



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 27th February 2023** 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), Jan Evans, Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Martin Perry, Mary Roberts (Chairman), Daisy Tait

Present – Non-Committee Members- Councillors: N/A

Absent without apologies – N/A

Clerk – Rachael Wright

Members of the public – N/A

11/23 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Robert Reade.

12/23 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM declared an interest in item 6 of the agenda as a Governor at St Bernadette's Primary School, however, he was given dispensation to speak on the matter as he noted his ability to assist with the request.

13/23 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 26th January 2023

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

14/23 – Matters arising from 26th January 2023

Councillor Mary Roberts noted that once the proposal was put forward to Full Council, the van was taken out of the budget therefore reducing the precept request from 46% to 39%.

15/23 – Business Continuity

It was **RESOLVED** that the current cheque signatories would continue to approve payments on the bank account in the event they were not re-elected in May, to enable the Parish Council to continue to process payments until the new signatories had been added to the account.

16/23 – Request from St Bernadette's Primary School

Members noted the request for compost, and agreed there was no grant funding left to provide support for the project, however, Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM agreed to liaise with a resident who had previously offered to provide his surplus compost for community use.

17/23 – Trees outside the Bungalow

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the quotation from AS Tree Services to cut down the conifer at the front of the bungalow, prune the privet hedge adjacent to the car park, and reduce the weight of the lateral branches of the cherry tree in the garden of the bungalow. It was noted that the removal of the conifer would assist with the damp issue inside the bungalow.

18/23 – Chairman’s Allowance Protocol

It was **RESOLVED** that the Protocol be adopted with the following changes:

- a. Removal of point 2 under General Principles which stated ‘The allowance is to cover all reasonable, legitimate, and receipted expenses, and it is the intention of the Council that anyone holding the position of Chairman should not be ‘out of pocket’ from carrying out their Chairman’s duties’.
- b. Add in the words ‘At the Chairman’s discretion’ in front of the second paragraph under Payment of Allowance.

19/23 – Q3 report

Members noted the report, and the observations from the Clerk that the Severn Trent salary would be increasing from £912.50 to £1095 following an increase of the daily payment from £2.50 to £3. She also noted that the forecasts had been updated in Edge following the budget being agreed and therefore up to date.

20/23 – Public message to address the precept increase

Members agreed the public message recorded by Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM was well presented, however, they agreed to hold back on it’s publication which would be decided at a future meeting depending upon the number of complaints received regarding the precept increase. It was agreed that Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM would produce a crib sheet in conjunction with the Clerk to be sent to all in the event of direct questions from residents.

21/23 – King’s Coronation

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a. The Parish Council would decline the offer from Dangerous Sheep Ltd to put on a free event on the Civic Centre car park on Saturday 6th May 2023.
- b. The Parish Council would support local events, either at Bridge Manor Care Home, pubs, clubs or street parties by way of advertising on social media. It was agreed if those events registered with the Parish Council Office, details would be passed to the Chairman and Members to attend if they wished.

22/23 – Christmas Lights

It was noted that there was one year left on the contract with Turnock Ltd, who were refusing to provide a HERS accredited installer which meant the Parish Council did not meet the requirements set by Staffordshire County Council for installation of the lights. Last year dispensation was given by Councillor David Williams, but it was thought this would not be an option this year. Members asked the Clerk to seek clarification from Turnock Ltd that they were unwilling to provide a HERS accredited installer, and to make enquiries with suppliers within South Staffordshire who did hold the accreditation.

23/23 – Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members **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.

24/23 – Staffing

Members noted:

- a. The resignation of Arthur Graham as Casual Facilities Operative, and that an advert had been issued to replace him.
- b. That all staff appraisals had been completed for 2022/2023.

The meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Signed:

Dated: