



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 30th January 2023** 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, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait

Absent without apologies – N/A

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: PCSO Philip Millichap and PC Wayne Green

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted the sad passing of former Parish Councillor Betty Heath who had been a long-standing member of the Council and former Chairman. He expressed his sympathy to her family, explaining she was well known in the village, with Councillor Barry Bond MBE adding she had once claimed to have sold most of the Wolves players their cars having worked at a car dealership for some time during her career.

01/23 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Cheryl Davies, Elizabeth Keeling, John Pike, and Robert Reade.

02/23 – 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 Councillors Alan Peace and Mary Roberts noting they were Members of the Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, 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.

03/23 – Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

04/23 – Police Report

PCSO Philip Millichap went through the monthly crime report as follows:

'Burglary (residential):

- **21/12** – *At 0715hrs, offenders have waited for occupants of a residential property in Foxglove Way to leave; they have then climbed into the rear garden and peered through rear patio doors, before leaving empty handed. Both offenders described as white males, wearing balaclavas and black clothing, approx. 6ft tall. CCTV viewed however nothing captured that would allow ID of offenders. (Our systems class this address as Himley, however worth noting as very close to Wombourne)*

- **03/01** – Between 0915hrs-1100hrs, offenders have gained access to a property on Park Avenue via the rear patio doors. An untidy search was made and items including a key safe, a Nintendo Switch and car keys were stolen. Sadly, no CCTV or witnesses. Forensic team attended – awaiting results.

Burglary (business):

- **22/12 – 03/01** – Sometime during the timeframe provided, offenders have broken into a temporary office cabin situated off Bratch Lane. Damage was caused, however nothing taken. No CCTV or witnesses.

Vehicle crime:

- **12/12** – A Range Rover sport was stolen from the carpark of a local supermarket on Bridgnorth Road at approx. 1630hrs on the stated date. The vehicle was stolen without keys. Investigation ongoing.
- **16/12** – A van was stolen from a communal car park at Sandy Mount, without keys. The van was located shortly after on a different force area, displaying false plates. Investigation ongoing.
- **22/12** – Overnight, offenders have stolen a BMW X5 from Redhill Avenue, without keys. Sadly, no witnesses and no CCTV.
- **30/12** – Between 1700hrs – 2050hrs on the stated date, offenders have attempted to steal a van from Bratch Common Road. Offenders have smashed the windows and attacked the ignition barrel, however, were unsuccessful in their attempt to start the vehicle. Offenders possibly travelling in an 'old style' pick-up vehicle. CCTV obtained. Forensics team attended.
- **03/01** – Over an unknown time period, offenders have stolen the front number plate from a vehicle parked on Lamb Crescent. No witnesses and no CCTV.
- **04/10** – A van was stolen with keys whilst delivery person was posting a parcel. CCTV and witness enquiries conducted however sadly both negative.
- **06/01** – Offenders have stolen a Toyota Rav from Green Meadow Close, without keys. Scene enquiries conducted however sadly no witnesses and no CCTV – Investigation ongoing.
- **14/01** – A number plate was stolen from a vehicle parked on Wootton Drive. No witnesses and no CCTV.
- **18/01** – A suspicious vehicle, black in colour, was seen on Brook Road at approx. 2200hrs on the stated date. Upon checking van parked on driveway of his home address, the owner found it to be unlocked and believes the van may have been tampered with – nothing was stolen. CCTV enquiries did not provide any footage showing the registration plate of the suspicious vehicle.
- **23/01** - A van was broken into on the carpark of a local supermarket on Bridgnorth Road between approx. 1230hrs-1515hrs on the stated date. Approx. £2000 worth of tools were stolen. No witnesses and no CCTV.
- **24/01** – A Vauxhall Viva was stolen from the carpark of Wombourne Library, with keys. A male entered a business premises and whilst the employee was distracted, stole the keys to the vehicle. CCTV and witness enquiries conducted – Investigation ongoing.

Anti-social behaviour:

- **02/12** - A group of youths were causing a nuisance outside St Benedict Church on 30th November 2022 at around 16:00hrs whereby they were shouting, swearing, and trying to get into the hall whilst a lesson was in progress.
- **21/12**- A group of youths were banging on a front door to a property in Stanham Close, Wombourne which escalated to kicking the door. CCTV viewed and witnesses spoken to which was negative. Crime prevention advice given and target hardening at the location.
- **10/12**- A quad bike has been seen riding up and down Bull Lane causing a nuisance to nearby residents. Officers are looking into this to try and establish who the rider is.
- **13/01**- A property in Chartwell Drive, Wombourne was targeted by unknown person(s) whereby they have knocked on the window to the property in the early hours of the morning and then run off. No CCTV at the property but the victim has since got a Ring Doorbell to capture who is responsible.

- **26/01-** *Youths have been banging on windows and heckling loud abuse to persons in Wombourne Village- Several business targeted. Officers have obtained CCTV and will be identified and positive action will be taken.*

Policing operations of note:

Force wide Operation Calibre has been running throughout December, aimed to raise awareness and provide advice to residents of how best to prevent instances of personal robbery, theft and burglary especially around Christmas time.

A new dedicated team has been assembled with their primary objective of tackling serious acquisitive crime, this includes a targeted approach to residential and commercial burglaries and encompasses thefts of and theft from motor vehicles. The team have commenced Operation BORMUS carrying out pro-active patrols throughout the locality, working in conjunction with neighbouring forces to target cross border criminals utilising arterial road networks to carry out their criminality. To date the operation has yielded a number of positive arrests and enquiries and investigations remain ongoing.

Your local officers have conducted a speeding operation on Pool House Road, Wombourne on Saturday 28th January 2023. Several drivers were spoken to and educated on their manner of driving, with more operations like this planned in the near future.'

PCSO Philip Millichap explained he was trying to set up a Youth Café at the Community Centre on Friday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and if anyone was interested in volunteering, he would be really grateful.

Councillor Mary Roberts raised concerns a resident from Green Meadow Close had received no communication from the Police in relation to her vehicle theft, and asked for the matter to be followed up, the PCSO agreed to do this.

05/23 – Budget and Precept

Councillor Mary Roberts explained the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee had reviewed and discussed the budget for a second time last week, considering new estimates for windows and roof repairs.

One budget heading which wasn't reconsidered last week, was taking out the purchase of a new van and the ongoing cost of running it, out of the budget for the current year and the next financial year. If this item was removed from the budget, it would bring the precept increase down from 46% to 39%.

With this in mind, she proposed for the budget and precept for 2023/2024 to remove this item, and request a 39% increase on the 2022/2023 precept, with a budget of £423,926 and a precept of £331,843, which at Band D equates to £63.36 per annum or £1.22 per week. The increase overall at Band D equates to £17.07 per annum, or 33p per week more than last year.

She explained that the Parish Council had set a policy to keep 50% of last year's precept in reserves, and in the current financial year it is estimated to take £74,657 from reserves to balance the budget. The Finance and General Purposes Committee's recommendation is that this is not a long-term viable solution to maintain a low precept increase, so whilst any increase is going to be felt by all residents especially in a cost of living crisis, the Parish Council must be able to fund their running costs from the precept and have general reserves to cover any unexpected expenditure within the budget, and therefore have budgeted to maintain general reserves of £118,378.

Councillor Mike Davies seconded the proposal noting it had been an onerous task to produce the budget for 2023/2024 with some large outgoings to cover.

All Members were in favour of the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** the Council would set a budget of £423,926 for 2023/2024 and a precept of £331,843, which at Band D equates to £63.36 per annum or £1.22 per week. The increase overall at Band D equates to £17.07 per annum, or 33p per week more than last year.

The budget summary is as follows:

<u>INCOME</u>	Budgeted 22/23	Total Actual to 30.11.22	Projected to 31.3.23	Total Forecast 22/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24
Parish council	239,654	240,543	957	241,501	239,748
Civic Centre	63,752	79,736	33,546	113,282	137,101
Recreation and Amenities	4,200	1,415	0	1,415	1,000
					377,849
Gross income (A)	307,606	321,694	34,503	356,198	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	Budgeted 22/23	Total Actual to 30.11.22	Projected to 31.3.23	Total Forecast 22/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24
Parish council	223,936	161,878	71,619	233,497	255,627
Civic Centre	143,769	87,658	97,224	174,189	148,088
Recreation and Amenities	21,400	7,583	15,585	23,168	20,211
	Budgeted 22/23	Total Actual to 30.11.22	Projected to 31.3.23	Total Forecast 22/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24
Gross Expenditure (B)	389,105	257,119	184,428	430,854	423,926
Surplus (A-B)	-81,499	-64,575	-149,925	-74,656	46,077

06/23 – Approval of Minutes

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

07/23 - Report from South Staffordshire Council

Councillor Mike Davies informed Members there had been an application made for a variation to the licensing hours at the old Co-op store on Giggetty Lane. He strongly recommended the Parish Council submit a response. The Chairman thanked Councillor Davies for his observations, noting the item was covered later in the agenda.

Councillor Mark Evans informed Members that the Local Plan had been paused pending further information from the Government in relation to legislation around duty to co-operate. The Government's consultation on is due to end in March, so he informed Members it may be possible we hear something in April this year. He hoped it would result in a meaningful change.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM noted there would be a change in Wards in Wombourne from the elections in May, with them being split into North and South. The number of District Members would go down from 7 to 6, but

the number of Parish Councillors would stay the same at 15. Lower Penn will be split off from Wombourne and will merge with another area.

08/23 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Club at the Day Centre – Councillor Mark Evans informed Members the lady who had previously offered to take over the running of the club has resigned, but there are still a handful of men playing pool each week which he hoped the Council would continue to support.
- b) Locality Forum – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members no meeting had taken place so there was no update.
- c) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members the last meeting had taken place on the same evening as the Finance and General Purposes Budget Meeting so no one had attended. The next meeting will be 29th March 2023.
- d) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts explained the next meeting would be 8th February so she will provide a report at the next Full Council Meeting.
- e) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts explained the Committee had met for a late Christmas meal which she had been unable to attend. Councillor Alan Peace informed Members the only update from the meal was confirmation of the theme for this year which will be The Committee that stole Christmas.
- f) Wombourne Charity Trustees – Councillor Mike Davies informed Members there was still no Rector appointed at St Benedict Biscop Church, so he was still acting as Chairman of the Trust for now. He encouraged Members to refer anyone within Wombourne and Swindon who may be in hardship who they may be able to assist, and informed them they were currently considering a grant for adaptations to a house for a disabled child in the village.
- g) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members no meetings had taken place, but that Members of the Committee were still actively litter picking on a daily basis.
- h) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members there was nothing to report.
- i) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members the Chief Inspector had visited Coffee 212 last week and 15-20 members of the public called in to see him. Their next meeting will be March.
- j) Giggetty Action Group – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members their first meeting had taken place with key stakeholders, and the second was due to take place on 3rd February. Minutes from the meeting would be circulated. Councillor Mark Evans passed on thanks from Jayne and Tony Wilkinson who head up Giggetty Action Group for the Parish Council's support.

09/23 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payments for December 2022.

10/23 – Planning applications

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

11/23 – Correspondence

- a) An email had been received from a resident seeking support from the Parish Council in ensuring the Post Office remained in the old Co-op store on Giggetty Lane. It was agreed the Clerk would make enquiries into the matter and follow up with the resident.
- b) A card had been received from King Charles III thanking the Parish Council for their condolences following the death of his mother.
- c) An email had been received from a resident checking if the Parish Council had received a copy of the Construction Management Plan in relation to the development at Wombourne High School, and if Councillor Mike Davies as County Councillor could follow up his concerns about the disruption and damage to the highway whilst the work is ongoing. Councillor Mike Davies agreed to look into the

matter, and the Clerk confirmed she had not yet received the Construction Management Plan. Members noted this may be because it does not yet exist.

- d) Email from South Staffordshire Council asking seeking comments from the Parish Council on the Kinver Neighbourhood Plan. Members agreed their response should be that they wish Kinver Parish Council good luck in the implementation of their plan, but they have no further comments to make.
- e) Email from South Staffordshire Council seeking comments from the Parish Council regarding the variation to the premises licence for Samy at 3-4 Common Road. Members agreed that thought this would be a disaster for the area, and would only add to any anti-social behaviour issues, as well as increasing the risk of armed robberies which had taken place in the store. It was agreed that the Parish Council should produce 500 flyers informing residents of the variation to be distributed to the residents in the immediate vicinity of the shop. Following that a response from the Parish Council would be drafted by Councillor Mark Evans as Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee in liaison with the Clerk and circulated to Members prior to being sent to South Staffordshire Council by 21st February.
- f) The Chairman opened a gift sent to the Parish Council for Christmas from High Flyers. The gift was a hardback photobook of images from the Jubilee celebrations across the village.

12/23 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman advised Members his official engagements had been as follows:
 - i. 8th December 2022 he attended the Parish Carol Service which was extremely well attended, with standing room only left. He noted the excellent variety of performances.
 - ii. 17th December 2022 he opened the Christmas Tree Festival, presenting Chris and Doreen Dawe with a gift to say thank you for their hard work in organising the Festival in so many previous years. He noted his thanks to Councillor Elizabeth Keeling for maintaining post in the Council Chamber that day to answer queries on the Local Plan whilst he attended.
 - iii. He joined the Santa Sleigh Committee taking the sleigh out two of the four nights around the village.
 - iv. He delivered 1580 flyers for the Local Plan during the month, thanking other Members for their support in delivering the rest.
- b) It was RESOLVED the date of the next Full Council meeting will be Monday 20th February 2023 at a new time of 7pm.
- c) It was RESOLVED the dates of other meetings would be:
 - i. Monday 6th February 2023 – Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting at 7pm
 - ii. Monday 6th February 2023 – Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting following the Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting.
 - iii. Monday 13th February 2023 – Coronation Working Group Meeting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm.

Signed:

Dated: