



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 6th December 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, Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey (Chair), Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, John Pike, Robert Reade, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait, Ken Upton

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: 1 member of public and PCSO's Phil Millichap and Rhys Lockley.

The Chairman welcomed all Members and members of the public.

77/21 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Cheryl Davies.

78/21 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Robert Reade declared an interest in planning and other discussions that refers to South Staffordshire Local Plan and the preferred sites. The Chairman noted he was a member of the BKV Committee and Santa Sleigh Committee. Councillors Alan Peace and Mary Roberts noted they were members of the BKV Committee, Wombourne Community and District Association and Santa Sleigh Committee.

79/21 – Public Participation

- a) PCSO Rhys Lockley informed Members he had been working in Wombourne for 5 weeks showing PCSO Phil Millichap the ropes, as he had only been in post for 5 days. He provided a summary of the incidents in the village, including 7 incidents of theft, 4 of anti social behaviour, and 16 suspicious incidents. He asked for volunteers for the speed watch initiative, to which the Chairman reminded him there was already an established group set up of which he was a member, and the team are already out working on the initiative. Councillor Mary Roberts explained she had received some complaints of public houses being open until 3am and asked if this could be investigated. PCOS Rhys Lockley explained there was an operation ongoing at present which could encompass those checks.
- b) Resident from Apse Close – The resident explained he had taken the time to read the Parish Council's 62 page response to the Local Plan, and wished to commend Members and Officers for the time and effort that had gone into the response. He was concerned that there were still newspaper articles going out suggesting brownfield sites in the Black Country were available and wanted to ensure that South Staffordshire Council's planners were keeping an eye on those. The Chairman thanked the resident for his feedback and assured him the planners were always keeping a watching brief over numbers given the Duty to Cooperate.

80/21 – Approval of Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Councillor Robert Reade left the room at 7.31pm.

81/21 – Local Plan

Councillor Alan Peace assumed all Members having already received a copy of the Planning and Development Committee's proposed response to the Local Plan had read it. He paid tribute to both Members and the Clerk for the time and effort put into the response. Councillor Peace proposed that the response be adopted to send to South Staffordshire Council, Councillor Mary Roberts seconded the proposal and all Members were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the response to the Local Plan be formally issued to South Staffordshire Council.

Councillor Robert Reade entered the room at 7.38pm.

82/21 – Reports from Committees

- a) Councillor Barry Bond presented a short report on the Civic Centre Management Committee meeting held on 29th November 2021. He informed Members that roof repairs started last week up to a maximum of 6 weeks. A quotation had been agreed to remove the tree in the bungalow however, planning permission was first required. An outdoor carol concert will take place this Thursday 9th December in place of the usual indoor event. A request from High Flyers to use the car park as a drop off and pick up point for members had been agreed. The budget wishlist will be finalised as part of the budget in the new year. There had been an issue with the bar at a function last Saturday, where Plyvine hadn't intended to send any staff due to inclement weather, however, the Clerk had contacted them and within an hour they sent staff.
- b) Councillor Alan Peace presented a short report on the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 15th November and 1st December 2021. He informed Members he had had to give his apologies for 15th November 2021 and therefore Councillor Dan Kinsey chaired the meeting. 45 members of the public were in attendance. The Committee agreed at the meeting to form a working party to formulate a response to the Local Plan, and Councillor Peace once again thanked Members and the Clerk for the time and effort in drafting the response. At the meeting on 1st December, disappointingly only 1 member of the public was present, however, the Committee approved the response to the Local Plan which has now been approved by Full Council.
- c) Councillor Ken Upton presented a short report on the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2021. He reminded Members this was not the usual format of Committee Meetings but an open session for residents living in homes surrounding Brickbridge Playing Fields. He explained the meeting was very productive, with good back and forth conversation amongst residents and Members, noting all views would be taken into consideration when deciding on the future lease of the playing fields.
- d) Councillor Mary Roberts presented a short report on the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting which took place on 29th November 2021. She informed Members it had been agreed they had never seen so many residents attend a Christmas Light Switch On Event and thanked the Clerk for her efforts in organising the event and proactively advertising it on social media. One message had been received complaining about the fireworks, but overall the feedback had been excellent. Unfortunately the window in the ladies toilets in the village had been broken, so a new one had to be fitted. It was agreed next year more marshals would be required at the time of the fireworks being let off as there had

been some issues with children trying to access the firing site. Councillor Roberts explained only one response had been forthcoming about the Jubilee in 2022, however, the Committee had considered a proposal from Dangerous Sheep Events and enquiries were being made about holding an outdoor event on the bank holiday Friday, and an evening event on the Saturday. Members had agreed to promote a stay at home garden party similar to VE day on the Sunday. Councillor Martin Perry had agreed to act as liaison with South Staffordshire Council for their Climate Change Festival in 2022. Members had agreed to purchase one final tin of paint for the gates at Brickbridge Playing Fields. 11 policies and procedures had been approved.

Councillor Claire McIlvenna asked to be involved in the Climate Change Festival Event alongside Councillor Martin Perry. It was agreed he would keep Councillor McIlvenna informed on the matter.

- e) Councillor Daisy Tait presented a short report on the High Street Recovery & Rejuvenation Committee explaining the meeting on 29th November 2021. She informed Members their last High Street event of 2021 had taken place on 4th December 2021 which had coincided with Small Business Saturday. The Parish Council employed 3 silly elves and Got 2 Sing choir to perform on the day. A reindeer trail proved popular with 27 shops taking part and over 65 children entering. A craft fayre was held in the Council Chamber which also proved popular. Councillor Tait thanked volunteers from the Santa Sleigh Committee for allowing the sleigh to be used as part of the event for 2 hours.

Councillors Martin Perry and Mary Roberts congratulated Councillor Daisy Tait for her efforts in organising the event, noting it had proved very popular with families.

83/21 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Alan Peace had provided a written report for Members which detailed that the AGM of the WDCA was held in the Allen memorial Hall on Thursday 2nd December.

Thirty eight people representing various organisations in Wombourne attended the AGM with informal cheese and wine to follow. Marlene Longman's Chairman's report outlined what the WDCA had been involved in during the past two years as no AGM was held in 2020 because of the pandemic.

She paid tribute in her report to the work of the Community Assistance group during the time of the Covid 19 lockdown and the number of volunteers who came forward during that time to distribute flyers to every house, do shopping for vulnerable residents as well as generally keeping an eye out for them with regular contact by telephone.

The trust fund of the WDCA was given a considerable boost with a donation of over £34,000 from the Friends of the Bratch Pumping Station which had unfortunately disbanded. Generous donations were also received from the Wombourne Advisory Committee and individual residents all with the stipulation that the monies be used for the benefit of the village and not for national causes. The WDCA was able to give out grants to a number of local groups to help them cope with the covid restrictions and to put things in place to assist them in start up activities.

Following the Sedgley and Wombourne Rotary Club handing over the Santa Sleigh to the WDCA a sub group of WDCA volunteers led by Vicky Bratt had been established and had stripped back, repainted and re-badged the sleigh in readiness for this Christmas tour of the village.

The executive committee all agreed to continue and were voted back into office.

The date for the 2022 AGM was provisionally agreed for the 21st July.

- a) **Police Liaison** – Councillor Vince Merrick informed Members that there was an operation ongoing currently (Operation Cratchett) in relation to drink and drug driving which would be ongoing during the festive period. He informed Members the Chief Inspector would like to attend one of our Full Council meetings. Councillor Merrick suggested the Parish Council should seek to request more CCTV in the village which he believes the Chief Inspector would support.

Councillor Barry Bond informed Members CCTV hadn't been taken away from Wombourne, it was now just re-located in different areas, and was available in real time for offices to view. He suggested CCTV doesn't always catch culprits since they just cover their faces with hoods and masks.

Councillors Mark Evans and Robert Reade whilst agreeing with Councillor Bond that it doesn't always lead to convictions, suggested they supported more CCTV in the village to act as a deterrent.

84/21 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

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

85/21 – Planning and Development Responses

Members noted the responses.

86/21 – Correspondence

- a) Request from a resident in Apse Close for assistance in appointing legal representation from South Staffordshire Council to establish the landowner for an unmaintained piece of land adjacent to their property. The Clerk informed Members she would respond to the resident, and from initial enquiries the Parish Council were unable to act as an intermediary in appointing South Staffordshire Council's legal services team.

87/21 – Chairman's Business

- a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
- i. 14th November 2021 he attended the outdoor service at St Benedict Biscop for Remembrance Sunday.
 - ii. 21st November 2021 he attended a BKV event to clear leaves from along the High Street and moving bags of leaves already collected to a better location for the hiab.
 - iii. 26th November 2021 he hosted the Christmas Light Switch On, which he noted was very well ended with everyone enjoying the fireworks, mince pies and the fair. He had subsequently spoken to a resident from Kinver who commented how she always attended our light switch on event as it was much better than others.
 - iv. 3rd December 2021 he judged the Best Dressed Christmas window along with Vice Chairman, Councillor John Pike. The winner was Peony Lane supported by Fierce Hairdressing, in second place was Blush and highly commended were Bella Amore, No8 Organic Beauty and Wombourne Fish Bar.
 - v. 4th December 2021 he visited shops for Small Business Saturday and the High Street Event, he had photos with several Members which was appreciated by retailers. He also attended the Panto at the Civic Centre which he noted was enjoyed by all.
 - vi. He thanked the Vice Chairman for standing him for him on 2nd December 2021 at the WCDA AGM.

Councillor Robert Reade congratulated the Chairman for the time and effort he takes to carry out his role and for all of his hard work in representing the Parish Council so well.

- b) It was **RESOLVED** the next date for the Full Council Meeting would be Monday 17th January 2022.

- c) It was **RESOLVED** the date for the Budget and Precept Meeting would be Monday 10th January 2022.
- d) It was noted the Parish Council office would be closed from midday on 23rd December until 8.30am on 4th January 2022.

Signed: **Dated:**