

WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on Monday, 14th January 2019, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present:	Councillors	Miss M Roberts ... Chairman
		D Kinsey ... Vice Chairman
		B Bond
		Mrs F M Bond
		M Davies
		A Hinton
		A Peace
		J Pike
		R Reade
		Miss D Tait
		J Tudor
		K Upton
		R Williams
		Mrs R Wright ... Clerk

01/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - held from 7.15pm – 7.30pm

No members of the public were present for Public Participation.

02/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Thistle.

03/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

04/19 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018, having been circulated to all Members for consideration were taken as read.

Councillor Peace noted a spelling error in 109/18. It was agreed this would be corrected and the minutes subsequently signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: The minutes would be corrected and signed by the Chairman.

05/19 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**a) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee**

The Chairman reported the next Committee meeting is due to take place this week. She noted Members may have seen the Walkers Crisp campaign on social media, and advised Spar had signed up as the collection point for Wombourne. She had asked for consideration to be given for the Civic Centre to be a mini collection point, and this would be deferred to the Civic Centre Management Committee meeting. Wombourne District and Community Association as the local community organisation had been nominated to profit from the scheme.

b) Wombourne Carnival Committee

The Chairman reported the Carnival would take place on Sunday 7th July 2019 and the theme for 2019 is 'bringing books to life'.

c) Wolverhampton Business Airport

Councillor Peace reported he had attended a Committee meeting in December where he was informed the amount of general aircraft activity for the airport is consistent with previous years at 45,000 movements and an increased number of visiting aircraft coming into the area with subsequent benefit to local businesses and attractions. There are several events planned for 2019 including an icicle event, light aircraft association event, the British Police Flying Association event and a wings and wheels event. Representatives from site owners MCR Property Group attended to outline plans for the site, including using part of the site for 100+ housing units. Since September there have been three complaints about aircraft movements.

06/19 Financial matters

- a) To approve and sign off the payments for December 2018
- b) To approve and sign off the bank reconciliation for December 2018
- c) To approve and sign off the petty cash for December 2018
- d) To approve and sign off the payments made under delegated powers for December 2018.

RESOLVED: that the financial matters be approved by the Chairman and/or the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in accordance with the schedule distributed.

07/19 PARISH PRECEPT 2019/2020

Councillor Mrs Bond presented the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th January 2019, and having been circulated to all Members, they were taken as read.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th January 2019, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

The minutes were signed by Councillor Mrs Bond.

Councillor Mrs Bond in presenting the budget and precept noted that the new format meant it was much clearer and simpler to understand. The budget was reviewed at the meeting on 7th January 2019, and the wish lists of the Committees closely scrutinised. However, in order to propose only a modest increase in the precept, some items such as the chain of office had been taken out of the budget.

There were still some big ticket items included in the budget, such as the Christmas lights, the purchase of new tables and chairs for the Civic Centre and the cost of elections, however, these were deemed necessary by the Committee. The budget had been proposed based on a full year's income of the East Wing accommodation as well as income from hire of the function and meeting rooms in the Civic Centre.

Councillor Mrs Bond proposed a budget of £325,812 with a precept request of £195,000 equating to a 2.63% increase on last year's precept. This would mean an average home in Wombourne (Band D) would pay an additional £1 per annum increasing to £39.07, or an additional 2p per week increasing to 75p per week. She explained NALC'S recommendation is to hold 3 – 12 months expenditure in general reserves, and this proposal would mean a reduction in general reserves of £28,419, however, she noted this could increase subject to the full year's income being received from the East Wing accommodation. This would give the Parish Council approximately 5 months' expenditure in general reserves.

Councillor Reade seconded Councillor Mrs Bond's proposal and all Members were in favour.

RESOLVED: that the budget set for 2019/2020 would be £325,812 and the precept request would be £195,000.

Councillor Davies thanked Councillor Mrs Bond and the Clerk for the time they had spent preparing the budget and noted it's new format was an excellent move forward for the Parish Council.

08/19 Clerk's report

The Clerk shared a report of matters that had been handled through the Parish Council Office in December, which included 1 report to the District Council, 2 BKV enquiries, 8 website posts and 22 items of ongoing actions.

She noted that the Express and Star had asked for permission to publish a letter she had sent to the daughter of a local resident, and permission had been granted. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her handling of the matter.

09/19 CORRESPONDENCE

a) South Staffordshire Council – invite to the next Locality 5 Police Accountability Forum on Wednesday 13th February from 5pm – 6.30pm – Members should let the Clerk know if they wish to attend.

b) Energy Saving Week – the Clerk explained the Civic Centre had been offered as a venue to hold a Big Energy week session, whereby local residents could have their energy bills checked and compared. The session will take place on Wednesday 23rd January from 9.30am – 1.00pm.

10/19 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

a) The Chairman reported the winner of the Best Dressed Window competition was Let's Go Round Again, with highly commended going to Niche and Peggy Lain. A special mention had been given to Des Fellows Carpets and Wombourne School of Music who had made a special effort to change their display for Christmas. The Chairman advised Members she had attended an afternoon tea at St Benedict Biscop Church and the Churches Together Carol Concert, and encouraged all Councillors to attend this year. The Chairman had printed some photos from Small Business Saturday for Members to deliver to local businesses.

b) The Chairman noted that the next meeting of Full Council would be held on Monday, 4th February 2019.

c) It was agreed that Committee meetings would be held as follows:-

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| Recreation and Amenities | - | Monday 21 st January – 7.00pm |
| Planning and Development | - | Monday 21 st January – following Recreation and Amenities |
| Civic Centre Management | - | Monday 28 th January – 7.00pm |
| Finance and General Purposes | - | Monday 28 th January – following Civic Centre Management |

The meeting terminated at 7.52 p.m.

