

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 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 Mrs J Keen
Councillor Mr J Phillips
Councillor Mrs B Stallwood
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

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

6849 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Councillor Mace

6850 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Davies declared a Prejudicial Interest in minute number
6857 Electricity Supply – Severnside South as a Director of the
Bewdley Development Trust

6851 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor provided a summary of his visits, engagements and
activities during the course of the last four weeks. He praised the
organisation of the Bewdley Festival which had been a great success
and at which he had had the pleasure of opening several events. He had
also met the present Lord Baldwin of Bewdley at a ceremony in The
Guildhall at Worcester and had taken the opportunity of inviting him to
visit Bewdley on a date to be agreed in the near future

**6852 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
5 OCTOBER 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2009 were agreed as
a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

6853 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Campion addressed the Council having earlier in the day walked the length of the High Street with the Mayor and Town Clerk and noted various problems as to traffic which had been the subject of recent representations by members of the public. Subject to liaising with the Highways' Department he contemplated laying down some "tubes" across the road which would provide up-to-date information as to the speed and volume of traffic; setting up a mobile speed censor warning sign and looking at improved road markings and signage at the junction with Load Street.

Councillor Yarranton advised the Council that:
the bus stop by the Black Boy had been relocated;
the pedestrian crossing in Stourport Road had been installed
the speed activated sign in Habberley Road had been put in place
the footbridge across Riddings Brook connecting Bewdley School with the Sports Centre had been erected

6854 ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2009

The Council considered the schedule of accounts for payment for October 2009 drawn up by the Treasurer. He had also produced details of the balances held at the Bank and District Council and the current budgetary position for income and expenditure comparing actual and budgeted figures to 30th October. The Town Clerk clarified the position with regard to payment of monies for maintenance of the Wyre Hill Play Area

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 income and expenditure for the period to 30th October be noted

6855 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RESIDENTS ONLY PARKING SCHEME

The Mayor had requested that this item be placed on the agenda given the substantial public concern that had arisen due to the enforcement of restrictions by the District Council as from 1st October preventing cars from being parked for more than 23 hours continuously in the Dog Lane and Gardners Meadow car parks or otherwise be subjected to a penalty ticket and fine. The Council had earlier in the public session of the meeting heard from the Leader of the District Council who had indicated his intention to carry out a review of the parking regulations in the light of this controversy and in the meantime not to proceed

with the collection of fines and to place a moratorium on further enforcement of this regulation.

AGREED

(i) That the Council welcome the intervention of the District Council Leader in this dispute as between local residents and the District Council and the prospect of a review

(ii) That local residents be encouraged to make representations to the District Council to preserve the existing scheme so that continuous parking which was an essential ingredient of a residents' parking scheme would remain and that the Town Council itself write in support

(iii) That consideration also be given to the timing of 24 hour non-resident parking to make the start and finish times more convenient and flexible to users

6856 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Mayor updated the Council with arrangements for this year's Christmas Lights Festival having attended a meeting of its Committee on 28th October. There had been some welcome interest and input from local traders who were keen to have stalls sited outside or close to their own shops and a master plan showing the location of all the stalls was in the course of preparation and agreement by the Committee. Some discussion took place as to the request for funds by the Committee from the Council both as to the past, current and future years.

AGREED that there was no further obligation on the part of the Council to provide extra funds for expenditure incurred in 2008; that a sum of £900 had been allocated in the budget to fund expenses incurred by the Committee this year such to be paid as against supplier invoices and that the Lights Committee should make application for a grant (in common with other voluntary organisations) for funds for the event in 2010.

6857 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY – SEVERNSIDE SOUTH

Bewdley Development Trust (BDT) had written to the Council asking if it would take responsibility for the management of the new electricity supply on Severnside. BDT had received funding to install a supply which would provide an access point for Bewdley Market and other town events which would avoid the need for the use of generators. BDT proposed that ownership should vest with the Town Council

AGREED that the Council would agree to ownership of the electricity supply being vested in it provided the Council should not be residually liable for the cost of energy used which should otherwise be reimbursed by the end-user.

6858 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) CONFERENCE

NALC had organised a Conference and Exhibition in London on 2nd December 2009 to which representatives of “Larger” Local Councils were invited. The Town Clerk had established that Bewdley was now defined as being a Larger Local Council as it met one of the criteria for so being namely an electorate in excess of 5000 people.

AGREED that the Council would not send a representative to the Conference on this occasion.

6859 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

(i) Wyre Forest Parish Forum – Flooding - Councillor Killingworth

AGREED

that the report be noted and that an assurance be obtained from the Environment Agency that any budgetary measures that they might need to take by way of reductions in spending would not impact upon the use and erection of flood barriers at Bewdley as and when required.

(ii) Youth Café AGM – Councillor Killingworth

AGREED that the report be noted

6860 FINANCE/BUDGET WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting of the Finance/Budget Working Group held on 22nd October were received and agreed.

At that meeting there had been some discussion as to whether by way of consultation on the budget, residents should be offered the opportunity to put forward suggestions of improvements to the Town involving modest expenditure that could be included.

AGREED that some consultation with residents should take place to seek their views on items of modest expenditure that could be included within the budget having regard though to the need to keep an overall tight rein on expenses and any increase in Council Tax and that the

Town Clerk draft a paragraph to this effect for insertion in the Bridge magazine.

6861 BEWDLEY RESIDENTS FLOOD COMMITTEE – RIDDINGS BROOK FLOOD GROUP

The Council noted a Press Release issued following the provisional approval of the flood alleviation scheme for Riddings Brook by the Midlands Flood Defence Committee.

Arising from the above, discussion took place on various flood related issues.

AGREED

(i) that the District Council Planning Department be asked to confirm whether it was possible to include as a condition in the planning consent or otherwise seek the agreement of the developers of the 46 affordable homes at Shaw Hedge Road to include provision for “grey water recycling” which would relieve pressure of run-off water on the Queensway Estate

(ii) that the District Council be asked to provide clarification of the status and completeness of the Emergency Plan and in particular the means by which the general public would be warned eg by a siren fixed to the Fire Station tower, of a flood risk in the event of a breach of the flood barriers for any reason eg damage from floating debris or vandalism

6862 BEWDLEY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Town Centre Group held on Monday 28th September 2009.

6863 BEWDLEY FLOOD LIAISON GROUP

The Council received the notes of the Bewdley Flood Liaison Group dealing with bus routes and timetables during flooding held on 5th October 2009.

6864 A456 KIDDERMINSTER ROAD BEWDLEY AND BEWDLEY HILL KIDDERMINSTER 10MPH SPEED LIMIT

The Council noted the imposition of a temporary 10 mph speed limit on these sections of the A456 for a period of 6 days commencing on 5th November to facilitate essential carriageway resurfacing.

6865 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS – FORMAL NOTICE OF COUNCIL SUMMONS

The Town Clerk had received advice that to comply with what was regarded as best practice in the administration of Council business, the Council Summons ie the agenda should be made available for public inspection and should be distributed to Councillors three clear days before the meeting. That should not include Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays. To comply with that timescale, given Council meetings were generally held on a Monday it would be necessary for the Council Summons and agenda papers to go out on the Tuesday beforehand ie two days earlier than at present.

AGREED that this change of practice be accepted and that henceforth agenda papers should be despatched so as to provide three clear days notice before any given Council meeting.

6866 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS – MEMBERS’ DIARY DATES

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

- (i) Monday 9th November at 7.00pm – Millennium Green Trust AGM
- (ii) Wednesday 11th November at 11.00am Remembrance Wreath Laying at War Memorial
- (iii) Thursday 12th November at 6.30pm Planning Training at Civic Centre Stourport
- (iv) Monday 16th November at 4.00pm Finance Working Group
- (v) Monday 16th November at 5.30pm – Civic Awards Panel
- (vi) Monday 16th November at 7.00pm – Worcestershire Parish Conference at County Hall
- (vii) Wednesday 25th November at 7.00pm – Worcs CALC AGM at County Hall

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm

Signed.....
30th November 2009

Public Period

Car Parking Regulations & Enforcement at Dog Lane and Gardners Meadow Car Parks

Councillor John Champion as Leader of Wyre Forest District Council and supported by **Councillor Tracey Onslow** as the relevant Cabinet Portfolioholder acknowledged the widespread concern and anger of those residents who, having purchased residents parking permits which had enabled them to use the two car parks without time restriction, had since 1st October pursuant to new regulations received penalty tickets for parking in a given space for a period in excess of 23 hours.

Cllr Champion confirmed that as a result of the numerous representations that had been made to him and colleagues he had ordered a review of the policy and regulations which would be conducted through a Scrutiny Committee of the District Council which would then report its findings and conclusions to the full Council prior to the new season commencing on 1st April 2010. He invited all residents and interested parties to contribute to the review.

In the interim he had agreed that all penalty tickets issued as being in breach of this particular regulation should be subject to refund with no further action being taken to recover the penalty charge and that a moratorium be placed on the issue of further penalty tickets relating to this regulation pending the outcome of the review that was to be commenced.

Mr Martin Vaux of 10 Severnside South (chosen by members of the public present to act as their spokesman) addressed the Council. He confirmed the anger of residents and the disruption that had been caused by what he regarded as a devious change to the terms and conditions which had not been publicised effectively. He queried why having paid for an annual parking permit, residents should be obliged to move their car once every 24 hours or how they could go away on holiday without being in breach of the new regulation. It was totally impracticable and lacked any logic or sense. The regulation should be repealed instantly. He had collected a petition of more than 250 signatures to this effect which he then presented to the Mayor.

The following members of the public (and others) then spoke raising individual points of concern about the scheme with all agreeing it was unjust, ill-conceived and should be repealed:

Mr Dunsby of 32 Lax Lane
Mr Roger Coleman of 76 Welch Gate
Mr John Thomas of 9 Millside Court
Mr Sutton of 10 Lax Lane
Mrs Raven of 87 Welch Gate
Mrs Jackie Pratchett of Load Street
Mrs Helen Hall of Welch Gate

Mr Graham Luxford of 53 Stourport Road
Manager of The Mug House Severnside North

Cllr John Campion and Cllr Tracey Onslow responded to the remarks reiterating the assurances given as to the proposed review and moratorium on further enforcement action pending the outcome thereof.

Parking in Stourport Road

Mr Peter Wolfe of 87 Stourport Road raised concerns at the restrictions on parking spaces that had recently been imposed as a result of the highway works carried out in Stourport Road adjacent to the Primary School which prevented him and others from parking outside their own properties.

Traffic Conditions in High Street

Mrs Ros Zalin of 51 High Street who had previously spoken at a Council meetings about traffic conditions in the High Street and the hazards and dangers to pedestrians and buildings caused, referred to the visit earlier that day of Cllr John Campion (in his capacity of County Councillor) together with the Mayor and Town Clerk. She hoped some positive steps could be taken to improve the situation,