



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 5th July 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, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey (Chair), Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, John Pike (Vice-Chair), Robert Reade, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait, Ken Upton, Reg Williams.

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: None

32/21 – Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Cheryl Davies, Alan Hinton, and Alan Peace.

33/21 – Declarations of Interest

Both Councillors Mary Roberts and Dan Kinsey noted they were members of BKV Committee, with Councillor Mary Roberts also noting she is also a member of Wombourne Carnival.

34/21 – Public Participation

No members of the public were present. The Chairman noted the Clerk had issued the latest Police report earlier in the afternoon and encouraged Members to read it.

35/21 – Approval of Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

36/21 – Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation meeting held on 21st June 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 Civic Centre Management Committee meeting held on 21st June 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 Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th June 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28th June 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

37/21 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee - Councillor Mary Roberts advised Members an informal meeting was held on Thursday 24th June with 14 people attending. Several of the committee members did not feel they could sit through a meeting with their masks on the whole time and as a result the meeting was held in the car park. Simon Williams (Chairman) went over the various activities that have taken place this year, ranging from litter picking, clearing road edges, widening footpaths, and painting the railings at Brickbridge Playing Fields. The success of the Litter Patrollers was acknowledged with Alison Brasier Creagh advising there are still 25 children on a reserve list. Special thanks went to Mani from GM Home Discounts for supplying the litter pickers FOC and to Bartlams for the high viz vests etc. In addition, most people who adopted planters last year have continued. Concerns were raised as some planters continue to be vandalised on a regular basis.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme working with BKVC will start again shortly. Simon asked everyone to think of key projects that could be undertaken, both with DofE young people and in general. There was a discussion around wildflower verges and the best positions for these around Wombourne. Cllr Dan Kinsey is to meet with Ryan Taylor from South Staffordshire Council to walk around the Village with him and agreed representatives from BKVC. Simon expressed his thanks to Councillor Mike Davies for his kind donation of £350 which will enable BKVC to purchase a wheeled strimmer. It was also reported that the Spar Recycle scheme has now raised over £4000.

Finally on a sad note Elaine Colbourne advised she has stepped down from her role as Secretary & Treasurer of BKVC. Alison and Simon thanked Elaine for all her hard work over the last 40 years adding that she has been pivotal in where BKVC are today. Simon went on to outline everything Elaine did. Simon suggested that rather than one person to replace Elaine there could be 2 or 3 people, perhaps one being Secretary, one being Treasurer and one helping with the BKVC submissions etc. Simon asked people to think about it and let him know if they wanted to volunteer.

Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members a decision was made by Vicky Bratt (Chairman of Carnival Committee), after consulting with the committee that yet again it was not possible to hold the normal carnival due to current restrictions. Vicky had wanted to hold a small parade on the day to acknowledge the NHS and other superheros.

It was the opinion of some committee members that a Parade would not be appropriate as it would pose too much of a risk by promoting potential social gatherings on the streets and thereby the current social distancing regulations could be compromised. In addition, it was thought that there could be negative public backlash if COVID-19 cases rose in Wombourne following an event. Via Social Media posts Wombourne residents were asked to celebrate at home as they did last year. The theme was “our heroes” and Blakeley Primary School decorated their gates ahead of Sunday. St Benedict’s Primary School also decorated their railings for the Carnival and ‘Thank you Day’.

Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick explained informed Members he had been busy meeting with Ben Adams, David Wain, and their colleagues during the past month. Work is ongoing with local public houses and the Police continue to patrol Brickbridge Playing Fields and new areas of concern including the centre of Wombourne with youths gathering from 10pm-2am on the library car park. Other areas being monitored are various alleyways of concern in relation to drug use, with some good arrests being made.

Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Barry Bond informed Members he did not represent the Parish Council on this Committee, however, since Councillor Alan Peace was absent, he was pleased to provide an update. Councillor Barry Bond explained he represented South Staffordshire Council on the Committee, and at the last meeting, also the AGM an update was given which detailed how the airport was

virtually back to being fully operational again. A lot of traffic had come from people keen to fly to keep their pilots licence up to date. There is quite a lot of business being brought in from the sale of aircraft fuel at present. In September, the usual annual event for veterans will be held with a static spitfire on show, and possibly a fly by. The day is not publicised as a public event, however, the gates will be open for visitors as normal. There is an ongoing planning application for 100 houses on part of the brown field site of the old airfield, which is receiving a lot of resistance from residents. Whilst not in our Parish, Councillor Barry Bond suggested we could comment as a Parish Council via Councillor Alan Peace as our representative. It was agreed the item would be discussed at the next meeting of the Planning and Development Committee.

38/21 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the finances for June 2021 be authorised.

39/21 – Planning and Development Responses

Members noted the responses.

40/21 – Delegated authority for August 2021

Members **RESOLVED** to provide delegated authority to Chairmen of Committees for the August recess.

41/21 – Correspondence

The Clerk outlined correspondence received from residents of Wombrook Court asking for the wildflower area opposite to be cut since it was causing issues with breathing due to having to have windows open because of COVID. Members agreed for the Clerk to write back suggesting the residents write to South Staffordshire Council who maintain the area.

42/21 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
 - i. 12th June 2021 – he continued to assist BKV in painting the fence at Brickbridge Playing Fields, along with Councillors Mary Roberts and Daisy Tait.
 - ii. 19th June 2021 – he assisted with the BKV tidy up of the High Street clearing weeds and debris from Boots down to the old Co-Op shop.
 - iii. 23rd June 2021 – he attended the first face to face meeting of the Speed Watch Group, where the date of their first assignment was agreed.
 - iv. 24th June 2021 – he attended the BKV Committee meeting along with Councillor Mary Roberts. He noted his thanks and best wishes to retiring secretary Elaine Colbourne upon her retirement from BKV.
 - v. 29th June 2021 – he attended the bake sale outside the Civic Centre being run by Home Instead.
 - vi. 3rd July 2021 – he was out and about with Councillor Daisy Tait promoting the High Street initiative getting businesses on board with the concept.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** the next date for the Full Council Meeting would be Monday 6th September 2021.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** the dates for the Committee Meetings would be:
 - i. High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation – Monday 12th July 2021 at 6pm
 - ii. Recreation and Amenities – Monday 19th July 2021 at 7pm
 - iii. Finance and General Purposes Committee – Monday 26th July 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed: **Dated:**