

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4TH MAY 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 Mr J Phillips
Councillor Mrs B Stallwood

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

6953 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Yarranton

6954 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Edginton declared a prejudicial interest in minute no 6960 as the owner of property situated in Severnside North and left the room for the period of the discussion.

Councillor Mrs Stallwood declared a prejudicial interest in minute no 6960 as the owner of a business situated in Severnside North and left the room for the period of the discussion

6955 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor provided a summary of his engagements and activities since the date of the last Council meeting. He thanked Councillors for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting which had been held at The Guildhall on 26th April and which had been well attended by members of the public and representatives of voluntary groups and organisations.

He drew Councillors attention to the award that had been given to Councillor Gittins by the West Midlands Ambulance Trust for his work as a Community 1st Responder – he having attended upon more incidents than any other Responder in Worcestershire during 2009.

AGREED

That the Town Clerk should write to Councillor Gittins on behalf of all Councillors to congratulate him on that success.

The Mayor also referred to the unfortunate incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that had occurred in the town centre over the Bank Holiday week-end resulting from excessive consumption of alcohol. He had been disappointed by there having been no Police presence. Councillors raised the question of the effectiveness or otherwise of CCTV that was now monitored from Bromsgrove.

AGREED

That the Town Clerk should write to the Inspector of Police to obtain details of the areas of coverage of CCTV within the town centre, its degree of detail in identifying individuals and that a request be made for Councillors to visit the monitoring room as a means of being satisfied as to its overall effectiveness.

6956 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2010 were agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

6957 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There were no reports given

6958 ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL 2010

The Council considered the schedule of accounts for payment for April 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 30th April

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 £9,741.74 and with the District Council of £88,000.00 and with HMRC of £3,885.24 be noted;

(iii) that the Council's income and expenditure for the period to 30th April be noted.

6959 MILLENNIUM GREEN WORKING GROUP

Councillors had before them the notes of the meeting of the Millennium Green Working Group of 12th April. The Working Group had met on site to view the state of repair and maintenance of the Green including the grass, shrubs and fencing and also to consider whether it was feasible for any part of the Green to be made available for use as allotments pursuant to a request made by the Bewdley Transition Land Group in that regard for allotments in Bewdley to be provided to meet demand.

The Town Clerk also advised the Council that in relation to the appointment of the Town Council as sole Trustee of the Millennium Green Trust, it had not been possible as originally intended for the Council to affix its Common Seal to the Deed of Appointment and that

instead it would be necessary for two Councillors to sign on behalf of the Council. To ensure such authority was given he requested a resolution be made to that effect.

AGREED

that the notes of the meeting held on 12th April be received and that the recommendations contained therein be approved namely:

(i) The damage to the metal railings in the south eastern corner of the Green be repaired by a suitable contractor;

(ii) The Transition Land Group be advised that in principle the Council would be willing to dedicate an area (the most likely being the lower, western part of the site furthest away from Shaw Hedge Road) for the purpose of providing allotments and that they be requested to carry out their own survey as to its adequacy in fulfilling the main criteria for siting of allotments. Subject thereto further discussion could take place and any necessary consents and terms and conditions would need to be obtained and agreed which would be the subject of further report to the Council;

(iii) that pursuant to Section 14 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign the Deed of Appointment, Consent, Covenant, Undertaking and Release on behalf of the Town Council

6960 SEVERNSIDE NORTH

Councillor Dr Adams had been requested by a local resident to take steps to prohibit the parking of motor cycles along Severnside North which was a particular problem during the summer months and at week-ends. It was noted that though there were parking spaces in the Dog Lane car park dedicated for motor cycles they were rarely used but instead an area of private land fronting the river tended to be used for such purpose. In addition to the problem of parking there had been complaints from older residents as to noise.

AGREED

(i) That a request be made to the Highway Authority and local County Councillor for Severnside North to be restricted as "Access Only" and for the necessary procedure to be undertaken including the provision of signs and

(ii) That the Highway Authority and local County Councillor be invited to enter into discussion with the Town Council as to the pedestrianisation of Severnside North during defined times and periods to be agreed and that for such purpose a small group of Councillors representing the County, District and Town Councils be set up.

6961 HIGHWAY AND TOWN CENTRE AMENITIES – PARKING CIVIC SPACE, BEWDLEY ROAD SIGNS, STREET POLES AND FLOWER BEDS

Councillor Gittins raised the above matters upon which discussion took place and information was given by the Town Clerk as to the current position.

AGREED

(i) that as parking was still taking place on the Civic Space which detracted from its amenity and intention, the local County Councillor should again be invited with Highway Officers to restrict parking by the provision of double yellow lines.

(ii) that the town sign at Blackstone on Stourport Road be replaced and that the Town Clerk investigate the cost of having improved “Bewdley” road signs on all of the approach roads into Bewdley

(iii) that in view of the damage caused to metal street poles in Load Street and the risk that when hit by a vehicle they could fall and cause injury, the Town Clerk should investigate what options were available for alternative, lighter poles to be provided and the costs thereof

(iv) that where bench seats were removed or installed and where flower beds and planting were to be removed and/or grassed over as part of budget reductions, the District Council should consult formally with the Town Council before taking such action and that the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive to request such action and assurance for the future.

6962 ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS

Following discussion at the last Council meeting (Minute No. 6940) the Town Clerk reported upon further contact he had made with Stourport Forward as to this organisation and the likely cost of an annual subscription which would be £145.00. The decision whether or not to subscribe was a balanced one but two factors were the degree to which the Town Council could benefit given time constraints of the Clerk in being able to process information and/or advance suitable projects and, secondly the existing role played by the Bewdley Development Trust

AGREED

that the request to subscribe to Action For Market Towns be declined.

6963 TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS – POLL CARDS

The Town Clerk reported on how with the Town Council Elections having been postponed to 27th May and with the additional costs of printing and delivery of poll cards being an issue, he had convened a meeting with Councillors Adams, Gittins and Killingworth who had authorised such expenditure on the understanding that one half of the cost (usually paid by the District Council when there were District Council Elections on the same day) would on this occasion be reimbursed by the Ministry of Justice. That one half share of the costs

was approx £650.00. The Town Clerk had also alerted Councillors to a similar problem arising from the costs of a separate Count taking place which would not be shared with the District Council.

AGREED

(i) That the decision to incur the extra initial cost of the poll cards be ratified and that the Town Clerk continue contact with the District Council's Returning Officer as to any further costs in dealing with the Town Council Elections for which reimbursement from the Ministry of Justice could be sought.

(ii) That the legislation requiring Town Council Elections be postponed in the event of a General Election being called on that same day should be repealed given the inconvenience caused by having to set up polling stations, hire premises including schools and the additional costs and that representations to that effect be made to the local Member of Parliament and to the Local Government Association.

6964 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

AGREED

That the draft minutes as prepared by the Town Clerk of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 26th April 2010 be treated as being a correct record of the proceedings and that such should therefore be formally approved at next year's Annual Town Meeting.

6965 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

(i) Environment & Town Centre Group of Bewdley Development Trust - Councillor Foulkes

Councillors raised the question of the Town Council's input as to how and upon which projects the annual payment from the District Council to the Trust could be spent. There was concern about the promise of funding for the Bewdley Bridge illumination project being at risk.

AGREED

That the report be noted and that enquiries be made of the Development Trust of the position and taken up by the town Clerk/Mayor at their next regular meeting with the Trust's Chairman and Director.

(ii) Bewdley Museum Management Committee – Councillor Bulmer

AGREED

That the verbal report be noted

6966 BEWDLEY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Councillors noted the Minutes of the Environment & Town Centre Group held on 14th April 2010.

- 6967 BEWDLEY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**
Councillors agreed to receive the notes of the meeting of the Bewdley Business Partnership held on 23rd March 2010.
- 6968 WEST MERCIA POLICE (BEWDLEY & RURAL LOCAL POLICING TEAM)**
Councillors noted the advice from the Police as to the procedure for reporting untaxed motor vehicles to the DVLA.
- 6969. WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – LAND DRAINAGE**
The Council noted the land drainage works carried out during the period March 2009 to April 2010 within the Wyre Forest area.
- 6970. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – RIVER SEVERN DREDGING**
The Council noted the letter dated 19th April 2010 from the Environment Agency to the Wyre Forest District Council as to why dredging of the River Severn was both costly and impracticable.
- 6971. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – BAXTER COLLEGE**
Councillors noted the decision made with effect from 31st March for Baxter College Kidderminster to be redesignated as Baxter College Educational Trust.
- 6972. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**
The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the following dates:
Annual Council (Mayor Making) Meeting – Friday 4th June
Mayor’s Sunday - Sunday 6th June
- 6973 TRIBUTES TO RETIRING COUNCILLORS**
The Mayor led tributes to Councillors Bulmer, Mace and Stallwood who were not seeking re-election at the forthcoming Town Council Elections. He thanked them for their work both as individuals and collectively as part of the Council and presented them each with gifts and wished them all well for the future. Cllr Mace on behalf of her retiring colleagues in turn thanked the Mayor for such good wishes and for his own leadership of the Council during the last year.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....
7th June 2010

Public Period

No member of the public wished to speak in the period allocated