



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 13th November 2023** at 7.00pm

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

Present – Committee Members-

Councillors: Mike Davies, Jan Evans (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Matt Powell, Mary Roberts (Chairman)

Present – Non Committee Members-

Councillors: Daisy Tait

Clerk – Rachael Wright

83/23 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE, Mark Evans and Vince Merrick.

84/23 – Declarations of Interest

None.

85/23 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 23rd October 2023

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

86/23 – Matters arising from 23rd October 2023

Councillor Mary Roberts informed Members the next comparison report would contain a high-level comparison of total figures on the last page for their information.

87/23 – Policies

Members approved the Disciplinary Policy, Reserves Policy, Training and Development Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Grievance Policy and the Equal Opportunities Policy.

88/23 – Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Members approved the Risk Assessment and Event Management Plan.

89/23 – Christmas Lights Tender

- a) Members noted that the tender had been published on the Parish Council's website and social media pages and Blachere, Lite, High Level Electrics and Turnock Ltd had been invited to provide a tender.
- b) Members received and approved the tender from Turnock Ltd.

90/23 – Small Business Saturday (Saturday 2nd December)

- a) The Clerk informed Members that 2 performers had been booked. Got 2 Sing Choir, who would perform outside the Methodist Church at 11.30am and The Meritless Rock Band who would perform next to the Maypole at 1pm.
- b) The Clerk informed Members that there were 12 tables available for the Craft Fayre, 10 had already been filled with 2 remaining.

- c) Councillor Daisy Tait informed Members she had received positive feedback from retailers about the Snowman trail, and she would liaise with the Clerk in terms of printing 50 trail sheets. Members agreed for the trail to start at the village hall from 11am where a Breakfast with Santa event would be ending. It was hoped that the children at that event would then participate in the trail. Members agreed that the trail sheets should be posted back to the Civic Centre, and Councillor Daisy Tait would request support from Sainsburys in providing pencils and sweets as prizes. If this was not forthcoming, they agreed the Clerk should request funding from the Chairman's allowance.
- d) Councillor Mary Roberts reported Councillors Ian Sadler, Mike Davies, Alan Peace, Daisy Tait, Martin Perry, Mark Evans, Jan Evans, Dan Kinsey, Elizabeth Keeling and Matt Powell would be taking part in the event, and she would produce a rota for the day to including being in photographs with retailers, handing out trail sheets, supporting the performers, and taking photographs. It was noted the Police had been asked to set up a location on High Street car park for a Belt up Saturday, and the Clerk would follow up on this initiative with them.

91/23 – Fairtrade Village

- a) Members considered the presentation given by Councillor Daisy Tait to Full Council in relation to Wombourne becoming a Fairtrade Village.
- b) Members noted the benefits of becoming a Fairtrade Village were community cohesion and engagement with schools and shops. Awareness of Fairtrade would be raised via school children should the initiative be rolled out into schools.
- c) Members agreed initially the Parish Council should apply to become a Fairtrade organisation, and therefore the only cost involved would be that of the Parish Council office staff in producing a policy around Fairtrade use within the Council.
- d) Minimal support would be required from both Members and Office Staff initially in applying for the Parish Council to become a Fairtrade organisation.
- e) Members agreed it would be useful for Councillor Daisy Tait to attend the Craft Fayre to raise awareness amongst attendees in relation to Fairtrade.
- f) Members agreed no budget would be required in 2024/2025.

92/23 – Funding via Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

- a) Members considered the suggestion from Councillor Vince Merrick at October's Full Council Meeting re applying for funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- b) Members discussed the type of initiatives the fund has supported in the past and asked the Clerk to request further information from Councillor Vince Merrick with regards to the initiatives other Parish Councils have put into place using the funding.

93/23 – Drainage report for Bungalow

- c) Members noted the report and the recommendation in relation to the soak away.
- d) Members agreed not to seek quotations in relation to re-locating the soak away, with consensus that in their experience soak aways do not have a lifeline attached to them.
- e) Members agreed not to include anything in the 2024/2025 budget for re-locating the soak away.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: