



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 7th March 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, Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey (Chairman), Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, John Pike (Vice-Chairman), Robert Reade, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait.

Absent without apologies – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 2 members of public plus PCSO Alex Rathbone.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting noting it was great to see members of the public present and asked for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for those who are directly affected by the war in Ukraine.

22/22 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Cheryl Davies.

23/22 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Alan Peace noted he was a member of BKV Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association, Councillor Mary Roberts noted the same and in addition the Carnival Committee, and Councillor Dan Kinsey noted he was also a member of Wombourne BKV.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and reminded them that this was not their sole forum to discuss any issues, and they could continue conversations outside of the meeting with their local Members.

24/22 – Public Participation

- a) Resident from Apse Close wanted to raise concerns regarding the number of potholes in the village. He had reported one in at the junction of School Road and Windmill Bank which Staffordshire County Council had declared as non-urgent. Since the report another pothole has appeared, which drivers are swerving to avoid. The resident noted he was also concerned about the missing black and white chevron sign missing from the Lloyd Hill island, which he had been told was non-urgent. In addition, he also noted his concern about the forthcoming changes in copper wire technology where everyone with a landline will need to have an internet connection, meaning he could foresee a substantial proportion of the elderly in our village being cut off from the world, especially since most will not have mobile phones.

Councillor Mike Davies agreed to investigate the issue with the missing chevron sign, and the pothole in question.

Councillor Dan Kinsey noted all tiers of Government would wait to see what the Governments response was to the forthcoming changes to technology and would respond accordingly.

- b) Resident from Bratch Lane raised concerns over the size / weight and speed of vehicles travelling across the bridge and along Bratch Lane. He has reported the matter repeatedly over a 25-year period to 5 different County Councillors but felt no action had taken place. He had been passed between the County Council and the Police and the issue remained the same. In addition, he reported the poor condition of the area with overgrown brambles, weeds, and potholes.

Councillor Kinsey noted Wombourne Speed Watch were active and as well as reporting speeding issues, they were also reporting issues such as vehicles over the weight limit driving in restricted areas. He also noted Wombourne Best Kept Village were extremely active in the village and have been tackling areas with overgrown brambles as could be seen in Rookery Road.

Councillor Bond suggested Councillor Merrick could explore the issue with vehicles travelling in weight restricted areas in his capacity as Police Liaison.

25/22 – Police report

PCSO Alex Rathbone reported on the main headlines since the last meeting as follows:

Burglaries

- **Church Road** – 10/02 – Between 1630hrs 09/02 and 0820hrs 10/02, unknown offenders have attempted to access BT Telephone Exchange, damaging door, and door frame. No witnesses / No CCTV.
- **Giggetty Lane** – 12/02 – At approx. 1940hrs, offenders have entered supermarket store and stolen cash registers and cigarettes. *Investigation ongoing - Multiple departments within Staffordshire Police involved, including forensics team etc.*

Vehicle Crime

- **Wombourne Park** – 19/02 – Overnight, front number plate stolen from vehicle whilst parked on driveway. No witnesses / No CCTV.
 - **Sytch Lane** – 20/02 – At approx. 2000hrs, unknown offenders have stolen a Range Rover Sport, without keys. No CCTV / No witnesses. *
 - **Bridgnorth Road** – 23/02 – At approx. 2320hrs, unknown offenders have attempted to gain access to a Range Rover Sport parked on the driveway of a residential property. A window on the vehicle was smashed. Offenders thought to be travelling in a silver Mazda. No CCTV / witnesses unable to provide further details of vehicle ID. *
 - **Penleigh Gardens** – 25/02 – At approx. 0020hrs, offenders have stolen a Range Rover Evoque from the driveway of a residential property, without keys. *Vehicle later recovered.* *
 - **Stanham Close** – 27/02 – at approx. 2200hrs, a silver Range Rover Discovery was stolen, without keys. *
- * Extensive investigation is being conducted by multiple departments within Staffordshire Police in relation to Range Rover thefts, most of which are likely linked.*

ASB hotspots

- **Wombourne Community Centre / Library** – Reports of youths causing issues outside and inside location. Extensive work carried out by NPT to resolve this, alongside support from Library management team.
- **Dickinson Road** – Reports of ASB and litter on garage area behind Dickinson Road. Local officers aware and have been visiting the location regularly.
- **Bull Lane** – Youths said to frequent garage area causing nuisance. Local officers aware and visiting location regularly.

Proactive news

- **Operation Cable** targeting ASB hotspots and **Operation Lightening** targeting vehicle crime is up and running frequently, with officers utilising both marked and unmarked vehicles. Up-to-date information regarding these operations can be found on Twitter and Facebook.

26/22 – Approval of Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2022 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

27/22 – Reports from Committees

- a) Recreation and Amenities - Councillor Davies reported that CCTV would shortly be installed at Brickbridge Playing Fields. A request from Wombourne AllStars to change the name of the playing fields to All Stars Park had been rejected. The consultation results in relation to the future lease are being put together and the Committee will review them later this week. He passed on his thanks to Vice-Chairman Councillor Alan Peace for meeting with the contractors at Bratch Park regarding the surface around the trampoline, and reported they were coming back to carry out remedial work to the area. He also reported Poolhouse Play Area was to be re-vamped, and this will depend on S106 funding forthcoming, but any concerns from the ROSPA report will be dealt with. The S106 group will be meeting shortly to discuss how funding can be spent to improve amenities in the village.
- b) Planning and Development – Councillor Alan Peace informed Members the Committee had spent some considerable time reviewing planning applications at Sandringham Road and Pennwood Lane locations and had issued their concerns to both to the Planning Team at South Staffordshire Council.
- c) Civic Centre Management – Councillor Bond reported that planning permission should soon be going through to enable work to the tree in the bungalow to be completed. The roof work had been delayed due to COVID and the weather but was now well underway. Permission had been granted to Home Instead to hold another bake sale in June on the grass at the front of the Civic Centre. A Wedding Fayre would be held on Sunday 1st May from 1pm to 5pm. Members had agreed the Senior Citizens Club were not using the Day Centre effectively, and therefore Councillor Daisy Tait as their representative would speak to them to find out their future plans. The Committee had agreed to request more information from South Staffordshire Council in relation to electrical charging points for vehicles on the Civic Centre car park. The car park at the Civic Centre was to be re-lined from funding leftover from the High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation fund administered by South Staffordshire Council. A request from Fiona Passey to sublet her treatment room to Uzma Cerritelli had been agreed, and the Smallbrook Room would be advertised with immediate occupancy possible. 3 proposals had been considered for leasing the former Citizens Advice Office, and Goode Tutoring had been offered the lease.
- d) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members the Committee had agreed plans to hold an open air concert on Friday 3rd June from 1pm to 8pm, which would be free for residents, and consisted of a professional stage being set up, 6 acts performing, local caterers and street food stalls being set up, and inside and outside bar, lamppost signs and flag for the Civic Centre being paid for from Chairman's Allowance, and bunting for the Civic Centre if the Council were successful in receiving grant funding. She explained a Dinner Dance would take place on Saturday 4th June with a welcome drink, 3 course meal, DJ and Shaun Walker as Elvis performing, and on Sunday 5th June, residents will be encouraged to hold a stay-at-home garden party like those that took place for VE Day in 2020. A competition would be held for school children to create a card and poem which would be printed and sent to the Queen. The Committee approved amendments to the precept document to be uploaded to the website, and to find out the time and date of the cycle race coming through the village for the Commonwealth Games, to encourage residents to support the event. The Joan Williams Civic Award will continue this year, and the Committee will review the nominations at the April meeting.

- e) High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members the Committee had agreed the final arrangements for the next High Street Event on Saturday 26th March, which would run from 11am to 3pm in the village centre and 11am to 2pm in Common Road. Physical assets consisting of 4 two tiered planters, and 5 single planters had been ordered, and Councillor Tait noted her thanks to the Clerk for her hard work in making all the arrangements and buying the plants in her own time. Councillor Daniel Kinsey endorsed her comments and gave his thanks to the Clerk.

28/22 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Members noted the vacancy for Councillors appointed to the Senior Citizens Day Centre and asked for nominations to fill this post. Councillor Mary Roberts nominated Councillor Mark Evans to fill the post, Councillor John Pike seconded the proposal, and all Members were in favour.

Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Alan Peace had shared a report with Members with the agenda as follows:

The WDCA held a general meeting on 3rd March at the Allen Memorial Hall.

This meeting was the first regular face to face one held for two years and was an opportunity for those members not on the executive committee to receive a report from the executive meeting held on 18th January.

- 1) The funds from the crisp packet recycling scheme are due to be released later this month.
- 2) Tony Brown and Alan Peace are due to meet on Monday 7th March to sort out the WDCA garages at Penn and the WDCA trailer presently kept there is going to be moved to John Woottons barn for maintenance work.
- 3) It is proposed to purchase a set of proper tree ladders to make erection and removal of the Christmas tree safer.
- 5) A request for a grant received from High Flyers was deferred.
- 6) Bunting is to be purchased to go around the village centre on appropriate occasions such as the Queen's forthcoming jubilee celebrations. This may be done with a grant from the Arts Council.
- 7) A project to produce a book of life in Wombourne during the Queen's reign and involving the local history group will take place to correspond with the jubilee and a programme of events will be collated from all those groups taking part in the weekend for inclusion on the reverse of the parish council newsletter.
- 8) It was decided that the WDCA, having received information about the Support Staffordshire project, will not take part although individual groups may find it useful.

Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick reported the Chief Superintendent had put in place arrangements for extra officers into South Staffordshire, with some being based in Wombourne. He also reported Matt Walker would be re-joining the team in Wombourne, and the local team would be supporting the Speed Watch group going forward.

Councillor Daniel Kinsey explained he was incredibly pleased to hear that we would be getting extra officers based in Wombourne, and thanked Councillor Vince Merrick for his ongoing relationship with the Police and the influence it is having on local plans.

29/22 – Movement of budget heading

- a) It was **RESOVLED** that £2500 budget for ROSPA repairs could be moved to earmarked reserves for new play equipment to deal with the repair issues in the Spring.

30/22 – Approval of policies

- b) It was **RESOVLED** to adopt the Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Standing Orders.

31/22 – Approval of Asset Register

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the asses register for 2021/2022 with assets valued at £346,539.

32/22 – Correspondence

The Clerk read out an email from Churches Together setting out their plans for their Good Friday parade, starting at Methodist Church in Common Road, walking to Kingsway, and finally finishing on the grass outside the Community Centre for a Good Friday service.

33/22 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
- i. Each week he had attended Friendly Faces Cafes noting that more than 100 people were now making use of the service.
 - ii. 16th February – he attended Wombourne and Sedgley Rotary Club meeting, at which he was invited to be an Associate Member.
 - iii. 25th February – he attended a meeting with the Clerk and Louise Golden the Community Liaison for Wombourne High School to discuss the ongoing issue with the vandalism to the public toilets, and to discuss opportunities for working together, to include a youth council.
 - iv. 3rd March – he attended assisted other volunteers to help pack supplies heading to Ukraine at the Jet Singh Centre. He noted that 5 vans headed out with volunteer drivers and photos had been sent to the group of children clutching supplies including nappies, which was heart-warming to see. He applauded DME Fitness run by Donna Eccleston for their fundraising efforts in relation to the relief effort.
Councillor Mark Evans applauded the Chairman for his efforts, nothing as a direct result of his campaigning, he had raised £200 from his dining club for the relief effort.
 - v. 4th March – he attended Urban Angel’s 6th birthday shopping soir e, noting he wished them all the best for another 6 successful years of trading.
 - vi. 5th March – he attended the model railway exhibition at the Civic Centre and noted lots of businesses in the village were inundated with customers which was fantastic to see.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** the next date for the Full Council Meeting would be Monday 11th April 2022.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** the date for the Committee meetings would take place as follows:
- a. Monday 14th March 2022 at 7pm - Planning and Development
 - b. Monday 14th March 2022 to follow Planning and Development – Civic Centre Management and High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation
 - c. Monday 28th March 2022 at 7pm – Finance and General Purposes
 - d. Monday 14th February 2022 to follow Finance and General Purposes – Recreation and Amenities
- d) Members are reminded that Alderman I A Kelly’s memorial will take place on Friday 11th March 2022, and the Civic Reception will take place on Saturday 19th March 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed:

Dated: