



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021** at 6.45pm

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

#### **Present – Committee Members-**

Councillors: Mike Davies, Dan Kinsey, Claire McIlvenna, Alan Peace (Vice-Chairman) -arrived 6.46pm, John Pike Mary Roberts, Ken Upton (Chairman).

#### **Present – Non-Committee Members-**

Councillor(s):

Clerk: Rachael Wright

#### **36/21 – Apologies**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Barry Bond, Cheryl Davies and Daisy Tait.

#### **37/21 – Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **38/21 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

#### **39/21 – Matters arising from the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

None.

#### **40/21 – Poolhouse Play Area**

No issues reported by the Park Warden or residents.

#### **41/21 – Bratch Park**

The Clerk informed Members the repairs to the surface around the trampoline were outstanding, and another resident had complained about the surface. She would follow up with the contractor to secure a date for the work to be completed.

#### **42/21 – Brickbridge Playing Fields**

- a) Defibrillator – the Chairman noted the defibrillator had been fitted and he would provide an update to Members at the next Full Council meeting.
- b) CCTV – Councillor Dan Kinsey informed Members that the installer had got on top of his own work now so would start work on the camera soon. He explained he had been contacted by Wombourne All Stars advising they were worried about the lack of CCTV in the area where the defibrillator is situated, and suggesting they could pay for new cameras in that area. He informed Members he had told them to put their proposal in writing for the Committee to consider, but to date nothing had been received.
- c) Badgers – the Clerk explained the badgers had started to destroy the playing fields again, particularly where Wombourne All Stars play. They have marked two junior pitches inside the adult pitch as a temporary solution to enable them to continue playing. Members agreed that as the badgers were a protected species nothing could be done to deter them off the pitches.

- d) Closing times – Members agreed to test the 6pm close time for Brickbridge Playing Fields in March and then make a decision thereafter about adjusting the timings permanently.

**43/12 – ROSPA reports**

The Clerk explained she hadn't reviewed the reports to date due to being on annual leave. The Committee asked the Chairman to review the reports and get any urgent repairs completed using the budget allocated for ROSPA identified repairs.

**44/12 – Lease at Brickbridge Playing Fields**

The Chairman welcomed the club and thanked them for attending. They were given the opportunity to give their views on the future of the playing fields.

- a) Wombourne Wanderers - Matt Cole and Sean Lewis attended on behalf of Wombourne Wanderers. They explained their club had been using Brickbridge Playing Fields since 2014. They have a 22 man squad, 9 of whom now live in Wombourne and 16 were originally from Wombourne or have family living here. Their youngest player is 21 and their oldest player is 41. They both feel the facility should remain in its current format due to the size of the village and needing somewhere for locals to play football. In particular, they noted the importance of being able to play once lockdown restrictions lifted in particular for their own mental health. They informed Members that Wombourne Pool Bar sponsor them, and they tend to use their facilities after matches to have further links with Wombourne businesses. They applauded the Parish Warden for his efforts in keeping the facilities so well maintained, and both agreed there was a real buzz at the playing fields when both they and Wombourne All Stars play, and it was fantastic to see so many young children playing football through Wombourne All Stars. They agreed they would be willing to work in partnership with others to ensure they could continue to use the pitches in their current form.
- b) Wombourne All Stars – Jon Bunce, Steve Carter, Catherine Furnival, Darryl Smith and Rob Winnall attended on behalf of Wombourne All Stars. Rob talked Members through a PowerPoint presentation he had prepared. He explained the club was founded in 2020 by Darryl Smith as the only option prior to this for children to play competitively had been outside of Wombourne. They now had 17 teams including 3 open age teams and girls teams, with 150 children playing football every week. The club have their own Code of Conduct, a Committee of 11 and all of their volunteer coaches are FA qualified including coaching and first aid. He explained how they were extremely community minded supporting Duke of Edinburgh students, raising money for new kit, having a defibrillator installed for community use, and their plans in the future for the donation of used football boots for re-sale at a fraction of their original price for dis-advantaged children in the community. He also set out their vision for the future to include expanding the car park, updating the changing room facilities, having refreshments for sale, painting the fences, installing park benches, dog poo bins and installing steps down the banks. He ended by informing Members that they didn't just want their home pitch to remain at the playing fields, they needed it to be there.

**The meeting closed at 8.10pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....