

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2010 AT 7.30PM 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 Miss A Mace
Councillor Mrs B Stallwood
Councillor Mr G Yarranton

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

6916 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clee & Phillips

6917 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Killingworth declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6922 in relation to the Citizens Advice Bureau as a Trustee and Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee;
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee and
a personal interest in minute no 6930 as the subject of the matter

Councillor Adams declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6922 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee and Community Transport Helpline as a Trustee and
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee

Councillor Davies declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute nos 6922 and 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Development Trust as a Director and
a personal interest in minute no 6930 as a personal friend of the Councillor

Councillor Edginton declared:

a prejudicial interest in minute nos 6922 and 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as an owner of the building to whom rent was paid by the Bewdley Youth Cafe

Councillor Foulkes declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute nos 6922 and 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee

Councillor Gittins declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6922 in relation to the Bewdley Carnival as Vice Chairman and
a personal interest in minute no 6930 as a personal friend of the Councillor concerned

Councillor Mace declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6922 in relation to the Citizens Advice Bureau as the Town Council representative on the Board and Community Transport Helpline as a Trustee and
a personal interest in minute no 6930 as a personal friend of the Councillor concerned

Councillor Stallwood declared:
a prejudicial interest in minute no 6922 and 6925 in relation to the Bewdley Youth Café as a Trustee and
a personal interest in minute no 6930 as a personal friend of the Councillor concerned

6918 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor provided a summary of his engagements and activities since the date of the last Council that included visits to Redditch, Bromsgrove, Wychavon, Worcester and Tewkesbury.

The Mayor announced the visit of the Mercian Regiment (2nd Battalion) who would be marching through Bewdley on Thursday 11th March at approx 3.00pm as part of their programme of visiting supporting towns within the Midlands area from which they recruited.

The Mayor referred Councillors to the fact that the St George's Parade was now scheduled to take place a week earlier than previously agreed namely on Sunday 18th April rather than 25th April but he hoped Councillors could still attend.

6919 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2010 were agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

6920 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Yarranton reported:

(i) that the resurfacing of Queensway which had been delayed due to the bad weather would commence as from 5th March;

(ii) that he had reported a large number of potholes arising from the bad weather including those in Crundalls Lane which were all logged in the County Council's system for attention

(iii) that the planning application for the lay-by in Stourport Road close to Bewdley Primary School had been approved;

(iv) that he was continuing to press for the 20mph speed limit in Stourport Road in the vicinity of the schools

6921 ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2010

The Council considered the schedule of accounts for payment for February 2010 drawn up by the Treasurer together with the balances held at the Bank and District Council and the current budgetary position as to income and expenditure for the period to 28th February.

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;

(ii) that the balances with Unity Bank of £12,277.37 and with the District Council of £62,168.54 and with HMRC of £3,631.45 be noted;

(iii) that the Council's income and expenditure which was within budget for the period to 28th February be noted;

6922 GRANT AID 2010/11

The Town Clerk had produced a report summarising the organisations which had made an application for grant aid and made reference to the fact that some organisations which traditionally had submitted requests for grants in the previous year had failed to do so.

The Finance Working Party had met recently and they had considered the applications in more detail and made recommendations to Council

The budget available for grants this year had been fixed at £6,000.

AGREED (by those Councillors who had not declared a prejudicial interest in this item) that the recommendations of the Finance Working Group be accepted namely that

(i) that grants be awarded (none refused) totalling £3,150.00 to the following organisations as shown in the table below:

Organisation	Amount Bid 2010/11	Grant 2010/11
Bewdley Scout & Guide Christmas Post	£100.00	£100.00
Wyre Forest Citizens Advice Bureau	Not Stated	£1,000.00
1 st Bewdley Scout Group	£250.00	£250.00
Mentor Link	£500.00	£500.00
Community Transport Helpline	£500.00	£500.00
Bewdley Festival	£1,500.00	£500.00
Bewdley Carnival	Not Stated	£100.00
Macmillan Cancer Support Worcestershire	£100.00	£100.00
Care for the Family (Drug Proof Your Kids)	£250.00	£100.00
Total	-	£3,150.00

(ii) that the following organisations which had received a grant last year but which had omitted to apply this year be informed that notwithstanding such failure, the Town Council would, subject to receipt of a completed application form accompanied by an up-to-date set of accounts, provide grants as show in the table below:

Organisation	Grant 2009/10	Grant 2010/11
SARA	200	200
Bridge Magazine	300	300
First Responders	100	100
Bewdley Town Football Club	50	100
Total	650	700

(iii) that a grant of £100 be made to the RBL Poppy Wreaths as in previous for which no formal application or accounts be required.

(iv) that the balance remaining within the budget namely £2050 be kept in reserve until October 2010 with a view then to considering such other applications as may have been tendered in the intervening period.

6923 LENGTHSMAN'S DUTIES

The question of the Lengthsman carrying out additional duties in relation to winter gritting of town centre pavements had been discussed at the last Council meeting. There had also previously been discussion about increasing the capabilities of the Lengthsman to perform other duties during the remainder of the year with the help of power tools. The Town Clerk produced a report which was before Council. The Finance Working Group had also considered the issues and made recommendations to Council.

AGREED that the recommendations of the Finance Working Group be accepted namely:

- (i) that the Town Clerk ascertain from the County Council as to whether they would reimburse the cost of power tools but that in any event the purchase of a suitable hedge trimmer/strimmer be authorised up to a maximum cost of £300;
- (ii) that the Lengthsman be asked to carry out a survey of all bench seats within Bewdley as to their condition and estimated cost of repair;
- (iii) that the Lengthsman be asked to carry out a mapping exercise as to highway gullies and drainage channels that were susceptible to blockage through weeds and silt and enquiry be made as to whether the cost of such survey came within the County Council's provision for reimbursement;
- (iv) that a link be established with the local voluntary footpaths officers to ascertain where there may be blockages caused by vegetation that needed to be cut back particularly within the town area;
- (v) that any other matters relating to personnel issues be brought to the attention of the Staffing Committee at its next meeting.

6924 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Town Clerk reported that there had been two expressions of interest for the position of Internal Auditor from persons who he believed possessed the necessary qualifications for the job. The Finance Working Party had indicated their satisfaction as to the suggested interview procedure.

AGREED that the two individuals be contacted and invited for interview with the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Councillor Killingworth on a date to be agreed with a view to the successful applicant being in post by April.

6925 DISTRICT COUNCIL SECTION 136 GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that after many months of consideration, the District Council had confirmed its ability to make payment of Section 136 Grants to Parish and Town Councils and that for the 2010/11 year that grant would be equivalent to 12.75% of the precept. The amount for which bids could be made by the Town Council was therefore £10,251.

The Finance Working Group had met previously to discuss the apportionment of such monies as between various schemes and commitments. In particular there had been a suggestion that with a grant of £1250 having been received from the County Council's Economy Group for new low energy bulbs and with more of the

displays now no longer capable of functioning properly or at all, some further investment should be made in improved lighting.

Councillors discussed the ongoing commitment to fund the maintenance of the Wyre Hill Play Area and in particular as to the safety of the play equipment and the future plans for capital investment

AGREED

(i) (by those councillors who had not declared a prejudicial interest in this item) that the bids to be made to the District Council for Section 136 monies be in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Working Group namely as shown in the table below:

Organisation	Grant 09/10	Grant 10/11
Wyre Hill Play Area	4,220	4,251
Bewdley Youth Café	1,500	1,500
War Memorials Maintenance	500	500
Bewdley Development Trust	1,500	1,500
Additional Flowers	1,000	0
Bridge Illumination	887	0
Bewdley Museum	1,000	0
Tourism/Christmas Lights	900	2,000
Party In The Park	300	300
Churchyards Maintenance	200	200
Total	12,007	10,251

(ii) that the Town Clerk write to the District Council alerting them to the fact that there was uncertainty as to safety of the play equipment at the Wyre Hill play area and that an immediate safety check should be carried out

6926 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Kimbolton Fireworks had provided the firework display for some years on the occasion of the Bewdley Carnival. However, the Finance Working Group had considered a report from the Town Clerk following the expression of interest of two other companies in providing the display on that occasion. It was felt a review of arrangements could be justified

AGREED that the recommendation of the Finance Working Party be accepted namely that Kimbolton Fireworks be engaged again to provide a firework display on Friday 11th June but that they be advised that for 2011 the Council would seek quotations from other providers including the two firms which had submitted some details already and any others offering such displays.

6927 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BAXTER COLLEGE

The Council had been invited to comment upon a proposal for Baxter College Kidderminster to become an Educational Trust with the Chantry High School. This Council had previously been consulted on this matter last year but there had been an enforced change to the format of the notice which required the County Council to consult again.

AGREED that the Council raise no objection to the proposal.

6928 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Town Clerk circulated a report containing suggested dates for the Council meetings for the 2010/11 Council Year as follows:

2010	2011
7 th June	4 th January (Tuesday)
5 th July	7 th February
2 nd August	7 th March
6 th September	4 th April
4 th October	3 rd May (Tuesday)
1 st November	
6 th December	

Annual Town Meeting – 18th April 2011

Annual Meeting Council (Mayor Making) – Friday 13th May 2011

Mayor's Sunday – Sunday 5th June 2011

6929 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

(i) Bewdley Regatta 24th/25th July – Councillor Killingworth

(ii) Parking in Bewdley – Public Meeting 18th February and proposed Wyre Forest District Council Scrutiny Panel meeting 31st March 2010 – Councillor Killingworth

(iii) Bewdley Twinning Association – Councillor Killingworth gave a verbal report to say that the Twining Association were expecting visits from their twin towns in France, Germany and the United States.

(iv) Bewdley Civic Society – Councillor Killingworth gave a verbal report as to a meeting of the Civic Society at which they had expressed concern at the lack of a full-time Conservation Officer being available to monitor compliance with planning regulations in the town and the condition of Ribbesford House. The Planning Committee had also commented upon these issues recently.

AGREED that the reports be all noted.

**6930 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMPLAINT NO
01/2010**

The Ethics and Standards Assessment Sub Committee of the District Council had considered a complaint concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Killingworth in his capacity as a Member of the Town Council. The formal decision was that the complaint fell outside the jurisdiction of the Committee and therefore no action could be taken.

AGREED that the matter be noted.

6931 FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The Council received the notes of the Finance Working Group held on 23rd February 2010

**6932 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAY
CLOSURE**

The Council noted the temporary closure of Sandy Bank/Wyre Hill (part) to facilitate minor drainage works for a period of one week commencing on 8th March 2010

6933 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

The Town Clerk advised members of the following:

(i) the Wyre Forest Community Engagement Forum that was due to take place at Duke House Kidderminster on 3rd March at 6.00pm

(ii) the Civic Awards ceremony that was due to take place at The Guildhall on Friday 5th March at 7.00pm

(iii) the Mercian Regiment (2nd Battalion) Parade and March-past in Bewdley on 11th March at apprx 2.30pm

(iii) the need for Councillors to submit reports to the Town Clerk in readiness for the Annual Town meeting on 26th April;

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....
6th April 2010

Public Period

Mrs Gill Holland asked for the support of the Council over car parking issues in addition to its general collaborating role in selecting individuals to give evidence to the District Council's Parking Review Panel on 31st March. She emphasised that the 23 hour rule applied to all Wyre Forest car parks not just those in Bewdley and that with changes made to the ticket machines, it was no longer possible to feed in money in the evening to carry over to the following day which was a great inconvenience. There was little or no on-street parking in Bewdley and though Severnside South had previously been available that was no longer the case with the construction of the flood defences.

In response to a question from Councillors, Mrs Holland confirmed that the Riddings Brook flood alleviation scheme was in the rolling programme of the Environment Agency but there still needed to be more modelling which would be finished by the end of March. Its inclusion in any programme would then finally be determined.