



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Monday 7th June 2021** at 7.15pm

This meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, Wombourne, WV5 9HA.

Present -

Councillors: Barry Bond, Mike Davies, Dan Kinsey (Chair), Claire McIlvenna, Vince Merrick, John Pike (Vice-Chair), Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait, Ken Upton, Reg Williams.

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Public: PCSO Alex Rathbone

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since March 2020. He noted whilst it felt surreal, it was good to see everyone. Members noted Councillor Alan Peace was absent from the meeting as he was on his mammoth walk of the South West Coast, and today he had reached Lands End.

17/21 – Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Cheryl Davies, Alan Hinton, Elizabeth Keeling, Alan Peace and Robert Reade.

18/21 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mike Davies declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 21/00469/FUL. Both Councillors Mary Roberts and Dan Kinsey noted they were members of BKV Committee.

19/21 – Risk Assessment

It was **RESOLVED** that the Risk Assessment for face-to-face meetings be approved.

20/21 – Public Participation

PCSO Alex Rathbone was in attendance to provide an update for the month. She provided a crime report which included information on vehicle crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour, and positive news.

21/21 – Approval of Minutes

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 4th May 2021 having previously been distributed be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

22/21 – Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

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

23/21 – Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Alan Peace provided a written report for the meeting which noted that the Association met on 10th May 2021 where the Committee agreed their finances were in a healthy position with £4640 being held in the local bank account, £34,445 invested and £49,909 with NS&I. The Chairman will be submitting a piece to Grapevine Magazine informing people of what the group do, where grants have been given and what they have been used for. A £1500 grant had been given to the Village Hall to enable work to be carried out to improve the building and its surroundings. The proposed welcome pack for new homeowners in the village is being progressed further. The AGM is scheduled for 1st July 2021.
- b) Wombourne Retailers – Councillor Daisy Tait explained in her new role as Wombourne Retailers Liaison she had visited many of the non-essential retailers accompanied by the Chairman, to speak to staff about the challenges they have faced over the past 12 months. It has been a time of great concern and uncertainty for them all. The District Council has and will continue to provide a broad range of support and grants to aid recovery and create a stronger, more vibrant South Staffordshire. Wombourne Retailers have worked tirelessly to ensure they are trading safely following the COVID related law and restrictions during the various lock downs and tier systems. Monitoring visits have been carried out by the District Councils Environmental Health and Licensing Team who have found good compliance in our businesses. Staying connected and keeping the communication with our businesses at this time has helped to identify additional support needed. Many of the retailers enjoy friendly relationships with one another and regularly liaise on an informal basis via WhatsApp. New businesses join and engage on a range of interests, supporting fellow traders. Councillor Tait explained she had joined the group with the aim of continuing the Parish Council's strong links with the retailers, and it was in our village and Council's interests to re-establish the former Wombourne Independent Retailers Group. She noted her enthusiasm for working more closely with the valued High Street and village traders in organising a series of events over the summer to rejuvenate our village.
- c) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick explained he had met with the Chief Inspector and had spoken to every shift Sergeant for Wombourne to set out the information the Council would like to see in the future, including the total number of stop and searches. He expects information to be broken down into 4 areas so that Members can clearly see the crime hot spots in their Wards. His next meeting will take place in July. He urged Members to report any crime and anti-social behaviour to him so that he can feed it back to the local Policing Team.

24/21 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the payments for April and May 2021 be authorised.

25/21 – Internal Audit Report 2020/2021

Members noted the report and its contents.

26/21 – Annual Return and Governance Statements (AGAR) 2020/2021

- a) Members noted the Annual Internal Audit Report contained in the AGAR.
- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 (answering yes to 1-8 and N/A to 9).
- c) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements 2020/2021.
- d) Members noted the dates for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounting records to be 9th June 2021 to 20th July 2021.

Councillor Mary Roberts thanked the Clerk for her hard work in preparing for the audit and for another good internal audit assessment.

27/21 – Planning and Development Responses

Members noted the responses.

28/21 – Sub-Committee to Finance and General Purposes for the rejuvenation of High Streets

Members **RESOLVED** the formation of a Sub-Committee to include Councillors Barry Bond, Dan Kinsey, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait, and representatives from the Retailers Group.

29/21 – Outside Bodies

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Representation on Outside Bodies Policy and the Outside Bodies Remits document.

30/21 – Correspondence

None.

31/21 – Chairman’s Business

- a) The Chairman gave a breakdown of his whereabouts as follows:
 - i. 8th May 2021 – he attended the Parlour (formally Beau) on their first day of trading, and also attended The Ravens Nest Antique Centre to welcome them to the village. He noted they were a great addition to the retail offering in the village and they appreciated his support.
 - ii. 5th June 2021 – he continued to assist BKV in the painting of the fence to Brickbridge Lane Playing Fields along with Councillors Mary Roberts and Daisy Tait. He also received his first vaccine and encouraged others via social media posts too.
 - iii. He had continued to visit retailers each week to welcome them back and to listen to their concerns.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** the next date for the Full Council Meeting would be Monday 5th July 2021.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** the dates for the Committee Meetings would be:
 - i. Civic Centre Management Committee – Monday 21st June 2021
 - ii. Recreation and Amenities Committee – Monday 28th June 2021
 - iii. Finance and General Purposes Committee – Monday 28th June 2021

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed:

Dated: