



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sub-Committee of Finance and General Purposes High Street Recovery and Rejuvenation Committee Meeting

held on **Wednesday 25th August 2021** at 5pm

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

Present -

Councillors: Barry Bond MBE (left at 6.40pm), Dan Kinsey, Mary Roberts, Daisy Tait

Retailors: None

Clerk: Rachael Wright

77/21 – Apologies

None.

78/21 – Declarations of interest

None.

79/21 – Matters arising from the meeting of 19th August 2021

None.

80/21 – Evaluation of 21st August 2021 event

The Chairman advised despite all acts except the Stormtrooper pulling out due to the weather and therefore the event not being what we wanted or had planned, she was glad that it went ahead given the number of children who came out with their parents to complete the trail, which exceeded all expectations. Some members of Got 2 Sing who had not received the message they had pulled out, turned up and would have been happy to sing. The retailers all really enjoyed the event, with some great feedback on the retailers WhatsApp group including comments such how it didn't feel like a working day and how they were looking forward to the next event. Taylors Greengrocers advised they had new customers in their shop and had commented they had been enjoying joining in with fancy dress for the themes. An employee from the Co-Op funeral care had also commented whilst they did not take part, they thought the village seemed busier than usual. The Railway Café had asked they are visited next time they participate and lots of retailers had been asking what was happening once the 3 summer events had taken place. Providence Engraving had joined the retailers WhatsApp group so perhaps could act as liaison for the shops on Common Road.

Members agreed that with the Kingsway scarecrow trail in October, the Christmas Light Switch on in November and Small Business Saturday in December there would still be one event per month going forward.

Members agreed to wait until the final event before sending a report to South Staffordshire Council.

81/21 – Feedback from the event

There had been lots of positive comments from parents collecting trail prizes for children, with one lady commenting although she had lived in the village all her life, she saw it from a different perspective when doing the trail with her grandson. Most people who completed the trail heard about the event via Facebook. The Clerk had shared the Parish Council's summary post on the event to the Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Page which had received 85 likes and 11 comments.

82/21 – Panto tickets

The Clerk confirmed 132 tickets (of 200) had been sold to date. If there were any left, Members would sell them at the next event on 18th September 2021.

83/21 – Effectiveness of locations for footfall

Only HQ had been used (outside old Lloyds Bank) for the event, however, this was effective as it gave you a wide view of most areas of the village. Members agreed locations were limited, but the ones they had earmarked including Maypole and outside URC provided a good central space for what was required.

84/21 – Superhero Trail

The Clerk confirmed 48 sheets were given out, and 35 handed back in either at HQ or posted through the letterbox at the Civic Centre. 13 children got full marks so had received a 'main prize' which included a book, DVD, or soft toy, along with a colouring book, some pencils and either a hair accessory for girls or a stick man for boys. The 22 other children who took part were all given a large bag of Haribo sweets. Feedback on the prizes was excellent with parents appreciating the effort gone to, to reward the children.

85/21 – 18th September 2021 event and Craft Fayre

Members agreed to extend the number of tables from 10 to 12 at the craft fayre with the Clerk advising with the reserve list they would all be taken. Set up in the Council Chamber would be from 10am with the event from 11am to 3pm.

Confirmed acts were- Wombourne School of Music, Belle and Tinkerbell, Karen McKee, Wombourne High School, Sophie Elizabeth Dance School and Paul Maddox. Members asked the Clerk to invite Sam Morgan again. The Clerk advised she had asked Simon Keeling as a storyteller, but he was unavailable. She had also asked Vik Moriarty who was thinking about it and had offered to contact a local author who had performed at the Carnival a couple of years ago. The Chairman agreed to ask Alison Brasier-Creagh. The Clerk advised she had contacted Adam Starr who was a local gentleman, who had recently held a birthday party at the Civic Centre and worked in theatre to see if he would be interested in getting involved. Members agreed for the Clerk to see if there were any more princess impersonators available.

It was agreed another trail would be held as it was pretty low maintenance and the children all seemed to enjoy it, they will be given a free pencil again for taking part. Members also agreed to advertise for children to attend in fancy dress, but rather than hold a competition, for them to report to HQ for a photo where they would be given a bookmark as a memento from the day and for taking part.

Members agreed to purchase 2 gazebos to offer extra protection on the day.

86/21 – Common Road event

Members agreed to hold a Halloween event in Common Road on Saturday 30th October 2021.

87/21 – Advertising

Members agreed the £15 spent on the Facebook ad had been well worthwhile given the number of children who turned out for it. It was agreed to spend more on Facebook advertising next time and perhaps start the adverts two weeks before the event rather than just the week of it.

Members asked the Clerk to email the Primary Schools in Wombourne to let them know about the events on 18th September and 30th October.

88/21 – Costings

The Clerk informed Members £1335.25 had been spent to date. A commitment of £300 had been made for Every Little Dream for the next event. Pencils, prizes, and bookmarks would also need to be purchased.

89/21 – Date of the next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would take place on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 5.15pm.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed:

Dated: