



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 31st July 2023** at 7.00pm

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

Present -

Councillors: Andy Clay, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick (Vice-Chairman), Martin Perry, Matt Powell, Mary Roberts, Ian Sadler, Daisy Tait

Absent without apologies – N/A

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: Emma Clarke from Triquest Solutions Ltd, 1 resident from Bull Lane, 1 resident from The Grange, 1 resident from Apse Close, 1 resident from Hazel Grove, and 1 resident from Green Meadow Close.

Sergeant Jason Dorrington and PCSO Paula Wilkes.

Councillor Vince Merrick chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

110/23 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE, Mike Davies, Jan Evans, Mark Evans, and Ed Hughes.

111/23 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM noted he was a Member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee and a trustee of Wombourne and District Community Association. Councillors Martin Perry and Daisy Tait also noted they were members of Wombourne and District Community Association. Councillor Mary Roberts noted she was a member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, Wombourne Carnival Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association.

112/23 – Public Participation

The resident from Bull Lane thanked those Members involved in the petition to keep Barclays Bank open. He suggested he thought the migration period would fail, but the Post Office are offering a good service, and he was pleased to see Barclays set up at the Community Centre. He also noted his thanks to Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson MP for his working in trying to keep the bank open. He suggested further advertising needed to be done in Wombourne publications to ensure residents who are not online know about the service in the Community Centre.

The resident from Apse Close asked for his thanks to be recorded to Staffordshire County Council for dealing with the potholes on A457. He noted how pleased he was to hear at the last meeting that Members would be engaging further with residents through surgeries and Ward walks, and that these would be advertised via social

media and the Grapevine magazine. He commented he was unsure what this magazine publication was, and asked Members for more information.

Councillor Ian Sadler informed the resident it was a Church magazine run by Churches Together who publish community information.

113/23 – Police Report

Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members they had all been sent the Police report in advance of the meeting, and so asked Sergeant Dorrington to just go through any highlights from it.

Sergeant Dorrington reported some success in recent vehicle crime where motorbikes has been stolen, and were later recovered in Nottingham.

He also reported Operation Bulmas would be back up and running to deal with marked vehicles and plain clothes officers on patrol.

He thanked Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM for this involvement in arranging for South Staffordshire Council to clean off racist and anti-semitic graffiti which was raised at the last meeting.

Councillor Vince Merrick thanked Sergeant Dorrington for his efforts, noting he was working tirelessly to try to secure more Police Officers to be based from Wombourne.

Councillor Martin Perry noted concerns with youths gathering in the village centre, with the increase in empty bottles in the area, and general anti-social behaviour.

Sergeant Dorrington agreed that youths do gather together, but unless they are committing anti-social behaviour they are unable to move them on. He confirmed there was a Public Spaces Protection Order in place and would ask patrols to visit when they can, albeit he was limited with the number of resources he has.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM thanked Sergeant Dorrington for his co-operation in dealing with South Staffordshire Council in relation to the wall damaged on Gravel Hill.

114/23 – Presentation from Triquest

Emma Clarke introduced herself from Triquest Solutions Limited. She explained her company had been commissioned by South Staffordshire Council to provide independent feedback on 7 key villages in South Staffordshire, with Wombourne being one. She explained her feedback would assist South Staffordshire Council in determining how their UK SPF Funding will be spent. Her aim was to speak to as many businesses and residents as possible to gain feedback on where and how people would like the funding to be spent.

She started gathering feedback in May and will continue to do so until October by which time she will report back to South Staffordshire Council.

She informed Members she would be holding a Business Engagement Event at the Civic Centre on 14th September from 8.30am to 10.30am, as well as running online surveys for residents and businesses, and had been speaking to key contacts in the village. She encouraged Members to share her information as widely as possible so that she can gather as much information as possible for her report.

Councillor Daisy Tait agreed as Retail Liaison alongside Councillor Matt Powell to share the information with retailers.

115/23 – Resignation of Jason Cox

Members noted the resignation and the closing date for applications for co-option as well as the date for interviews.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM paid tribute to Jason as a hardworking volunteer in the community.

116/23 – Legal contracts for S106 funding from South Staffordshire Council

Members **RESOLVED** to sign the contracts.

117/23 – Approval of Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 26th June 2023.

118/23 Reports from Committees

- a) Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM acknowledged the ongoing absence of Civic Centre Management Committee Chairman Councillor Barry Bond MBE due to ill health. He noted at the Committee meeting on 10th July quotations for tree works were received and a contractor appointed. Two new caterers were added to the Council's approved list. A request for a regular booking on Sundays in the Council Chamber was turned down. The Committee gave permission to Donna Eccleston to fundraise to fit a defibrillator outside of the Civic Centre. Members discussed cost implications of marking out spaces on the car park for the Doctor's surgery and agreed new rates for them, as well as agreeing for Creating Brighter Futures access to the Day Centre for appointments with residents. Increased room hire charges were agreed and a discussion took place regarding the opportunity to open the bar inside the Civic Centre on Carnival Day.
- b) Councillor Martin Perry reported on the Recreation and Amenities Committee, noting the Committee met on 3rd July where they summarised the tour of the facilities by Members which took in Bratch Park, Poolhouse Play Area, the public toilets, and Brickbridge Playing Fields. He noted the enthusiasm of the Park Warden and Parish Warden at Brickbridge Playing Fields and asked for his thanks to be recorded again for their hard work. Members noted the S106 agreements signed at the meeting this evening, and that the lease agreement with South Staffordshire Council for Brickbridge Playing Fields was still outstanding and with solicitors. He noted the Clerk had been pursuing the land ownership of the wooded area at the site with the solicitors. It was agreed to defer working group meetings with the football teams until the lease had been completed. A drainage report had been submitted for Brickbridge Playing Fields with a cost for remedial work which would be reported on at the next Committee meeting. Members had agreed to renew the contract for grass cutting with South Staffordshire Council with a weekly cut at Brickbridge Playing Fields which had significantly improved the condition of the grass. Members had been supporting the Park Warden at Brickbridge Playing Fields when locking up, and an additional CCTV camera and PIR light were being fitted, as well as some pruning of bushes on site. The S106 upgrade to the changing rooms were ongoing, and significant improvements to the outside of the building were needed to bring it in line with the work inside. Play area inspections had been booked in with a new firm and quotations were outstanding for periodic inspections.

Councillor Vince Merrick thanked Councillor Martin Perry and his Committee for their ongoing work to improve the recreation facilities in the village.

- c) Councillor Mary Roberts reported the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on 17th July when they appointed Councillor Jan Evans as Vice-Chairman. The Committee reviewed the Q1 report tracking where budgets were to date and looking at unexpected expenditure such as the removal of asbestos from the boiler room. Councillor Mary Roberts explained she had asked the Clerk to send the report out to all Members regardless of whether they were on the Committee, so everyone has an idea of the budget progress. The Christmas Light Switch On was discussed, and an action taken to obtain a quotation for silent fireworks. Wombourne High School had been picked to perform before the switch on, and all Councillors had been asked to volunteer on the evening. It was hoped the PCSO's would be on site. Small Business Saturday

was discussed, and Members agreed to run an event, but were mindful there was no budget for performers this year, so a post had been sent out asking for free performers. The new website was under development, and all Councillors had now moved to a new email system with the Clerk sending two reminders as well as instructions to all on how to use the new system. Members had agreed to put together a working group to develop a Parish Newsletter. They also made recommendations to Full Council on approving a Dignity at Work Policy and signing the Civility and Respect Pledge. The Clerk was following up on the suggestion of a Belt Up Saturday, and Members had agreed to request BACS payments from customers in future following the closure of Barclays Bank.

Councillor Vince Merrick thanked Councillor Mary Roberts for her ongoing hard work in chairing the Finance and General Purposes Committee, noting she was the most appropriate person for the job given her skills and experience.

- d) Councillor Vince Merrick explained there had been no Planning and Development Committee meeting, but comments had been reported on plans within Wombourne.

119/23 Report from Staffordshire County Council

Unfortunately Councillor Mike Davies was absent from the meeting so no report was given.

120/23 Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Club at the Day Centre – Councillor Mark Evans was absent from the meeting, so no report was given.
- b) Locality Forum – Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed Members a meeting took place two weeks ago with the main discussion being around what topics should be raised in the future.
- c) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members herself and Councillor Martin Perry had been unable to attend the last meeting but looked forward to attending the next one on 23rd August.
- d) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members no meeting had taken place.
- e) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts noted the Chairman of the Committee, Vicky Bratt was present and invited her to provide the update. Vicky thanked Members for allowing her Committee to use the facilities at the Civic Centre to hold the Carnival, noting with the help of her Committee and volunteers including some Councillors the day was a success, in spite of some reservations about the theme. It was noticeable there were less stalls this year, which she put down to some community groups such as Scouts and Guides not fundraising. Sadly, due to a bereavement on the Committee, the funds from the day had not been counted yet, but it was thought the street collections amounted to the same as last year. She noted the theme for next year had not been agreed yet but requested permission to use the facilities once again.
- f) Wombourne Charity Trustees – Councillor Mike Davies was absent from the meeting, so no report was given.
- g) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – No report was given.
- h) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members she would be working with Emma Clarke from Triquest to ensure as much feedback as possible from retailers was given.
- i) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members he was due to meet Chris Cotton the Chief Inspector on Thursday 10th August, and would be addressing the lack of Police in the village which had previously been promised. He assured Members he would continue to pursue the matter to ensure the best protection for the residents of Wombourne.
- j) Giggetty Action Group – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members no meeting had taken place, but he was in contact with Housing Plus over the matter of the garage site issues.

121/23 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payment schedules for June 2023.

122/23 – Planning applications

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

123/23 – Civility and Respect Pledge

Members **RESOLVED** to sign up to the pledge.

124/23 – Approval of policies

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy and the Scheme of Delegation Policy.

125/23 – Correspondence

- a) A thank you card had been received from Gill and Terry Hunt after flowers had been sent to them on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They noted their thanks to Councillors Mark Evans and Mike Davies for their visit to them.
- b) An invitation had been sent for Members to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of 3rd Wombourne and Blakeley Brownies on Saturday 30th September between 11am and 3pm. The Clerk asked Members to inform her if they would be attending as an RSVP was required.

126/23 – Meeting Schedule

Members noted:

- a) The next Full Council meeting will take place on Monday 25th September 2023.
- b) Other meetings will be held as follows:
 Monday 4th September 2023 – Co-option meeting
 Monday 11th September 2023 – Goal setting meeting
 Monday 18th September 2023 – Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting

127/23 – Reminders

Members should contact Sam Berry for their Holly Jolly Christmas Party tickets for Friday 8th December 2023.

128/23 – Chairman’s Closing Remarks

Councillor Vince Merrick passed on thanks from Councillor Mark Evans for their hard work whilst he was abroad. He noted how hardworking all Members were and thanked them for their service to the Parish.

The meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Signed:

Dated: