



BEWDLEY Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WYRE ROOM, ST GEORGE'S HALL, MONDAY 08 JANUARY 2024 AT 6PM

PRESENT

Council Members The Mayor, Cllr S Billett, Cllrs, C Billett, J Byng, C Edginton White, P Gittins, N Harper, P Harrison, S Harvey, H Lacy, I Latimer, L Stanczyszyn and R Stanczyszyn.

In attendance: T Bodley – Town Clerk
L Guise – Deputy Clerk
Worcestershire County Councillor D Morehead
Worcestershire County Councillor I Hardiman
1 Member of the public

9951 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and recorded below:

Cllr	Reason
E Bourne	Unwell

Apologies were received and recorded from Bewdley and Rural West Mercia Police.

9952 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded to submit their Register of Interests and to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary and/or Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Cllr Edginton White has a standing declaration as a Trustee to Friends of Riverside North Park. Any comments made at town council meetings on agenda items in connection to the above declarations are made prior to possession of the full facts and would not amount to pre-determination.

9953 COUNCILLOR'S DISPENSATIONS

Following a declaration of interest at minute reference 9952, it was noted that Cllr Edginton White in her capacity as a Trustee to Friends of Riverside North Park has a dispensation in place up to May 2027 for discussion and voting on agenda items relating to Riverside North Park.

9954 OPEN SESSION TO HEAR FROM:

- i) Members of the public – No members of the public in attendance wished to speak.
- ii) Representatives from Principal Authorities –
 - a) Worcestershire County Councillor Hardiman provided a report at pages 1353 – 1354.
Answers to questions from members were recorded as thus:
 - 1) Worcestershire County Councillor Hardiman confirmed that regarding WCC financial situation, savings are being found by addressing economies of scale and making in house changes where possible and appropriate.

- b) Worcestershire County Councillor Morehead confirmed that as of his previous report of 11 December 2023 the individual cases were ongoing and there are no further updates at this time.

The planned meeting between the Environment Agency, Highways officer and WCC had been postponed due to the immediate flooding pressures and would be rescheduled. The meeting was being convened to look to seek further improvements to the one-way traffic system to reduce by-pass congestion delays.

- iii) Representatives of support services, e.g., Parish Footpath Warden, Tree Warden, Police Community Support Officers, WFDC District Council Officers are invited to present their reports.
 - a) Bewdley and Rural West Mercia Police – PC Ginder gave his apologies and provided a report at page 1354.
- iv) Representatives from The Bewdley School – No representative in attendance.

9955 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11 December 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting be approved as an accurate record and signed by the mayor.

9956 FINANCE

- i) To approve the schedule of accounts including approval of invoices to be paid and invoices paid as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments as at 08 January be approved.

- ii) Cyber Security Insurance Renewal

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £318.08 through Coalition Risk Solutions Ltd be approved.

- iii) To receive the interim report from the Internal Auditor.
The report highlighted risk exposure to uninsured items and the need to address this as soon as possible following a deferred decision made by the town council in June 2022.

RESOLVED:

- a) That quotations be sought for the appraisal civic items.
- b) That quotations would be sought for the purchase of an A rated safe using the specification from quotes previously provided in June 2022.
- c) That a request is sought from the Councils insurance provider to ascertain additional premium costs for insurance of civic items.
- d) The requirement for a three to five-year Strategic Plan currently being worked upon was noted.

9957 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND GROUP REPORTS

No Committee Meetings or Working Group Meetings took place since the last Town Council Meeting.

9958 POLICIES TO REVIEW

- i) Mayoral Succession Process.

RESOLVED: That points 9 and 10 of the criteria for the Mayoral Selection process be amalgamated and that there be an addition that the ex officio must undergo/access Chairmanship training and have a full understanding of Civic protocols.

9959 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

There was no report to deliver.

9960 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members’ response to the following consultations:

WFDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/0907/LBC	26 Lax Lane, Bewdley, DY12 2DZ	Listed building consent for the proposed replacement of a staircase and construction of an internal stud wall and door.
BTC Recommends Approval		
23/0942/HOU	18 Lyttleton Road, Bewdley, DY12 2BU,	Demolition of single storey rear extension and construction of two-storey side extension, loft conversion to include front and rear dormer windows and associated works.
BTC Recommends Approval		

9961 MAYOR’S DIARY AND FUTURE EVENTS

- i) To receive an update on the Mayor’s diary and past events

DATE	EVENT
04/01/2024	Cinderella - Bewdley Community Theatre Group
23/01/2024	Bewdley Civic Society Meeting
29/01/2024	Worcester Civic Office Holocaust Memorial Day

9962 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES


Training courses were presented in advance of the meeting with members asked to contact the office should they wish to book onto them. The training table was **noted**.

9963 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

There will be an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 15 January in the back meeting room of the Guildhall at 6pm. This meeting will be preceded by a Budget Working Group Meeting at 4pm.

The Town Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12 February 2024, 6pm, The Wyre Room, St Georges Hall.

The meeting concluded at 18.54 hours.

Signed 
Mayor
12 February 2024

LOCAL ISSUES:

Flood Resilience Barrier Project / Traffic Issues:

Together with County Cllr Dan Morehead, I shall be meeting this week with Anthony Perry, Environment Agency and County Highways Officer Jon Fraser, to seek further improvements to the one-way traffic system to reduce By-Pass congestion delays, particularly at the Peak time from 7 – 9.00 am weekdays.

Vehicle Pavement/Verge parking, Kidderminster Road:

I have asked County Highways to investigate concerns by residents of New Road regarding inconsiderate parking on the Pavement and verge either side of the exit from New Road.

Loose Kerb Jordan's Walk / Heathfield Road junction:

This was reported by Cllr John Byng. I have been informed that the necessary works order has been raised to ensure that this will be attended soon.

Riverway Drive, Inconsiderate Parking problem:

Residents have expressed concerns regarding vehicle parking on both sides of the road near to the junction with Northwood Lane making access by larger vehicles into the drive very difficult. I am awaiting a report back from Highways officers who I have asked to consider extending the Double yellow Lines at least on one side of the road here.

Walkway, connecting Springhill Rise & Grey Green Lane, Poor Condition:

In response to local residents' concerns, I inspected this pavement and found that its tarmac surface is in poor condition and therefore I have referred this to County Highways for attention.

Wall Damage, at Queensway/ Kidderminster Road Junction:

I have been chasing Highways Officers on rebuilding of this wall as soon as possible.

STRATEGIC ISSUES COUNTY WIDE:

Here2Help is continuing to co-ordinate our Ukrainian Refugee programme working with the 6 District Councils. We have several Hundred refugees in the County and a number of families have come to Wyre Forest and children are taking up places in local schools.

The County Council's Cabinet will meet this Wednesday to approve its draft budget for consultation. Full Council will need to approve the budget on 15th February.

We are facing significant in-year pressures in respect of Children's and Adult's Services and SEND & Home to School Transport.

The proposal is to increase our net revenue budget from circa £400million to circa £430 million in 2024 -2025.

Also, The proposal is to increase council tax by 2.99% (maximum is 3%) and to increase the Adult Social Care Levy by 2%, therefore 4.99% overall on a Band D property.

We are receiving an additional £11million for adults as a result of the Local Government Settlement, however overall in respect of grants we are £1.5million less.

In month 7 we are already showing an overspend of £22million due to pressures as above, the gross structural deficit forecast for 2023-2024 is circa £35million. This is being mitigated in part by an additional £4million income from business rates and a use of £9million worth of reserves and thus a net forecast overspend of circa £22million.

Looking forward the Council is facing additional cost pressures of £51.5million plus the £35million (23/24) makes a total pressure of £86.5million. It is proposed to mitigate this by £21million of

additional government funding overall, £20million of additional Council Tax income and £25.5million of identified savings and efficiencies. This still leaves a gap of £20million; further savings and further use of reserves are currently being looked at.

END.

Minutes Reference 9954 iii) **Bewdley Neighbourhood Team – PC Ginder’s Report**

Please accept apologies for not attending today’s meeting. Should any questions for the Police be raised, please feel free to drop them to me on an email and I or one of the team will respond as soon as I can.

bewdleyandrural.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Crime report

It’s been a busy period with several reports over the Christmas and New year period of drunken disorder in the town area. As a result, there were a number of persons arrested and investigation following. Any public houses where disorder took place or is suspected to be linked to will be reviewed by the Licencing officer.

Apart from that, I am happy to report that crime in the area remains low.

Speeding

As discussed, I have a VABS speed advisory board which will be gifted to the Parish council and Mr Morehead. Please let me know when you’re in a position to take receipt of this item and Ill get it to you directly.

Crime prevention advice

With winter upon us, it’s vital not to leave your vehicles defrosting by leaving the engine running while its unattended. Insurance companies will unlikely pay if your car is stolen off your drive with the keys in it.

Please can I advise everyone to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters: This messaging service is updated by members of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Team for residents of the area.

[Home Page - Neighbourhood Matters](#)

PC 1503 Marc Ginder

Bewdley Neighbourhood Team Mobile:
07773 043548

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk



Minute Reference 9956 i) Approved Schedule of Payments

Voucher Code	Payment Method	Description	Net	VAT	Total
380	BACS	Christmas Illuminations Event	140.00	28.00	168.00
384	BACS	Maintenance & Office Cleaning	30.00	6.00	36.00
385	DD	Office Energy & Utilities	20.31	2.25	22.56
386	BACS	Maintenance & Office Cleaning	112.00	22.40	310.80
386	BACS	Load Street Toilets Relief Cleaner	147.00	29.40	
387	DD	Load Street Toilets Utilities - Energy	219.71	10.99	230.70
388	DD	Load St Toilets Utilities - Water	190.45	19.60	190.85
388	DD	Load St Toilets Utilities - Water	-19.20		
389	DD	Office Energy & Utilities	386.98	77.40	464.38
390	DD	RNP Waste Collection Contract	36.70	7.34	44.04
391	BACS	Garage Rent - rear 14 Load St	750.00	0.00	750.00
393	DD	Broadband & Landline	40.95	8.19	49.14
394	DD	Software & Support	209.00	41.80	250.80
396	DD	Broadband & Landline	42.69	8.54	51.23
397	BACS	Lengthsman	41.87	0.00	41.87
398	Credit Card	Hats & Robes Maintenance	15.00	0.00	15.00
405	Credit Card	Refreshments	1.35	0.00	1.35
406	BACS	Photocopier	18.85	3.76	22.61
407	BACS	Lengthsman	100.44	0.00	100.44
408	BACS	Maintenance & Office Cleaning	10.00	0.00	10.00
409	Credit Card	Refreshments	1.35	0.00	1.35
410	BACS	Meeting Room Hire	39.00	0.00	39.00
411	BACS	Millennium Green Maintenance Grant	500.00	0.00	500.00
412	BACS	Load Street Toilets General Maintenance	240.80	0.00	240.80
413	BACS	Guildhall Lease	55.00	0.00	55.00
414	Credit Card	Training - Councillors	32.68	6.54	39.22
415	BACS	Christmas Illuminations Contract	6,544.23	1,308.85	7,853.08
416	BACS	Mayor's Expenses	60.00	12.00	72.00






Minutes Town Council Meeting 08 January 2024

Final Audit Report

2024-02-14

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