



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 10th October 2022** at 7.15pm

This meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, Wombourne, WV5 9HA.

Present -

Councillors: Barry Bond MBE, Mike Davies, Jan Evans, Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey BEM, Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, John Pike, Daisy Tait

Absent without apologies – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 1 member of the public and PCSO Paula Wilkes.

Councillor Dan Kinsey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to observe a minutes silence to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

120/22 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Cheryl Davies, Robert Reade, and Mary Roberts.

121/22 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey noted he was a Member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee and a trustee of Wombourne and District Community Association, and Councillor Alan Peace noted he was a Member of the Wombourne Best Kept Village, Wombourne Carnival Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association. Councillors Martin Perry and Daisy Tait also noted they were members of Wombourne and District Community Association. Councillors Barry Bond MBE and Mark Evans noted they were both Members of South Staffordshire Council's Planning Committee and therefore they would not take part in any discussion in relation to item 11 on the agenda.

122/22 – Public Participation

A resident from Apse Close noted that the planning application for Wombourne High School was not to increase the capacity of the school but to enhance the community facilities. He noted County Highways had commented that there were no safety concerns with the build, however, there had been 3 accidents nearby in the past 3 years and the area is heavily congested during school drop off and pick up times. He suggested the Parish Council should have sight of the Construction Management Plan before it is approved. In respect of planning, he also noted that the Wombourne sign in front of the new development at Beggars Bush Lane was obscured by trees, and suggested the landscape plan wasn't sufficient as it hadn't picked up that issue.

The Chairman agreed the Parish Council would take on board the comments from the resident.

Councillor Alan Peace informed Members he had been following up the trees obscuring the Wombourne sign off Beggars Bush Lane, but the matter was deemed low priority for Staffordshire County Council.

123/22 – Police Report

PCSO Paula Wilkes provided the following update:

Burglary –

- **Forge Valley Way** – 08/09 - Sometime overnight unknown offender(s) have gained entry to a rear garden of a property via side gate and have tried to force the lock to the rear door, no entry gained. It is believed that the offender(s) could have been trying to obtain keys to a golf which was parked on the driveway. Enquiries with neighbours re CCTV but nothing evidential captured.
- **Bratch Common Road** – 20/09 – At approximately 10:00hrs the alarm to a property was activated, the resident was away, neighbour attended and found entry had been gained to the rear of the property via the patio doors being prised open. A 55" tv had been removed and was found hanging on a fence. Unknown offenders had searched the house, but nothing was taken. No lines of enquiry.
- **Wombourne Funeral Services** – 07/09 – At approximately 18:00hrs Unknown offenders jumped the fence at the rear of the building and gained entry to an outbuilding with a crowbar taking power tools from within and exiting at the side through a wooded area leading onto the main road. The offenders had visited previously making out they needed water for their vehicles radiator.
- **Ounsdale Road** – 20/09 – At approximately 23:15hrs the alarm to the building site was activated, officers arrived and arrested a male who was inside of the building, enquiries ongoing.

ASB –

- **Wombourne Community Centre** – 28/09 – At approximately 19:00hrs a group of girls were sat at the entrance to the Centre, which was making the door open and close, PCSO Millichap visited and spoke with them advising them to find somewhere more suitable to sit, which they did.
- **Wombourne Community Centre** – 04/10 - At approximately 19:00hrs a group of youths were being rowdy outside of the Centre, CCTV to be viewed.
- **Park Avenue** - 17/09 – At approximately 03:30 hrs a report of a car parked up playing loud music.
- **Withymere Lane** – 05/09 – At approximately 20:30 hrs a report was made of a quad bike driving aggressively along the lane the wrong way, no registration plate, no lines of enquiry.
- **Mount Road** – 23/09 – At approximately 21:00hrs a report was made of youths congregating on the bridge that leads to Hatch Heath Close smoking cannabis and using foul language. The caller stated that this is a regular occurrence. The location is regularly patrolled by Officers.
- **Dickenson Road** – 11/09 – At approximately 22:00 a report was made of a gang of youths congregating at the end of the alley way which leads to the railway walk, smoking cannabis and using foul language. The location is regularly patrolled by officers

Vehicle Crime –

- **Bratch Lane** – 09/09 – Whilst parked at the location, a Ford Fiesta has had the rear window smashed. Nothing stolen from within. No CCTV and no witnesses.
- **Victoria Grove** – 28/09 – In an unknown time frame, damage has been caused to a vehicle parked at the location. No CCTV and no witnesses.
- **Stourbridge Road** – 29/09 – At approx. 2045hrs, unknown offenders have attempted to steal a vehicle from the driveway of a property at the location. Offenders managed to start the vehicle however were then spooked by the alarm. Nothing stolen. No CCTV no witnesses.
- **A449** – 03/10 – Overnight, unknown offenders have removed front bumper and headlights from a van parked at the roadside. No CCTV no witnesses.
- **Hazel Grove** – 06/10 – Overnight, a BMW in silver was stolen from a communal parking area, without keys. CCTV enquiries conducted. Investigation ongoing.

ASB hotspots –

- Bridge between Hatch Heath Close / Mount Road

- Alleyway on Dickinson Road to Railway Walk

Proactive news –

- Any HGVs seen using the High Street as a cut through may be contravening the weight limit; residents are urged to let us know and if possible, make note of the company it may belong to, so we can look to visit business owners and deal accordingly.

124/22 – Approval of Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 5th September 2022.

125/22 Reports from Committees

- a) Civic Centre Management Committee – Councillor Barry Bond reported Jon Tiley and Vik Moriarty had attended the meeting and it was agreed a more relaxed, family style Carol Concert would be organised by Churches Together this year to try to attract more families to attend. It was agreed the Clerk would make enquiries into an approved list for DJ's. Members agreed to allow Ms Cassie Judd to lease the Members Room, and Members would have access to the Smallbrook Room instead. Members supported Danielle Perkins in setting up a new Senior Citizens Club and agreed for her to access the Day Centre on Tuesday mornings, with the room also earmarked as being used for the Warm Spaces initiative and for a Youth Café. Councillor Mike Davies was making enquiries with SCVYS in relation to support. Members agreed for another Craft Fayre to take place in the Council Chamber on Saturday 3rd December with charge of £10 (+VAT) for the tables, this would coincide with Small Business Saturday. The Community Showcase event being held at the Civic Centre could not be discussed since there was not a quorum for that item due to the number of Members having to declare an interest. Members agreed not to agree to the survey from Zzoomm since they were happy with the current set up for broadband services. The LED lighting upgrade was agreed, and Councillor Mike Davies agreed to follow up on the grant to support that work. Members agreed to make enquiries into the efficiency of the building. Goode Tutoring are renting the former CAB office space subject to their lease being agreed. Members agreed for the WI to plant an ornamental blossom tree near to Alderman I A Kelly's bench. The budget for 2023/2024 would shortly be prepared and Members should let the Clerk know if they think of any projects to be costed for consideration.

Councillor Alan Peace asked if the Community Showcase Event could be considered at the meeting or at another meeting to be held in the near future. The Chairman explained it could not be considered at the meeting as it was not an item on the agenda, and the Community Association had already been informed of the fact that item couldn't be discussed.

- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mike Davies reported the Newsletter Working Group needed to meet to discuss its first draft. Westfield Primary School were booked in to perform at the Christmas Light Switch on, the firework display had also been booked in and the Clerk would purchase mince pies nearer to the date. Members agreed to return the van at the end of its lease and make enquiries about the cost of a second-hand vehicle. Councillor Daisy Tait would be putting a plan together for High Street events to support Small Business Saturday on 3rd December 2022. It was agreed to support the Community Association's request to site a bench halfway up Windmill Bank. Members should let the Clerk know of any projects to be costed for the 2023/2024 budget. A number of policies were approved. In part 2 of the meeting, the Clerk left the room and Members discussed her appraisal and pay award.

The Chairman noted South Staffordshire Council were due to start the removal of Russian Vine on Windmill Bank shortly, so he hoped this could coincide with the new bench being fitted.

- c) Recreation & Amenities Committee - Councillor Martin Perry informed Members whilst there had been no meetings since 11th July, progress was being made on several projects, including the CCTV at Brickbridge Playing Fields which whilst currently still outstanding, was due to be completed by the time

the Committee met again on 31st October 2022. Payment from Zurich Insurance had been received following the vandalism at Brickbridge Playing Fields to the doors, roof, and electrical box. The fallen tree at Bratch Park has now been removed. There are some concerns over S106 money from South Staffordshire Council that the Clerk and District Councillors Mark Evans and Ken Upton are looking into. The ROSPA reports have been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting. The village toilets re-opened on 10th August 2022 and so far, there have not been any repeated incidents of vandalism.

- d) Planning & Development Committee – Councillor Evans informed Members item 10 on the agenda covered recent submissions, and item 11 covered the Council’s response to the Wombourne High School development. A Committee meeting would be held on 31st October 2022.

126/22 Report from Staffordshire County Council (Councillor Mike Davies)

Councillor Mike Davies informed Members he would provide them with an update on Highways this month. He reported their Road Safety Education Officers worked with children in over 500 schools completely free of charge and covered subjects such as vehicle safety, risk taking and even pre-driver training for High School children. They look after 6000km of roads, cycle paths, footpaths, and street lighting, which was being changed as part of an energy efficiency scheme. There were 94,000 streetlights in the County, and over half had been changed already as part of the £1.5m initiative. The Highways team analyse incidents reported to the by them Police in order to improve road safety. A new fleet of gritters had been purchased ahead of this winter, with the technology to control how much salt is spread. Resurfacing and line painting has now been completed along Bridgnorth Road, and the A449 had been pre-surface patched in order to be resurfaced next year. The Chairman reported some frustration in having to report individual blocked drains in Bridgnorth Road. Councillor Mike Davies informed him there would be a new system of responding to reports to pool resources and more information would be shared via the Clerk shortly.

127/22 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Senior Citizens Day Centre – Councillor Mark Evans informed Members it was a privilege to attend the funeral of Beryl Spittle along with the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk. It had meant a lot to her family for her to pass the Civic Centre en route to the Crematorium. He noted he looked forward to working with her successor to ensure the Day Centre remained a place people of Wombourne could meet once a week.
- b) Locality Forum – Councillor Dan Kinsey advised Members there had been no meetings but the next one was around Community Safety, and he encouraged Members to attend if possible.
- c) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members there had been a meeting on 8th September 2022 in which she and Councillor Martin Perry attended as Members of the Committee. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending despite the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. She reported Tony Brown had been appointed as equipment officer, and all other officers remained the same. Warm Spaces and a new bench along Windmill Bank had been discussed, as well as the Community Showcase event being held at the Civic Centre.
- d) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Barry Bond as a South Staffordshire Council representative reported there had been a couple of successful events over the summer, including the last project propellor. The planning application on the brown field site was on hold at present. All business units were full and there was a waiting list for them. There were now 2 representatives from Dudley MBC on the Committee, who also confirmed there were no available business units in the southern part of the borough.
- e) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members he had received emails about a meeting but had not attended. Councillor Alan Peace informed Members a meeting had taken place the previous evening and confirmed the Committee had agreed on a wide range of community groups who would receive grants from funds that had built up over the last two years. They were also being asked to inform the Committee of any specific project they may need funding for.

- f) Wombourne Charity Trustees – Councillor Mike Davies informed Members there had been no requests for support since the last meeting. Given the group only met every 3 or 4 months the requests were dealt with immediately and reported back at the next meeting.
- g) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members the last meeting had been cancelled, but the team were still present in the village including clearing leaves around the cricket ground. A wildflower testing area was being discussed with South Staffordshire Council with a view to analysing if it was a viable option for grass verges.
- h) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members there was nothing to report.
- i) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members he had met with the new Chief Inspector and had taken him for a walk around the village. He had asked him to address several issues, including those in Ounsdale Road with anti-social behaviour outside the school gates and A449 car cruising. He explained an announcement was due this week in relation to new CCTV cameras. Work had been completed with cutting trees back near the village toilets to make the area more open, and finally, he reported 2 new response officers would be working from Wombourne.

128/22 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payments for August and September 2022.

129/22 – Planning applications

Members noted the responses to planning applications made to South Staffordshire Council in lieu of a meeting.

130/22 – To consider the following planning application

Application number	22/00838/FUL
Proposal	Demolition of two school buildings and the construction of a new two storey school building and temporary teaching block, with associated landscaping and external play areas
Location	Wombourne High School, Ounsdale Road, Wombourne, WV5 8JJ

Members agreed to the following response:

We have no objections to the construction of the new two-storey school building, as we agree that the current build is not fit for purpose. However, we do have concerns over the increased volume of traffic along Ounsdale Road, particularly from HGVs and also the mud and debris on the road from the construction traffic.

In order to ensure that these issues are properly managed, we would like to have sight of the Construction Management Plan so that our Members who have local knowledge of the area can comment upon its appropriateness.

We would also ask that any external lighting that faces residential properties is not the harshest LED lights, but is soft lighting so it has minimal impact on local residents.

131/22 – Correspondence

- a) Members noted the letter from Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE MP in relation to tree planting and woodland creation.
- b) Members agreed they would issue individual responses to the South Staffordshire Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2023/2024 and no response would be sent from the Parish Council.
- c) Members noted the thank you email received in relation to the Rally at Bratch Locks over the August bank holiday weekend.
- d) Members agreed to inform the Clerk by 31st October if they would be attending the Remembrance Day service at 10.30am at St Benedict Biscop Church.

132/22 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman advised Members he was only reporting on official engagements going forward, although he had been regularly out in the community as had been featured in his previous updates:
 - i. 8th September he attended Wombourne and District Community Association AGM when he became a trustee.
 - ii. 10th September he signed the book of condolence in memory of the late Monarch and laid flowers at Sytch Lane cemetery.
 - iii. 11th September he attended a service at St Benedict Biscop as it was the first service after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.
 - iv. 18th September he attended the official service at St Benedict Biscop in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.
 - v. 19th September he watched the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Wombourne Cricket Club with other members after receiving their kind invitation to come together to watch the service.
 - vi. 7th October he had a tour of the Lidl development site and new business units.
- b) It was RESOLVED the date of the next Full Council meeting will be Monday 7th November 2022.
- c) It was RESOLVED the Committee meetings would take place as follows:
 - a. Recreation and Amenities – Monday 31st October 2022 at 7pm
 - b. Planning and Development – Monday 31st October 2022 to follow Recreation and Amenities Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: