



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 9th October 2023** at 7.00pm

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

Present – Committee Members-

Councillors: Ed Hughes, Elizabeth Keeling (Vice-Chairman), Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Martin Perry (Chairman)

Present – Non-Committee Members-

Councillor(s): Alan Peace

Absent without apologies-

Councillors: Andy Clay

Acting Clerk: Judith Vasiljevic

42/23 – Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Evans and Daisy Tait.

43/23 – Declarations of Interest

None.

44/23 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 3rd July 2023

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting as being a true record of the meeting.

45/23– Matters arising from the minutes of 3rd July 2023

None

46/23 – Annual Safety Inspections

Members had all received copies of this year's reports provided by a new inspection company and all agreed that they were very comprehensive reports. The Chairman noted that disabled access was to be considered at all three sites plus maintenance of benches and bins.

Bratch Park – Members reviewed items of a moderate risk, membrane exposed on various equipment due to safety surface being low, basketball post and hoop - surface is worn and hoop needs replacing, some gym equipment - missing bolts and paint work flaking. The Chairman advised Members that the bark areas had already been refilled and this should be looked at annually and raked 1/4ly. Members discussed whether in future composite surfaces could be used in high wear areas which are harder wearing and may save money over time. Cllr Peace reported that the area around the trampoline appeared to be sinking and asked the Clerk to find out when this was previously repaired.

Poolhouse – The Chairman advised Members that the park had been closed on receipt of the inspection report and work had since been undertaken to repair equipment. Sand had been refilled and the tyres and boundary fence replaced. Members agreed vegetation around play area needs clearing.

Brickbridge Playing Fields – The Chairman reported low risk items of missing fixings on Muga and graffiti.

Members discussed contacting the Police regarding maintenance of benches to see if they had teams doing community service who could help paint them. Cllr Kinsey suggested it would be useful to have a list detailing where benches were sited and where they could be placed. Cllr Peace suggested the use of recycled plastic benches if replacing any in the future.

Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain advice from paint specialist on the best product to repaint benches and to arrange for the missing fixings and bolts to be replaced.

47/23 – Lease at Brickbridge Playing Fields

The Chairman informed Members that the lease was still outstanding. An email had been received from solicitors reporting they were awaiting Heads of Terms from South Staffs Council and advising that South Staffs Council said the Parish Council had agreed to pay their legal costs. This had not been agreed. The Chairman requested the Clerk send a follow up email.

48/23 – Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) The Chairman reported that the renovations to the changing rooms had now been completed. Shower cubicles had been replaced and the inside repaired with some heating being included. Work had gone well and favourable comments received from adult football team. There is still work needed to be done on the roof and soffits and when funds available different options for replacing the roof should be looked at which could deter anti-social behaviour.
- b) Members discussed emails received from 2 residents regarding parking around the playing fields, with cars parking on the main road and blocking drives. Members considered extending the car park, line marking and putting up signage around the area.
- c) Members agreed a date of Wednesday, 18th October at 7pm to meet on site and determine the location of the exercise equipment (to be paid for by S106 funding). The Chairman asked the Clerk to advise the groundsman of the meeting for him to attend. The Chairman also asked for the change in lock up time be advertised on social media.

49/23 – Poolhouse Play Area

- a) The Chairman reported the drainage around the nest swing had been completed.
- b) The cross beams, tyres and swings had been repaired or replaced and sand topped up under equipment.
- c) The Chairman informed Members that together with the Clerk they had met with Companies to source quotations for new equipment to be put forward to the Committee at the next meeting in preparation for the 2024/2025 budget.
- d) Members approved the social media post to be agreed between the Clerk and Chairman asking for feedback on the type of equipment residents may wish to see in any new schemes by the Parish Council. Members discussed going into schools to ask children directly what they would like.

50/23 – Bratch Park

- a) The Chairman reported that new bark had been spread out in multi play area and under swings and requested that the Park Warden maintain this.
- b) Members discussed the email received from resident in relation to overgrowth spreading into her garden and attracting vermin. The Chairman reported he had visited the property and vine was spreading badly. He had contacted South Staffs Council who advised him they do an annual shrub prune and this wasn't due until the New Year. If it needed to be looked at earlier, then it is a Parish Council expense. The Chairman asked the Clerk to source a quote for cutting back the overgrowth.

51/23 – Play Area Operational Inspections

Members considered the quotations for operational safety inspections and agreed preference of option i. but as there is no budget for this it would need to be included in the Budget Wishlist.

52/23 – Bulb Planting

Members agreed to purchase Spring bulbs with remaining budget for plants to be planted in the village and to see if this can tie in with Best Kept Village. Members also discussed the possibility of sourcing some free bulbs from garden centres or Woodland Trust.

53/23 – Budget Wishlist

Members agreed for the Clerk to investigate the cost of replacing the roof and soffits at Brickbridge changing rooms with the view to building up funds over coming years to do the work. To investigate pushing land back to increase the size of the carpark at Brickbridge Playing Fields and to obtain quotes for marking it. To look into the cost of bus shelter for Giggety. To consider upgrading the toilet block and employing a Parish Orderly to be based there. Councillor Peace raised the question of accessibility along the Railway Walk as some areas were impassable and questioned whether funding could be sort from District Council. Members agreed for the operational safety inspections to be included in the budget wishlist.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed:

Dated:

