT BILL

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 created a process whereby citizens and their Councils could press central government to take action to promote or protect thriving communities and in so doing aimed to devolve powers to local people. However, the legislation did not include local town and parish councils within its ambit. The Amendment Bill seeks to do so. The National Association of Local Councils were recommending that local Councils should lobby their Member of Parliament to support the Bill in the House of Commons.

AGREED that the local Member of Parliament be asked to support the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Amendment Bill when it is introduced as a Private Members' Bill in November.

6841 PUBLIC FOOTPATH – DEFINITIVE MAP – ADDITION OF FOOTPATH FROM DOWLES ROAD TO RIVER SEVERN VIA GREENACRES LANE

On 17th December 1996 an application had been submitted by the Town Council to the County Council requesting that this footpath be added to the Definitive Map despite the opposition of certain adjoining landowners. In total 182 "User Evidence Forms" together with 25 letters and written statements had been collated in support. Furthermore having undertaken a detailed examination of historical records, maps, photographs, the County Council had concluded that on the balance of evidence, a public right on foot had been shown to subsist. As part of the process the Town Council were being asked for their up-to-date views.

AGREED that the conclusion that this path subsists as a public right of way on foot be welcomed and that the proposal to have it added to the Definitive Map should be seen as a positive action to be taken for the benefit of the town.

6842 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following reports were noted:

- (i) Bewdley Development Trust Environment & Town Centre Group – Councillor Gittins
- (ii) Civic Society Executive Committee – Councillor Gittins
- (iii) Police & Communities Together (PACT) – Councillor Gittins
- (iv) Bewdley Twinning Association - Councillor Stallwood
- (v) Bewdley Fairtrade Town Group – Councillor Foulkes
- (vi) Riddings Brook Flood Group – Councillor Killingworth
- (vii) Community Transport Helpline – Councillor Mace

6843 BEWDLEY HEALTH & COMMUNITY FACILITY GROUP MEETING

The minutes of the Bewdley Health and Community Facility Meeting held on Friday 21st August 2009 at the Bewdley Medical Centre were noted including the reference to redevelopment of the fire station no longer being feasible within the scheme.

6844 BEWDLEY RESIDENTS FLOOD COMMITTEE – RIDDINGS BROOK FLOOD GROUP

The contents of the Riddings Brook Newsletter No 10 dated 9th September 2009 were noted and welcomed.

6845 STOURPORT ROAD CLOSURE

The Council noted the proposed closure by the County Council of Stourport Road for a period of 11 days commencing on 24th October for the purpose of construction of a raised Zebra crossing.

6846 WYRE FOREST PARISH GAMES

The Council noted the arrangements for the Parish Games in 2010 for which the coordinator was to be Councillor Gittins.

6847 LOCALEYES

Bewdley Development Trust had been chosen amongst a few other community organisations nationally to pilot this web based community discussion and information concept. The Council noted a leaflet outlining its possible uses amongst community groups and wished it success

6848 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

The Town Clerk drew attention to various meetings to which Members were invited or should attend and for diary noting:

- (i) Tuesday 13th October at 11.00am – Meeting with local traders to discuss Christmas Lights;
- (ii) Thursday 22nd October at 3.00pm – Finance Working Group
- (iii) Tuesday 20th October at County Hall – Worcs Parish Forum
- (iv) Friday 30th October at 10.30 am at Aylesbury – Conference for Quality Status Councils
- (v) Monday 9th November at 7.00pm – Millennium Green Trust AGM

- (vi) Monday 16th November at 5.30pm – Civic Awards Panel
- (vii) Wednesday 25th November at 7.00pm – Wores CALC AGM

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....
2nd November 2009