



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 13th September 2021** 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, Dan Kinsey (Chair), Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait, Ken Upton

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 12 Members of the public and Sgt Jason Dorrington and PCSO Paula Wilkes.

The Chairman welcomed all Members and members of the public and expressed his sadness at the passing of Councillor Reg Williams who sadly passed away last month, he asked everyone to observe a minutes silence in tribute to Councillor Reg Williams.

After the minutes silence, Councillor Mike Davies expressed his sadness at the loss of Councillor Reg Williams, noted he had been of great support to him particularly when he stood as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman noted sadly Alan Hinton had resigned as Parish Councillor for the North Ward and asked for his thanks to be recorded for Alan's long and dedicated service to both the Parish and District Council. He also noted the sad passing of Leader of the District Council, Councillor Brian Edwards last month.

Finally, he informed Members and members of the public the Deputy Chairman, Councillor Mary Roberts, was sitting next to him in the Vice-Chairman's seat as Councillor John Pike had been taken ill, he wished him a speedy recovery.

43/21 – Apologies

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

44/21 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Alan Peace noted he was a member of Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, Wombourne Carnival Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association. Both Councillors Mary Roberts and Dan Kinsey also noted they were members of BKV Committee, with Councillor Mary Roberts also noting she is also a member of Wombourne Carnival.

45/21 – Public Participation

The Chairman sought permission to suspend Standing Orders given the number of members of public present it was clear public participation would extend beyond 15 minutes. Members agreed to this.

- a) The Chairman presented Nicky and Mark Williams from The Mount Pleasant pub the trophy and a certificate for them for winners of the Wombourne in Bloom best licenced premises for 2021.
- b) Resident from Bramber Drive – the resident explained she was representing 3 other residents who were present who also lived in Bramber Drive / Windsor Road to complain about vehicles parking on pavements and in front of their drives blocking their access and that of emergency services trying to access their property.
Sgt Jason Dorrington responded to the resident in Bramber Drive to explain that the Police used to have power to deal with parking issues, but this was dissolved and passed to the County Council, and now parking wardens are the only people who can issue parking tickets. He explained the Police can issue fines to members of the public blocking pavements, however, they must receive photographic evidence, and the car must be completely blocking the pavement, not just parked slightly on it. He agreed any resident with photographic evidence could email this to PCSO Paula Wilkes who could take the matter up with the vehicle owner.
- c) Resident from Redcliffe Drive - the resident complained about anti-social behaviour in general, i.e., the volume of litter around, and amount of petty crime for example parking on pavements and speeding. Sgt Jason Dorrington agreed again for the resident to email any evidence to PCSO Paula Wilkes to deal with, but also explained the area his team must cover and the challenges they faced. He explained they run an operation to target anti-social behaviour and drug use and are aware of hot spots to target thanks to reports from residents and Councillors, particularly Councillor Vince Merrick who had been appointed as Police Liaison for the Parish Council.
- d) Councillor Vince Merrick explained he was Police Liaison and had good links with both District Council Officers and the Chief Inspector. He went on to advise he had attended several meetings with both, and the District Council were looking at putting a dispersal order in place to deal with crowds gathering in the village centre.
- e) Councillor Dan Kinsey reminded members of the public that Wombourne had a Speed Watch Group made up of resident volunteers and if anyone wished to get involved, he would be happy to provide some additional information to them.
- f) Sgt Jason Dorrington provided an update on the issues dealt with since their last attendance. Unfortunately, there had been an increase again in catalytic converter thefts, however, extra shifts were being put on, forensic marker kits handed out and letters sent to owners of Honda and Toyota vehicles advising them they can receive a free forensic kit from their dealer to try and deal with those thefts. Motor homes had also been targeted with advice being given to owners locally, as well as theft from vehicles and homes. On a positive note, he had attended a meeting with West Midlands Police in respect of the Commonwealth Games and in particular the cycling which will see participants come through South Staffordshire in August 2022.
- g) Resident from Apse Close – the resident explained she was there to represent 3 other residents who also lived in Apse Close to complain about the unmaintained trees on the land behind them. She said the residents were concerned that the trees sway in high winds and are at risk of coming down. Councillor Barry Bond responded to advise he had been liaising with South Staffordshire Council on this matter who had found out that the owner of the land in question was Peak Properties who no longer exist. Unfortunately, despite popular opinion, the land does not automatically fall into the responsibility of the Council or the Crown, and therefore at present the matter is a civil one with it being left to the residents to deal with. He explained there was a new Solicitor joining the District Council soon who had property experience so if they were able to provide any further advice, he would let the residents know.
- h) Resident from Wombourne Park – the resident explained he wanted to pay tribute to Councillor Reg Williams, he said he had served with him on different councils over many years and had been a member of the Scientific Society with him and wanted to note that always helpful.

46/21 – Approval of Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

47/21 – Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation meetings held on 12th July, 19th July, 28th July, 4th August, 12th August, 19th August, 25th August and 2nd September 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 19th July 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th July 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

48/21 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Alan Peace informed Members the committee met on 3rd August 2021 which was their first face to face meeting since the pandemic lock down.

A donation of £1010 had been received from Pat Fieldhouse in memory of her husband Ben. A grant of £250 had been given out to the Wombourne BKV. A new group “Friendly Faces” for people on their own due to meet in the Community Centre was given a grant of £300 to enable them to get started. Up to £1,512 was committed for the Wombourne Village Hall.

The treasurer reported that the finances are very healthy with a balance presently of £84,355.34.

A piece was being put in the next edition of the Grapevine magazine to provide residents with information about the WDCA and what it does.

Debbie Peace agreed to assist with the production of the directory of local groups.

The AGM is planned to be held on 25th September or 5th October hopefully in the Civic Centre.

Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee – Councillor Alan Peace informed Members whilst no group events had been set up, individuals were still out litter picking in the village.

Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members that the District council have now put in place a backup plan so that police matters do not stop when one person is not available, we now have a contact for reporting dispersal orders and matters of concern from residents. The Police are continuing to observe all parks and have taken onboard speeding matters in various locations in village. Councillor Merrick explained he now visits the police office with any direct complaints, and he had organised a police and river trust patrol along our stretch of canals.

49/21 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

- a) It was **RESOVLED** that the finances for July and August 2021 be authorised.

50/21 – Planning and Development Responses

Members noted the responses.

51/21 – Casual vacancies

Members noted that there were two casual vacancies currently advertised in North and South East Ward.

52/21 – High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation Events

Councillor Daisy Tait reported that two High Street Events had taken place so far this summer, one in July themed around music and one in August themed around heroes. Both events had been well attended, despite

the rain in August, and there had been numerous positive comments from both attendees and retailers on the crowd levels and how much they enjoyed the day.

Councillor Dan Kinsey asked what the response had been from local businesses, with Councillor Daisy Tait advising it had been positive, with many seeing an increase in trade.

Councillor Alan Peace congratulated the Clerk, Parish Council and those Members who had been involved in the events and supported the fact there had been many positive comments, particularly on social media. He did however express his disappointment, that in July 2020 South Staffordshire District Council granted planning permission for a new Lidl supermarket in Wombourne, and despite concerns about the impact of the new development to retailers and the lack of public consultation on the matter, only one District Member spoke against the development and neither District Councillors on the Planning Committee voted against the development.

Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Councillor Peace representations were made about the public consultation on the matter and several District Members pursued the District Council on the matter noting it was a concern. Councillor Barry Bond reminded Members of his concern around the development of Sainsburys Supermarket, and advised he was strongly opposed to the recently approved plans for Lidl Supermarket, explaining he accepted the current units were not fit for purpose, but they should have replaced with modern units. Despite attending the South Staffordshire Council Planning Meeting straight from several days in hospital, he did try to get agreement for a condition on the application for some rejuvenation of the High Streets in Wombourne. He noted he was unable to vote against the development since no sound planning reason for doing so could be given.

53/21 – Correspondence

- a) Home Instead – wear it pink day on Friday 22nd October 2021 encouraging local businesses to wear pink in the fight against breast cancer.
- b) Friendly Faces – unfortunately the founder Sarah Slater was meant to be in attendance to give an update, but due to unforeseen circumstances was unable to make it. She had sent a reminder that their grand opening was Friday 17th September, and she would appreciate the support of as many Members as possible.

54/21 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
 - i. 8th July 2021 – he joined the Speed Watch team for their first outing, they thankfully did not find many, and people visibly slowed down upon seeing them. He looked forward to the next outing of the group.
 - ii. 23rd July 2021 – he led BKV team tidy up in Common Road noting lots of new volunteers assisting which was excellent.
 - iii. 24th July 2021 and 21st August – he attended the 1st and 2nd High Street Events supporting local businesses who had joined in on the day.
 - iv. 20th and 27th August 2021 – he attended the Friendly Faces Café and encouraged more Members to attend if they are able.
 - v. 27th August 2021 – he judged the Wombourne in Bloom Competition.
 - vi. 6th September 2021 – he attended the funeral of Councillor Reg Williams, noting it was well attended and a fitting tribute to Reg’s life and long public service.
 - vii. 7th September 2021 – he attended the funeral of Councillor Brian Edwards.
 - viii. 11th September 2021 – he attended the third anniversary gathering for Peony Lane.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** the next date for the Full Council Meeting would be Monday 11th September 2021.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** the dates for the Committee Meetings would be:
 - i. Civic Centre Management Committee – Monday 20th September 2021 at 7pm

- ii. Planning and Development Committee – Monday 20th September 2021 immediately following Civic Centre Management Committee.
- iii. Recreation and Amenities Committee – Monday 27th September 2021 at 7pm
- iv. Finance and General Purposes Committee – Monday 27th September 2021 immediately following Recreation and Amenities Committee
- v. High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation Committee – Monday 4th October 2021

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed: **Dated:**