



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 23rd October 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), Mark Evans, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Mary Roberts (Chairman)

Acting Clerk – Judith Vasiljevic

73/23 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE and Matt Powell.

74/23 – Declarations of Interest

None.

75/23 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 18th September 2023

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM raised a query with wording in Minute 72/23, 3.2, ii).

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting noting Councillor Dan Kinsey's query would be addressed when the reserves policy was reviewed.

76/23 – Matters arising from 18th September 2023

None.

77/23 – Q2 Comparison report

Members noted the report and Councillor Mike Davies asked if forecasting of an overspend or underspend could be included separately. The Chairman asked the Clerk to action this request for an additional page on the quarterly report.

78/23 – Reserves Policy

Members considered the report from the Clerk together with the up-to-date Q2 comparison report. The Chairman reminded members that whatever was agreed would be referred to when creating the budget. Members discussed the 3 options at length and agreed with the proposal to adopt option 1, but approval was deferred until the reserve policy wording was addressed in line with Councillor Dan Kinsey's query.

79/23 – Christmas Lights Switch On Event

The Clerk advised Members that quotations had been received for pruning back the overgrowth and a contractor had been instructed. The work had now been completed and the Christmas Lights installed. Councillor Mark Evans confirmed two members from High Flyers would be assisting with the Switch On and they were looking forward to attending.

80/23 – 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 and The Mentless Rock Band who would perform next to the Maypole.

- b) The Clerk informed Members that there were 12 tables available for the Craft Fayre, 9 had already been filled and posts had been scheduled to advertise the remaining 3.
- c) The Chairman reported that Councillor Daisy Tait would be organising the trail around the shops and she had received valuable feedback from the retailers who were happy to sign up. This year the theme was Snowmen.

81/23 – Fairtrade Village

- a) Members considered the presentation given by Councillor Daisy Tait to Full Council in relation to Wombourne becoming a Fairtrade Village. Councillor Jan Evans asked if the retailers had been approached to see if they were on board with this idea.
- b) Members were supportive of the endeavour but wanted to know what percentage of retailers were needed to be a Fairtrade Village.
- c) Members were also mindful of the work that may be required from Councillors and Office Staff and agreed that research need to be completed initially to see if retailers were on board before going ahead.

82/23 – Advertising Council Meetings on social media

Members considered the suggestion from a resident that Parish Council meetings should be advertised on the Parish Council’s social media pages and Wombourne Online. Members agreed to advertise meetings on their social media pages. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM reported that the Parish Council has no control over posts on Wombourne Online.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed:

Dated: