



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait

**Absent without apologies** – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 3 members of the public.

Councillor Dan Kinsey welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted he was sure all Members wished Councillors John Pike and Robert Reade a speedy recovery.

#### **133/22 – Apologies**

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

#### **134/22 – 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 noted they were Members of the Wombourne Best Kept Village, 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.

#### **135/22 – Public Participation**

- a) A resident from Apse Close informed Members he had already submitted a letter to the Clerk due to be discussed under item 11 of the agenda, however, since then he had learnt there was a special meeting of the Full Council of South Staffordshire Council tomorrow evening, and therefore he wanted to note some concerns he had. He noted that 16 dwellings had been removed from the Sytch Lane site and wanted to know why the land off Orton Lane has been increased by 22 homes. He also asked why there were no proposals for providing homes on Wombourne's largest brownfield site at Smestow Bridge, and how many dwellings had been proposed on brownfield land for the whole of the Plan for South Staffordshire, and what was this as a percentage total. He requested his points be given to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Business Enterprise at South Staffordshire Council for a response.

It was agreed that the correspondence under item 11 (c) be dealt with now whilst the resident was present for public participation.

The Chairman informed the resident the Parish Council had raised many of the same questions and concerns as part of the consultation process almost 12 months ago, including the need to explore the brownfield site at Smestow Bridge. He informed the resident the landowner at Sytch Lane had chosen to remove their site which had forced South Staffordshire Council to find space for the shortfall which was now in Orton Lane. He also noted there is not a great deal of brownfield land in South Staffordshire, but South Staffordshire Council could provide more detail on the numbers.

In relation to the correspondence sent in from the resident, the Chairman informed him there were never dates set in stone in relation to the process of dealing with the Local Plan, as it depended upon how quickly South Staffordshire Council's Planning Officers dealt with the responses to the last consultation. He informed the resident he was unable to provide any more information, but suggested he could attend the meeting at South Staffordshire Council offices tomorrow evening if he wished.

- b) Donna Eccleston, a trustee, and volunteer at Wombourne Village Hall explained to Members that herself and her husband, Dave Collins who was also in attendance, had spent a great amount of time and effort recently regenerating the Village Hall. She wanted to inform the Parish Council of their requirements within their deeds, and to request the Parish Council appoint an honorary Trustee, someone who has an interest in the Village Hall.

Councillor Barry Bond MBE noted how pleased he was to see the Village Hall have a new lease of life and agreed the Parish Council should do all they could to support its longevity.

Councillor Mike Davies suggested the item be taken away for consideration to see who may be interested in becoming a Trustee. All Members were in favour of this suggestion.

### **136/22 – Police Report**

Members had received a copy of the Police Report, but unfortunately no one from South Staffordshire Police was available to go through it. Councillor Vince Merrick offered to take questions from Members.

Councillor Alan Peace noted there had been 11 incidents of car thefts noted in the report, and wanted assurance this was being dealt with, and asked what increase this was on previous months. Councillor Claire McIlvenna noted this was likely to be impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. It was agreed the Clerk would follow up with South Staffordshire Police on the matter.

### **137/22 – Approval of Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **138/22 Reports from Committees**

- a) Civic Centre Management Committee – Councillor Barry Bond reported there had been no meetings since the last Full Council meeting therefore he had nothing new to report.
- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts reported the Newsletter Working Group needed to meet to discuss its first draft. The Christmas Light Switch On was booked for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Councillor Daisy Tait would be putting a plan together for High Street events to support Small Business Saturday on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. It was agreed to support the Community Association's request to site a bench halfway up Windmill Bank. Enquiries were being made into tree planting to commemorate the Queen's service to the Country. A number of policies were approved. The Chairman noted South Staffordshire Council were due to start the removal of Russian Vine on Windmill Bank shortly, so he hoped this could coincide with the new bench being fitted.
- c) Recreation & Amenities Committee - Councillor Martin Perry informed Members progress was being made with the CCTV at Brickbridge Playing Fields, and training for interested parties would be organised soon. ROSPA had conducted their annual inspections, and the Committee prioritised defects, and would

obtain quotations from local suppliers or reach out to experts if advised. There had been no satisfactory outcome on S106 funding however Councillor Mark Evans was following up on it. Budget considerations discussed, including a quotation for a bus shelter.

- d) Planning & Development Committee – Councillor Evans informed Members item 10 on the agenda covered recent submissions made outside the of the last Planning and Development Committee Meeting. He thanked Members of the Committee for their well-informed comments.

### **139/22 Report from South Staffordshire Council (Councillor Dan Kinsey)**

Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members there was a meeting tomorrow evening of the Full Council to vote on the next stage of the Local Plan. He informed them the meeting was open for residents to attend and to watch on YouTube afterwards. The next stage of the consultation was on the soundness of the plan and would not be site specific, however due to changes at the Orton Lane site, residents would be able to make comments on that site. An Extra Ordinary meeting was pencilled in for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November to discuss the outcome of the meeting.

He informed Members the removal of a substantial part of a building in High Street had taken place, this was scheduled works to ensure the safety of the building.

He noted the Parish Council had been aware of a case of a homeless person in the village and noted that he had received an update from South Staffordshire Council that emergency accommodation had been found in Cannock and more permanent accommodation was to follow.

Councillor Claire McIlvenna noted she had spent a considerable amount of time with the homeless person either face to face or on the telephone and feels she had played a pivotal role in securing the emergency accommodation for her.

### **140/22 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies**

- a) Club at the Day Centre – Councillor Mark Evans informed Members the club is continuing at present but with very few members. They meet on Tuesdays from 10am to midday, with 5/6 gentlemen attending to play pool. They were trying to encourage new members to join.
- b) Locality Forum – Councillor Dan Kinsey advised Members there had been no meetings, but the Parish Summit had taken place at Codsall where he had given a recorded video which he understood had been well received. He informed Members the Locality Enabler had been invited to attend the next Full Council meeting and he hoped he could give an overview of what he had been doing to support the village.
- c) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members there had been a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October which was well attended, including some new volunteers. Unfortunately, the Community Showcase event was not taking place this year due to Health and Safety concerns. The Committee had agreed to consider a Spring Event instead. The formation of the Directory for groups was ongoing, and no grants had been requested / agreed. There were 4 dates for the Santa Sleigh tour of the village, and a meeting was taking place on warm spaces, but no update had been received on that yet.
- d) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members that there had been no meetings.
- e) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members the AGM had taken place, and everyone had agreed this year's Carnival was a success and thanks was given to all volunteers. The theme for 2023 might be Christmas. Donations were being made for 2 defibrillators in the village, as well as supporting The Round Oak on their defibrillator project. The Committee would meet again in the new year for their Christmas meal.
- f) Wombourne Charity Trustees – Councillor Mike Davies informed Members the meeting of the Trustees was taking place tomorrow so he would be able to provide an update at the next meeting

- g) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members no meetings had taken place, however, volunteers from BKV are still regularly active, and a group met on the weekend to clear leaves from the village centre.
- h) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members she had met with the Clerk to discuss Small Business Saturday, she confirmed Bluebird Belles, the Santa Sleigh and an elf trail had been organised, and the Clerk was waiting to hear from other acts.
- i) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members he had a meeting with the Police next week and would highlight the earlier question from Councillor Alan Peace in relation to the recent car thefts.
- j) Giggetty Action Group – Councillor Mike Davies informed Members there was a meeting of interested parties on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. He was pleased that an officer from Staffordshire County Council’s Highways team would be in attendance as they were trailing their new way of working on the estate. Councillor Vince Merrick noted he had met with residents on a weekly basis, and Staffordshire County Council had conducted urgent highway repairs on the estate.

Councillor Claire McIlvenna informed Members she had been in regular contact with Kevin Davies from the local Housing Association who had invited her to attend a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November, but she hadn’t received any more information on it. Councillor Dan Kinsey noted she was not appointed to the group by the Parish Council, it was agreed if members of the Giggetty Action Group wanted Councillor McIlvenna at the meeting, they would have to invite her.

#### **141/22 – Parish Council Finances and Administration**

Members approved the payments for October 2022.

#### **142/22 – Planning applications**

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

#### **143/22 – Correspondence**

- a) Members noted the email from South Staffordshire Council in relation to the review of polling districts and polling places, with the link emailed to them to review / complete.
- b) Members noted the bulb planting event taking place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Sytch Lane Cemetery.
- c) Members noted the email from a resident with regards to the Local Plan which had been dealt with under public participation.

#### **144/22 – Chairman’s Business**

- a) The Chairman advised Members his official engagements had been as follows:
  - i. Friendly Faces on 21<sup>st</sup> October to support a breast cancer fundraiser where over £500 had been raised
  - ii. St Bernadette’s Autumn Fayre on 29<sup>th</sup> October, and later to Wombourne Community Centre for their History Exhibition
  - iii. United Reformed Church Autumn Fayre on 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- b) It was RESOLVED the date of the next Full Council meeting will be Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- c) It was RESOLVED the Committee meetings would take place as follows:
  - i. Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - ii. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - iii. Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022
  - iv. Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - v. Planning and Development Committee Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- d) Members were reminded of the following events:

- i. Remembrance Sunday Service at St Benedict Biscop Church – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am with refreshments to follow in the Cricket Club
- ii. Christmas Light Switch On – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 6pm (Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committees to act as marshals for the firework display)
- iii. Small Business Saturday – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 11am (Support from all Councillors is required – Members to informed Councillor Mary Roberts of their availability).

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....