

WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber on Monday 15th April 2019, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

08/19 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

09/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bond declared an interest in the correspondence from South Staffordshire Council regarding the school summer holiday provision.

10/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 21st January 2019.

11/19 PLAY AREAS

Poolhouse Play Area – The Clerk informed Members the Park Warden had experienced verbal abuse and aggression when locking up the play area on Friday 5th April 2019. Upon returning to the park the next day he found some of the chains had been cut and one of the new park benches had been ripped from its concrete feet.

Councillor Mrs Bond reported that on the afternoon of Friday 12th April 2019 she discovered youths had taken out one of the seat panels on the bench and were using it to hit the slide. She also found the bench had been removed away from its pad towards the brook. Ashwood Carpentry have now collected the bench and the panel from Councillor Mrs Bond and will repair it and reinstate it after the school Easter holidays.

The Park Warden has requested that the Committee consider the closing time of the park to be changed from 8pm or dusk to 7pm so that the park will already be closed before some of the older youths get there. Members agreed to this.

The Clerk reported that the Park Warden had been given the direct number for the local PCSO and she had informed him not to put himself in any danger, if confronted by the youths to remove himself from the situation and seek assistance from the Police.

The Chairman agreed to contact Inspector Mark Ward to request regular patrols of the area.

Bratch Park – Councillor Bond reported he had seen a family attempt to enter the park but upon realising there was a sign on the gate advising no dogs were allowed in the park, did not go in. Members agreed to monitor this to see if other families were also put off by the rule regarding no dogs in the park.

12/19 BRICKBRIDGE PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk advised Members the income from pitch hire for the period 2018/2019 was £1580 compared with maintenance costs of £4261.71 (excluding the warden's time). It was noted that comments had been made about the length of the grass and the quality of the pitch. Members agreed whilst most matches are played in winter, the area is still used as a park and therefore the grass needs to be cut in the summer. The Clerk reminded Members the pitch is only prepared for matches when teams contact the Parish Office and pay for the use of the pitch and changing rooms.

Councillor Mrs Bond advised Members the lease the Parish Council hold for Brickbridge Playing Fields is a 60 year lease ending in 2023, however, the lease South Staffordshire Council hold is for 65 years ending 2027. She is attempting to obtain a copy of the lease so that the matter can be reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

13/19 INSPECTION SHEETS

The inspection sheets were available for Members' inspection.

Members approved the new weekly and quarterly inspection sheets and the litter pick risk assessment.

14/19 CORRESPONDENCE

South Staffordshire Council – seeking finance for the school summer holiday provision for 2019. The Clerk reminded Members they had included £500 in the budget for this scheme again despite only having to contribute £40 last year due to the poor take up. Member agreed to contribute £500 this year.

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – membership form – the Clerk reminded Members they did not contribute to this last year and it was not included in the 2019/2020 budget. Members agreed not to participate this year.

The meeting terminated at 7.25 p.m.