



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 5th September 2022** at 7.15pm

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

Present -

Councillors: Barry Bond MBE, Cheryl Davies, Mike Davies, Jan Evans, Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait

Absent without apologies – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling

Acting Clerk: Judy Vasiljevic

Public: 9 members of the public.

Councillor Dan Kinsey welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained to members of the public how the meeting would proceed.

104/22 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Claire McIlvenna, John Pike and Robert Reade.

105/22 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey noted he was a Member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, and Councillors Alan Peace and Mary Roberts noting they were Members of the Wombourne Best Kept Village, Wombourne Carnival Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association. Councillor Mike Davies noted he was also a Member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee.

106/22 – Public Participation

Two residents from Walk Lane did a short presentation to Councillors on how they had become involved in raising money for Compton Hospice during the pandemic and were now part of the Compton Care team with the one resident joining the Board of Trustees. They had raised £2K+ running the London Marathon last year and were looking for support from their local community for this year's challenge, (12 million steps and a double marathon). They distributed leaflets containing information on the challenge and advised how the community could get involved by sponsoring them.

One of the four members present from Wombourne Tennis Club informed Councillors that they had held a sponsored Tennisathon on 17th July to raise money for Dementia and wanted to give recognition to Harry, a 14yr old member of the club who had played for 6 hours on one of the hottest days of the year and raised £1127.00. Councillor Mike Davies commended Harry on raising this amount of money and highlighted it was good to see young people getting involved in the local community.

One of the three residents present who were members of the new Giggetty Action Group thanked the Chairman for assisting on the Charity Day they had held and informed Councillors this group was a new initiative to improve their estate. They were getting involved in clearing alleyways, sorting out fly tipping and reporting potholes. The residents felt that the Giggetty Estate had been neglected over the past 30+ years whereas other areas in Wombourne had seen money spent on improving facilities. They hoped to go forward with the support of the Parish Council on improving the area and asked for two Councillors to be nominated as representatives to the action group. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had wanted to spend money on the play area on the estate in the past, but this wasn't possible as the Housing Association wanted to retain ownership of the park. The appointment of two representatives is dealt with later in the agenda.

107/22 – Police Report

Councillor Vince Merrick provided the following update on crime statistics since the last meeting:

Vehicle Crime

- Station Road – 19/07 – In the early hours of the morning a vehicle was targeted, and a catalytic convertor was taken. Advice was given and crime prevention equipment issued in the means of 'SmartWater'
- Heathmill Road – 24/07 – At approx. 19.00hrs a vehicle was stolen from a unit on the industrial estate. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Hellier Drive – 07/08 – In the early hours of the morning a catalytic convertor was stolen from a vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Meadow Lane – 10/08 – In the early hours of the morning a vehicle was stolen without keys. Enquiries are still ongoing
- Planks Lane – 17/08 – At approx. 22.00 hrs a vehicle was stolen from property. Officers are continuing with enquiries.
- Ounsdale Road – 24/08 – Between 18.30 and 03.00hrs, a van was broken into from property and various hand tools taken from within. Enquiries are still ongoing

ASB hotspots

- 3 x ASB reported this month, reports of youths congregating around Pool House Estate, Brickbridge Playing Fields and Windmill Bank.

All of the above locations are being patrolled regularly as part of the police patrol strategy.

Proactive News

- A public Spaces Protection Order is in the process of being put together for parts of Wombourne to include Windmill Bank, Brickbridge Playing Fields and the Baggeridge Estate.
- Request made to explore the idea of a 'Flashing Speed Sign'.
- Rookery Road – concerns over cars speeding and going through 'NO ENTRY' section is being looked into and enquires are ongoing.
- Residents are urged to report any HGV vehicles seen using the high street as a cut through and are contravening the weight limit. If it is possible to note Company name business owners will be visited.
- Volunteers are being sort for Speed Watch.
- Reminder to recommend Smart Alert to residents interested. Local officers have been signing residents up as it is a great tool in communicating with members of the public and raising awareness of what is taking place in the community.
- Try to encourage public to report incidents via 'Digital 101' service or to save waiting in a queue a private message can be sent to Staffordshire Police pages on Facebook/Twitter.

Following this report, the Chairman requested the Clerk make enquiries on costs of flashing speed signs.

Councillor Bond MBE informed members he would like to see a weight limit on Poolhouse Road to prevent use by HGV vehicles. He enquired whether there was an on-foot police presence around the village on an evening as

complaints had been received from residents. He also advised members that scammers were currently targeting older residents via their land lines. The Chairman asked Councillor Vince Merrick to follow up on Councillor Bond's query.

108/22 General Power of Competence

The Chairman informed Members that following the Clerk gaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification and the Parish Council having more than two thirds of Members elected to the Council, members were recommended to review Legal Topic Note 31 (issued with the agenda) and make the following resolution – 'Wombourne Parish Council resolves on 5th September 2022 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) October 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence. All Members discussed this and agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** that Wombourne Parish Council adopt General Power of Competence.

109/22 – Approval of Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday, 4th July 2022

110/22 Reports from Committees

- a) Civic Centre Management Committee – Councillor Barry Bond reported there had been 2 meetings since the beginning of July. On the 18th of July the table linen service was reviewed. Members were updated on Good Tutoring and advised the lease still hadn't been signed. Approval had been given for the use of the Smallbrook Room for a new client. Members were updated on work being undertaken in History Room and ideas put forward for the future. Members approved a 'Jingle & Mingle' Christmas Dinner Dance on Friday, 2nd December in same format as the Jubilee dance. Tickets have gone on sale as have Pantomime tickets for Saturday, 3rd December. An emergency meeting was held on 22nd August concerning a resident making use of Civic Centre car park and facilities. A course of action was agreed and put in place. No further problems have occurred since.
- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts reported that the Queens Platinum Jubilee events had been evaluated. There had been an issue with the video produced by the events company and a refund had been received. It was hoped that a kind of Sports Day could have been put on for the Commonwealth Games, but this hadn't been possible. The litter picker scheme was reviewed. The production of a newsletter as another method of communicating with residents and keeping them updated was discussed. Q1 budget comparison was reviewed. The date for the Christmas light switch on was confirmed as 25th November. Parish representation on outside bodies was discussed.
- c) Recreation & Amenities Committee - Councillor Martin Perry informed Members CCTV at Brickbridge Playing Fields should be completed this weekend. Installation of the new socket goal posts had completed, and team were happy. Removal of the tree at Bratch Park was still being followed up. 106 monies were still awaited and would be chased. Planters in Planks Lane had been moved back to original positions to reduce parking issues. A review of the planters and plants was needed. Repairs had been undertaken and the public toilets reopened, they would be monitored for further damage.
- d) Planning & Development Committee – Councillor Evans reported that the Trysull Road application had caused distress and he had attended a meeting along with Councillor Mary Roberts with 60/70 residents. A response had been compiled and submitted to the planning department and the application had been refused. Members noted the responses to planning applications made to South Staffordshire Council in lieu of a meeting.

111/22 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Senior Citizens Day Centre – Councillor Mark Evans informed Members of the sad news of the death of Beryl Spittle and asked the Chairman for permission to attend her funeral. The Chairman agreed to the request.

- b) Locality Forum – Councillor Dan Kinsey advised Members there had been no meetings since the last one and he would keep Councillors updated.
- c) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members there was nothing to report but she and Councillor Martin Perry would be attending a meeting on Thursday evening and more details would follow.
- d) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members a new chairperson, Karen Webb from the Black Country Chamber of Commerce & Industry was welcomed at the meeting on 17th August along with other new attendees. The airport continues to be busy with movements on track with previous years. Repairs to runway 28/10 are continuing and the target for reopening this is the end of this month. A vintage Jaguar event was hosted on 21st May which proved very popular, and they are looking to hold another event in 2023. On the 4th July the airfield played host to Bobbington Village’s Jubilee event which was well attended. The final ‘Project Propeller’ took place on the 19th June with approx... 38 World War II veterans attending plus volunteers and pilots. There was a fly over by the BBMF’s Hurricane as a tribute. Bobbington Holy Cross Church held a special memorial service on 28th August. The next paranormal evening is scheduled for 21st January 2023. There had been complaints from various residents and a residents meeting was held with Gavin Williamson MP in attendance. Since meeting residents confirmed issues have reduced and Cllr Andrew Hingley-Smith has now joined Committee as a result. Planning application from owners MCR remains ongoing. South Staffordshire Council brought in independent consultants to review the business case and the operations manager is concerned about the quality and accuracy of their report. MCR are raising concerns with Head of Council. The airport café continues to do well with people flying in specially to use it. All other businesses on the airport are also doing well. There has been a high demand for units with people unfortunately being declined as there are no empty units.
Councillor Bond informed members he had attended meeting as part of the 2 new members and in view of the demand for businesses requiring units, suggested it could be put to South Staffordshire Council to use empty units on the retail park that are not currently filled.
- e) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members there was nothing to report.
- f) Wombourne Charity Trustees – Councillor Mike Davies informed Members there had been one request for assistance from a family moving into the village who did not have a cooker and one had been purchased.
- g) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members topics discussed were weed killing with the use of pesticide free spray, battery operated power tools or petrol operated which is not practical at the moment. Tony Brown had donated a powerful bush cutter and we were awaiting to hear back from Street Scene after advice had been sought on training before use.
- h) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members she was pleased to attend a special GHD event at Peony Lane Interiors. She asked the Chairman to update Members regarding Barclays Bank. Councillor Dan Kinsey advised Members he had made contact with the manager of Barclays Wombourne following the announcement of more local branch closures and was advised that customers of these branches had been requested to use Queen Square, Wolverhampton or Wombourne branch so hopefully it will remain open in the near future.
- i) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick noted that most items had already been discussed in meeting previously but with regards to roads it had been brought to his attention that police operation with special constables hadn’t been seen in area for some months and this would be looked at.

112/22 – Giggetty Action Group

Councillor Mike Davies suggested him and Councillor Vince Merrick act as representatives for the Parish Council on the new action group. Councillor Barry Bond asked if it could be three representatives and with residents confirming they were happy with this he proposed, Councillor Mike Davies, Councillor Mark Evans and Councillor Vince Merrick. Councillor Daisy Tait seconded the proposal, and all Members agreed.

113/22 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payments for July 2022.

114/22 – Planning applications

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

115/22 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

Members received copies of the completed AGAR for 2021/2022 and the Chairman asked for his thanks to the Clerk be recorded. Councillor Mary Roberts informed members that it was an achievement to have no comments on the report.

116/22 – Wombourne South East Surgery

The Chairman asked Members to approve Councillors Jan Evans initiative to advertise a surgery to be held in Wombourne South East (including on the Parish Council Website, social media pages and some posters). All Members agreed.

117/22 – Charity Fundraising at the Maypole

The Chairman asked Members to approve request from a resident to hold up to 6 charity fundraising music events (during September/October) at the Maypole (raising money for a little girl from Wombourne needing £15,000 for an operation to help with cerebral palsy). All Members were in favour of approving the request.

118/22 – Correspondence

- a) Members had received sight of correspondence from South Staffordshire Council regarding Public Spaces Protection Order at Windmill Bank, the Community Centre and Library including car park and Brickbridge Playing Fields and B4176 Bridgnorth Road to the Severn Trent Sewage Works
 - i. The Chairman asked Members if they had any objections to the Public Spaces Order and none were received.
 - ii. The Chairman asked Members for further comments, and it was pointed out the boundary line on maps didn't include all areas around the Community Centre and Muga at Brickbridge Playing Fields.

119/22 – Chairman's Business

- a) The Chairman advised Members he was unable to attend Terry Hunts book launch, thanking Councillors who did and gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
 - i. 14th July he attended AGM of Bratch Scouts.
 - ii. 15th July he met with Cherry Hill in Parish Archives room and visited Friendly Faces Café.
 - iii. 16th July he attended the Flower Festival at St Benedicts Church.
 - iv. 17th July he stopped by Wombourne Tennis Club for their Tennisathon while litter picking.
 - v. 20th July he visited Dementia Singing Friends.
 - vi. 21st July he attended the funeral of Joe Brandrick.
 - vii. 23rd July he visited Bratch Scouts to help with their clear out day and later attended opening of Codsall Community Hub.
 - viii. 24th July he helped with clear up of village centre with Wombourne BKV.
 - ix. 26th July and 29th July he litter picked around village
 - x. 30th July he attended Jutz Cutz 12th anniversary.
 - xi. 4th August he joined hundreds of residents watching Commonwealth time trials

- xii. 5th August he attended Afternoon Tea, hosted by Councillor John & Doreen Pike in aid of Marie Curie.
- xiii. 6th August he visited Rory Antonio for their product launch and attended Rock Concert at the Railway Café, wishing the owner Lucy well as she leaves
- xiv. 13th August he assisted in the Bratch Lock tidy up with Councillor Alan Peace and attended Music 4 Scouts event at the Mount
- xv. 20th August he attended Bingo fundraiser at U.C.R. for Lupus UK.
- xvi. 27th August he attended Woodford Stables ‘Pirate & Princesses’ day and awarded prizes for best dressed
- xvii. 3rd September he visited a MacMillan ‘cake away’ hosted by Debbie Peace which raised £535 then assisted Giggetty Action Group with litter picking and tidying up and spoke with residents.
- xviii. He attended the Friendly Faces Café every week.

Councillor Dan Kinsey then gave a statement informing Members that in recent weeks Councillors and the Clerk had spent a lot of time in supporting an individual recorded as homeless. It has since been brought to the Parish Councils attention that District Council are aware of the individual involved and the person doesn’t want assistance. It is not a Councillors job to get deeply involved and it should be passed on to relevant departments.

- b) It was RESOLVED the date of the next Full Council meeting will be Monday 10th October 2022.
- c) It was RESOLVED the Committee meetings would take place as follows:
 - a. Civic Centre Management – Monday 19th September at 7pm
 - b. Recreation and Amenities – Monday 19th September to follow Civic Centre
 - c. Finance and General Purposes – Monday 26th September at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:

Dated: