



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the GOAL SETTING MEETING**

held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at 7.00pm

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

#### **Present -**

Councillors: Andy Clay, Mike Davies, Mark Evans (Chairman), Ed Hughes, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey, Alan Peace, Martin Perry, Matt Powell, Mary Roberts, Ian Sadler, Daisy Tait

Clerk: Rachael Wright

#### **134/23 – Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE, Jan Evans, and Vince Merrick (Vice-Chairman).

#### **135/23 – Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **136/23 – Goal Setting**

Councillor Mark Evans explained the purpose of the session was to set some goals for the current Council to achieve over the next 4 years.

Councillor Mike Davies raised a point of order in reference to goal setting being in the Council's constitution. Councillor Mark Evans explained it was not in the Standing Orders, however, every successful Council had set goals, and the purpose was to give the Council some direction. He asked everyone if they agreed the Council should set goals and objectives, everyone agreed, except Councillor Mike Davies who abstained from the vote.

#### **Full Council**

Councillor Mark Evans asked the Clerk to provide Members with information about the Local Government Award Scheme. Members agreed that a suitable goal for Full Council would be to achieve this award at some level.

#### **Recreation and Amenities**

Councillor Martin Perry as Chairman of Recreation and Amenities recommended short term goals for his Committee should be updating the external fabric of the changing room building at Brickbridge Playing Fields, as it needs new soffits, guttering and the brickwork needs pointing up. Medium term goals at the site should be to review benches and outdoor seating and the suitability of the car park, and longer term would be a new roof.

Other suggestions made were the maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities, new equipment at Poolhouse Play Area, allotments (specially via S106 funding), and amendments to the public toilets to be used as a base for a Village Orderly.

### Civic Centre Management

Councillor Dan Kinsey as Vice-Chairman of the Civic Centre Committee suggested longer term the Council should be looking to improve the viability of the Civic Centre. This should also include the environmental aspect and efficiency of it, including solar panels, electric charging points on the car park, and power via the water in the brook.

Other suggestions made included maximising revenue via car parking charges and putting more money into marketing the Centre.

### Finance and General Purposes

Councillor Mary Roberts as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended goals for her Committee to be to continue to provide Christmas Lights for the village, and a switch on event, producing a newsletter, a fully accessible website, and promoting local groups which keep residents safe such as Neighbourhood Watch, and Speed Watch.

Other suggestions made included a budgeting for a heritage fund in earmarked reserves, looking into the village becoming a Fairtrade village, and reviewing external contracts with suppliers such as for the bar.

Members discussed the possibility of a detailed community engagement strategy, and the merits of having a Sub-Committee to Finance and General Purposes who would look after village events. They also discussed and agreed it was not possible to set a goal to keep the precept below a certain level or percentage, as this was not good financial management, and in order to grow and develop, and to achieve their goals, there would be an inevitable rise in the precept.

### Planning and Development

Councillor Mike Davies as Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee explained that his Committee was a service level Committee, so their goals should include Members receiving details of planning applications in a timely manner, and also responding in a timely manner. He also suggested one of their goals should be to oppose any inappropriate development in the greenbelt.

Other suggestions made included having a policy for S106 funding and how the Parish Council wished for it to be spent, ensuring developers abide by the permission given (via Planning Officers), and monitoring the performance of the local Planning team and providing feedback. It was noted all new development must include a source of renewable energy.

### Next actions

Members agreed to review the goals in their respective Committee meetings, and again when preparing the 2024/2025 budget, and then to hold a further session to write some mission statements and confirm the goals set.

**137/23 – Chairman’s Closing Remarks**

Councillor Mark Evans thanked Members for engaging so well in the discussion, and agreed the Council was moving forward in the right direction.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.44pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....