



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 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** – Councillors: Robert Reade

**Clerk** – Rachael Wright

#### **25/23 – Apologies**

No apologies were received.

#### **26/23 – Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM declared an interest in item 5 of the agenda as all nominees are close personal friends of his. He also declared an interest in item 9 as a Trustee of Wombourne and District Community Association, although he had asked for dispensation to speak on the matter.

Councillors Martin Perry and Daisy Tait also declared an interest in item 9 as Members of Wombourne and District Community Association.

#### **27/23 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

#### **28/23 – Matters arising from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

17/23 – The Clerk informed Members part of the work had been completed, but the remainder would not be completed until mid-April, so the budget had been moved to earmarked reserves.

#### **29/23 – Joan Williams Civic Award**

Members discussed the three candidates nominated, and agreed Sarah Slater should receive the 2022 award in recognition of the dedication and hard work she had put into setting up Dementia Singing Friends, Friendly Faces and Warm Welcome in Wombourne. Members agreed she had made a significant impact to the residents of Wombourne, working tirelessly with other volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the groups, creating a safe space for people to receive the support they need.

#### **30/23 – Internal audit**

Members noted the appointment of Sandie Morris as internal auditor.

**31/23 – Pensions Policy**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the policy.

**32/23 – King’s Coronation**

The Clerk shared the poster which had gone out on social media encouraging residents to hold street parties. One enquiry had come in from residents in Ounsdale Road about closing the road for a street party, which Councillors Dan Kinsey BEM and Mike Davies were dealing with.

**33/23 – Christmas Lights Switch On**

- a. Members noted the intention of Turnock Ltd to become HERS registered in time for the annual festive illuminations application. They asked the Clerk to check with the County Council if this was agreeable, and to make enquiries into another firm installing the lights in the event it was not agreed.
- b. Members noted the email from Wombourne and District Community Association, and the notes from a subsequent meeting with them to gain more information on their suggestions. Members agreed they would be pleased to receive additional volunteers to assist with the event from Wombourne and District Community Association. They agreed to the location of the Santa Sleigh needed to be re-considered, and it required additional volunteers to marshal it. Members noted that the switch on event was booked in on Friday evenings until 2025, so agreed to review the format of the event, after the switch on event had taken place in 2024.

**34/23 – Letter from, Gavin Williamson**

Members noted the content of the letter, and agreed the Clerk should respond to confirm there was no additional resource to employ another member of staff at present, and Councillor Mike Davies who had also received a copy of the letter has responded directly regarding potholes in the village.

**35/23 – 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.

**36/23 – Staffing**

Members noted and approved:

- a. Steve Wright to continue in the position of Casual Facilities Operative
- b. The instructions to staff supervising functions
- c. Feedback on social media regarding the quality of social media posts
- d. The proposals set out in the confidential salary report
- e. The increase from Severn Trent from £2.50 to £3 daily for opening / locking Bratch Locks

**The meeting closed at 7.49pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....