



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022** at 7.00pm

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

#### **Present – Committee Members-**

Councillors: Barry Bond MBE, Mike Davies (Vice-Chairman), Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Martin Perry, Robert Reade, Mary Roberts (Chairman), Daisy Tait

#### **Present – Non-Committee Members- N/A**

#### **Absent without apologies – N/A**

#### **Acting Clerk – Judy Vasiljevic**

#### **43/22 – Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jan Evan, Mark Evans, and John Pike

#### **44/22 – Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mike Davies declared an interest item 47/22 c as the donation for the video was in memory of his late brother-in-law.

#### **45/22 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

#### **46/22 – Matters arising from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

None.

#### **47/22 – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

##### **a) To evaluate the activities, including Jubilee Concert, Dinner Dance and Stay at Home Garden Parties**

Members agreed that the program of events over the Jubilee weekend had been a great success, even with the mixed weather and the organisation of the event had been excellent. There was a good mix of music at the concert, with the Bhangra group being a standout act. The dinner dance was excellent, and it was noted a large number of stay at home garden parties were held despite the poor weather.

##### **b) To note the video/images requested from Dangerous Sheep’s contractor were illegible and therefore a refund had been obtained.**

Members noted a refund had been obtained from Dangerous Sheep.

##### **c) Video created by Alan De Marco Photography and paid for via grant from Wombourne & District Community Association will be distributed on social media and a copy put in the History Room in memory of Ben Fieldhouse**

Members were advised that the video had not been distributed yet as it had not included the readings from Wombourne Players, and therefore the video had not been seen on social media which had been commented on by residents. Members asked for the Clerk to follow up the distribution and uploading of the video. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM suggested that Wombourne Players could record a stand-alone piece which could be put in the History Room if they wished.

#### **48/22 – Commonwealth Games**

The Clerk had made enquiries with the Parish Warden, Darryl Smith about holding a Sports Day at Brickbridge Playing Fields but this was not going to be possible. Members suggested that residents just watch scheduled events themselves. Councillor Barry Bond MBE expressed his concerns regarding the route and road closures for the time trial cycling event on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and advised Members he had been informed by Staffordshire County Council all was in hand and diversions were in place.

#### **49/22 – Litter picking schemes**

Members noted a number of litter pickers had been purchased using the Hight Street Grant Funding and agreed that some should be held at the Civic Centre to be distributed to community groups as and when required. Umbrella stands had been purchased to be distributed around suitable locations in the village to store litter pickers which could be used by residents, and then returned. The Chairman advised Members that some retailers were on board with this scheme but had concerns if people removed litter pickers and couldn't return them if premises had closed. There were also concerns regarding sanitisation of the litter pickers, therefore Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM suggested that they could be collected every so often to be disinfected. Councillor Mike Davies queried whether high-viz jackets should be worn, but it was confirmed none had been purchased as part of the High Street Grant Funding. Councillor Martin Perry suggested that rolls of black sacks were dropped off for use with the litter pickers. It was agreed that High Street Liaison, Councillor Daisy Tait should follow up the scheme with retailers over the next few weeks.

#### **50/22 - Newsletter**

The Chairman advised Members that some time ago it had been agreed the Parish Council would produce a newsletter and Councillors Dan Kinsey, John Pike and herself would form a working group to assist with this, along with the Clerk and Admin Assistant. Ideas for content were advertising, such as the Pantomime and Christmas Light Switch On. It was suggested that the first edition would be distributed before the next Public Consultation on the Local Plan so information could be included to keep residents updated. Councillors Martin Perry and Daisy Tait agreed to be involved in the working group.

#### **51/22 – Christmas Light Switch on**

Members noted that the date for the 'switch on' was Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (6pm) and last year choirs were St Benedict's Primary School and Cherry Tree School. The Chairman requested the Clerk contact St Bernadette's and Westfield Primary Schools to invite their choirs to perform this year. Members agreed to hold the usual firework display and requested the Clerk ensure residents are informed when the display was going to take place.

Councillor Dan Kinsey thanked Councillor Mike Davies and the Clerk for ensuring the Parish Council were able to gain permission to have Christmas lights this year due to the issue with the installer not being HERS accredited. Councillor Mike Davies confirmed that an extension to HERS accreditation being required had been granted by Staffordshire County Council for 12 months.

#### **52/22 – Q1 budget comparison**

Members discussed the Q1 budget comparison and noted that some were budget headings that were overspent (namely BBPF repairs, linen hire, refurbishment of Maypole), and agreed virements may be required, but the budgets would be reviewed as the year progressed. It was noted a profit had been made on events to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and given some grant funding had been awarded for the events, the profit could be used to cover the overspend in the budget for the refurbishment of the Maypole.

#### **53/22 – Parish representation on Outside Bodies**

The Chairman reminded members that representation on outside bodies was only for non-commercial groups.

Councillor Barry Bond MBE raised his concerns about the Parish Council being associated with companies looking to do work around the village. Members agreed Councillors could assist residents with any queries, but not act as representatives for them.

**54/22 – Exclusion of the Public and Press**

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

**55/22 – Staffing**

- a) Members agreed to a one scale point increase for Rachael Wright after completing her CiLCA qualification with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 as previously resolved in October 2021 and asked for their congratulation be passed to Rachael in achieving her qualification.
- b) Members noted that Sam Berry was now a permanent member of staff following successful completion of her probationary period. They noted their thanks to Sam for the organisation of the Dinner Dance, and how she had fitted very well into the office.

**The meeting closed at 8.01pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....