



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 6th June 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, Martin Perry, John Pike, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait

Absent without apologies – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 11 members of the public

Councillor Dan Kinsey welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting he hoped everyone had had the chance to relax after a wonderful weekend of Jubilee celebrations. He also noted it was lovely to see members of the public present.

79/22 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Cheryl Davies, Alan Peace, and Robert Reade.

80/22 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey noted he was a Member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, and Councillor Mary Roberts noted she was a Member 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.

81/22 – Public Participation

The Chairman reminded Members that the Parish Council had held a card and poem competition for all local schools, and the winners of both were at the meeting this evening. He presented Harveen from Westfield Community Primary School and L'Shae from Blakeley Health Primary School with a certificate, an art kit and two copies of their printed card /poems which had been sent to the Queen as their prizes. He congratulated them for their efforts, explaining he was really proud of their achievements.

Matthew Hare from Zzoomm explained to Members his company was building a full fibre network in the village which will be available from September 2022. They will be in direct competition to BT (thus creating competition and raising standards for all residents in the village) and will be able to reach 95% of homes in the village. He explained they would like the Parish Council's support in spreading the message about the ongoing work which will take approximately 9 months, with a £4.5m investment from the private company which will provide services to residents over the next 20 years. Councillor Martin Perry asked if the work would use existing

infrastructure, or if it will involve digging up roads and footpaths, and Matthew explained they will be using 70% existing infrastructure, and 30% new ducting. He promised to keep the Parish Council informed of their progress.

82/22 – Police Report

In the absence of the local Policing Team, Councillor Vince Merrick provided the monthly report as follows:

- He is due to meet with the Crime Commissioner at the end of the summer to see if there is any improvement in local crime stats following the implementation of the new plan coming soon.
- PC Matt Walker is back in Wombourne and will be a great asset to the village.
- Residents have informed him there was a good response to the Police presence around the local garage sites.
- He had requested a banning order for 2 individuals in the village and was awaiting the outcome.

Councillor Barry Bond MBE informed Members there had been an increase in theft from cars due to a shortage of used car spares and reminded everyone to check their vehicle was properly locked, even when using their keyless fobs.

83/22 – Approval of Minutes

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings on Monday 9th May 2022.

84/22 – Reports from Committees

- a) Recreation and Amenities Committee - Councillor Martin Perry informed Members the new CCTV was being installed and would be completed soon. There was a requirement to replace the adult goal posts, and earmarked reserved would be used to purchase them. He has investigated the fallen tree at Bratch Park which he had concluded would need to be removed as it was resting on someone's fence and shed – he had contacted South Staffordshire Council to deal with that. Improvements to Poolhouse Play Area were on hold awaiting an update from South Staffordshire Council in relation to S106. We were also awaiting an update from them regarding the lease at Brickbridge Playing Fields. Monitoring of the planters in Planks Lane was ongoing, as was the response to the public toilets remaining temporarily closed.
- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts explained the meeting mostly focused on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and thanked the Clerk for the time and effort she had put into both the Jubilee Concert and the Dinner Dance over the last weekend. She also thanked Councillor Jan Evans for her input in the working group, and all Members who volunteered their time on the day. Other business from the meeting included agreeing 2 nominations for the Brian Edwards Awards, and a sports day event to mark the Commonwealth Games.

The Chairman proposed formal thanks should be given to the Clerk for her efforts in organising activities over the Jubilee weekend. Councillor Mark Evans seconded the proposal, noting in 25 years' time people will still talk about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Wombourne, with it being one of the best weekends in the history of the village. All Members agreed.

85/22 – Planning Policy

Members RESOLVED to approve the new planning policy as outlined.

86/22 – Code of Conduct

Members RESOLVED to approve the new Code of Conduct Policy.

Councillor Barry Bond MBE as Chairman of the Standards and Resources Committee at South Staffordshire Council Informed Members there had been a consultation over a lengthy period of time in relation to the revised Code of Conduct. Each Parish Council has the option of creating their own policy, however, the

recommendation from South Staffordshire Council is to adopt theirs. It has been written more personally, including requirement for respect for Councillors, although there has been no change in the regime for sanctions which was disappointing. The section on conflicts of interest was interesting and everyone should ensure they read it. He reminded Members South Staffordshire Council were running mandatory training for District Members shortly, which will soon filter down to Parish Councillors.

87/22 – Internal Audit Report 2021/2022

Members noted the contents of the internal audit report, noting no action was needed.

88/22 – Annual Return and Governance Statement (AGAR) 2021/2022

- a) Members received the accounts for year ended 31st March 2022.
- b) Members received the Annual Internal Audit report contained in the AGAR.
- c) Members approved the completion and signing of the Annual Governance Statement by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.
- d) Members approved the Accounting Statements which the Chairman signed.
- e) Members noted the dates for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounting records.

Councillor Mary Roberts proposed formal thanks be given to the Clerk for the preparation of the end of year accounts, Councillor Mike Davies seconded the proposal, and all Members were in favour.

89/22 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Senior Citizens Day Centre - Councillor Mark Evans informed Members he had visited the Senior Citizens and they had discussed with the knitting club about sharing the room for their meeting on Wednesday.

Wombourne Carnival Committee - Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members the Committee were struggling for lorries for floats, it is possible they may have sourced one, and if so, this will go to St John's Primary School. The WI schedule has gone out and is available from the library. There will be the usual tearoom, stalls and possibly some classic cars. Best Dressed Windows will be judged the weekend of 25th / 26th June, and retailers can keep the same display from the Jubilee if they wish. The Carnival Committee contributed to the bunting around the village which will stay up now until the carnival. Volunteers are required on the day.

Locality Forum – The Chairman informed Members the last meeting had been some time ago where the focus was on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – The Chairman informed Members that the last meeting had been cancelled at short notice, and would be rescheduled, however, the Committee were very thankful for the grant from Councillor Mike Davies for a new push along strimmer which had been used to tidy up the village before the Jubilee celebrations.

90/22 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payments for May 2022.

91/22 – Planning applications

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

92/22 – Correspondence

The Clerk informed Members Mr Rowley had called to praise Councillor Vince Merrick in his handling of an issue he was dealing with for him. He said Councillor Merrick had been helpful and proactive and asked for his comments to be passed onto the Parish Council.

An email had been received from a resident congratulating the Parish Council on a successful Jubilee concert and asking for consideration to be given to making the annual Carnival a two-day event in the future to incorporate something similar each year going forward.

Councillor Barry Bond reminded Members the Parish Council needed to be mindful of the disturbance to residents in Rookery Road and Gravel Hill, along with the number of volunteers required, and the cost of running the concert annually.

93/22 – Chairman's Business

a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:

- i. He has judged the card and poem competition and noted other entries had been displayed in the windows of the Civic Centre over the Jubilee weekend for residents to see.
- ii. 13th May he attended the Friendly Faces Café.
- iii. 14th May he welcomed the new Barbers which has opened in Windmill Bank.
- iv. 27th May he attended St Bernadette's Primary School for their Jubilee Party where he visited their classrooms, and saw the bunting, crowns, and cards they had made.
- v. 28th May he raised the flag in Walkers Way to start the Jubilee celebrations.
- vi. 29th May he assisted BKV with a tidy up of Maypole Street.
- vii. 1st June he attended the Dementia Singing Friends Jubilee Party, accompanied by Councillor Martin Perry. He also put up bunting up Windmill Bank ahead of our concert.
- viii. 2nd June he finished judging the Best Dressed Jubilee Window – the winners are:
 1. Peggy Lain
 2. Flaming Fires
 3. Travel Bureau
 4. Walkers Way
 5. Hear in Wombourne
- ix. 3rd June he opened and volunteered at the Jubilee Concert.
- x. 4th June at 8.30am he litter picked with BKV following the concert noting it was pleasing to see a lack of litter. He visited a number of street parties, the WI afternoon tea, and our own Jubilee Dinner Dance.
- xi. 5th Jun he visited street parties right across the village from The Grange, to Poolhouse.

He informed Members 6 weeks ago he received a letter from the Cabinet Office that he was to be recognised in the Queen's birthday honours and was thrilled to see in the newspaper last week that he had received a British Empire Medal for services during COVID.

Councillor Mike Davies congratulated the Chairman on his achievement, noting it was not to be underplayed. The Chairman thanked the 2 individuals who had been instrumental in his nomination.

b) It was RESOLVED the date of the next Full Council meeting will be Monday 4th July 2022.

c) It was RESOLVED that there would be no meetings whilst the Clerk was on Annual Leave.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed:

Dated: