



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 4th March 2024** 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, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry (Chairman), Daisy Tait

Present – Non-Committee Members- Councillor(s): None

Absent without apologies- Councillor(s): Andy Clay

Clerk: Rachael Wright

01/24 – Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Evans.

02/24 – Declarations of Interest

None.

03/24 – Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 6th November 2023

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

04/24– Matters arising from the minutes of 6th November 2023

None

05/24 – Lease at Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) Members considered the Heads of Terms and asked the Clerk to raise the following points from the list of terms:
 - i. 1) The area is not 8,931 acres
 - ii. 2) South Staffordshire Council have agreed to cover their own legal fees
 - iii. 8) What are reasonable costs? More information is required
- b) The Parish Council wish to ensure sub-letting is available in the lease. They also wish to query the maintenance costs (in particular grass cutting) as their understanding is that South Staffordshire Council have agreed to cover these costs for another Parish Council when renewing their lease on a playing field.

06/24 – Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) Members noted the electricity contract was renewed for 12 months with Pozitive Energy.
- b) The Chairman informed Members following their site meeting last year, they had agreed to site the exercise equipment at the far left corner of the playing fields, near some drainage. They were now waiting to meet the contractor on site ahead of the installation for final confirmation of its location.

07/24 – Wombourne Allstars

- a) Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed Members he had had an informal meeting with Wombourne Allstars, at their request, to discuss their future and in particular their search for a permanent home. He explained the team are looking for a ground they can develop, including training pitches, out-buildings and a club house, something similar to the set up Kewford Eagles Football Club have. At this stage they are unable to grow any bigger, as they have exhausted the pitches that are available to hire. They wish to extend further, particularly in girls’ football. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM explained they are interested in seeing what terms they could be given under the new lease between the Parish Council and South Staffordshire Council at Brickbridge Playing Fields, but do realise that ultimately it needs to remain a public open space and, therefore, it’s unlikely they will achieve their long term goals at that location.
- b) Members agreed to a statement being written in support of Wombourne Allstars trying to achieve their own facilities, which will be signed off by Full Council.

08/24 – Poolhouse Play Area

- a) Members noted the application for National Lottery funding was now at its second stage, with only 25% of applications reaching this point in the process. However, to proceed to the next stage, the National Lottery required a lease to be in place from South Staffordshire Council giving the Parish Council the right to install play equipment on their land.
- b) Members agreed to request a formal lease from South Staffordshire Council to install play equipment on their land.
- c) Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the S106 submission for £10,000 funding for Poolhouse Play Area to be put towards the new play scheme.

09/24 – Bratch Park

- a) Members noted Councillor Martin Pery had attended Bratch Park to meet with a resident who had been maintaining a wildflower area there. He had informed him he was unable to continue maintaining it for much longer and wanted support from the Parish Council in the future. Councillor Martin Perry suggested the Committee could consider a Bratch Saturday in the summer to bring volunteers together to complete some maintenance in the park.
- b) Councillor Martin Perry reminded members a large ash tree had to be felled in December due to it posing a danger to members of the public. He had made some enquiries with Ryan Taylor regarding a replacement tree and in particular had asked about their joint venture with the Forest of Mercia. Ryan had informed him he could arrange for some small trees from the scheme to be planted at the park, but they would have to budget for a larger ash tree replacement to be planted next year.

10/24 – Play Area Operational Inspections

Members noted the operational play inspections would take place in May 2024, November 2024 and February 2025 with the annual inspection taking place in August 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.38pm.

Signed:

Dated: