



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 29th July 2024 at 7.00pm

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

Present -

Councillors: Mike Davies, Jan Evans, Mark Evans, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick (Chairman) Alan Peace, Martin Perry (Vice-Chairman), Matt Powell, Mary Roberts, Ian Sadler

Absent without apologies – None

Clerk: Rachael Wright

113/24 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE, Andy Clay, Ed Hughes and Daisy Tait.

114/24 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM noted he was a Trustee of Wombourne and District Community Association and Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee.

Councillor Mary Roberts noted she was a Member of the Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee, Wombourne Santa Sleigh Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association.

Councillor Martin Perry also noted he was a member of Wombourne and District Community Association.

Councillor Alan Peace noted he was a member of Wombourne and District Community Association, Wombourne Best Kept Village, Wombourne Santa Sleigh, Wombourne Carnival, Wombourne Volunteer Bureau and a Director of South Staffordshire Narrowboat Company.

Councillor Mark Evans noted as Chairman of the Planning Committee at South Staffordshire Council he would keep an open mind in relation to planning applications, so as not to be pre-determined.

115/24 – Wombourne in Bloom

The Chairman presented a trophy to Richard and Debbie, the Landlords of The Bush, Wombourne, as winners of the 2024 Wombourne in Bloom competition.

116/24 – Public Participation

A resident from Apse Close informed members he had raised concerns about the size of vehicles which would be delivering to the building site at Wombourne High School. Craig Davies, the Senior Site Manager from Reds10 attended the November Full Council meeting and answered questions from members and the public. He informed everyone that the delivery of large modular units would take place between 29th July and 19th August. The most recent Newsletter from Reds10 mentioned the site would be ready for delivery of the modules on 24th

September. As this new date is in term time and just before the next Full Council Meeting, the resident explained he wanted to give the Council the heads up, so that consideration could be given if any action needed to be taken. He noted the size of the units would be comparable to a double decker bus on a low loader, commenting 98 of those would be transported along Bill Buns Lane, School Road and Ounsdale Road.

The resident also observed that the Local Plan had not yet been submitted to the Independent Planning Inspector. Nevertheless, two applications had been submitted for 155 new homes in Orton Lane and Poolhouse Road. Taylor Wimpey had also recently held an exhibition outlining their ideas for a further 89 houses on Poolhouse Road. He noted for both applications the Primary Care Network were asking for a contribution of £133k to go towards future improvements. He asked if residents should be informed as a good news story.

He noted that the School Organisation Team had not asked for any funding from either developer and was concerned about the add on effect of the combined extra pupils created by the new homes.

The resident observed he met with the County Council's Highways Officer earlier in the year to discuss the possibility of amending a Traffic Regulation Order, but was told the cost would be high. He followed up the enquiry suggesting that a contribution could be sought from S106 funding towards the cost. He noted his surprise at the response that Highways can only recommend a condition on a planning application that is deemed reasonable and the decision lies with the planners as to whether to impose the conditions the Highway Authority request.

Finally, he asked for a response from the Parish Councillors representing the South Ward in relation to the email he had sent to them regarding the vehicular entrance off Poolhouse Road.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM noted the Education Department likely will not be asking for any contributions from the new developments, as there is not a capacity issue in the Schools in Wombourne. It is likely the catchment areas will adjust to accommodate any additional students. He also noted there was a substantial wishlist of items being requested by Councillors in terms of infrastructure via S106, so any new suggestions would need to be triaged and put into priority with the existing list.

Councillor Mark Evans informed the resident he had attended the Poolhouse Road site in relation to the email regarding vehicular access and considered it safe.

117/24 – Police Report

Unfortunately, there was no-one present from South Staffordshire Police. Members noted the report shared with them earlier in the day.

118/24 – Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management Ltd

Members welcomed Lee Jagger from CCLA, who provided them with some background to CCLA and information regarding their Public Sector Deposit Fund.

He answered questions from members, who thanked him for his comprehensive presentation.

119/24 – Approval of Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 24th June 2024.

120/24 – Reports from Committees

- a) Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM noted the Civic Centre Management Committee had approved the renewal of gas and electricity accounts, albeit the Clerk had immediately changed the electricity account after realising their second choice of supplier had more favourable solar rates, which fed into their plans to request funding for solar panels after agreeing their preferred supplier. Members agreed to monitor self-catered functions and then take a view on whether fees should apply. Civic Centre site improvements were discussed, as well as the bar being open on Carnival Day, which was a success this year and so will become a regular occurrence going forward.
- b) Councillor Mary Roberts informed members the Finance and General Purposes Committee had met and received an update on the Parish Newsletter, which was in its final stages of production. St Bernadettes and Cherry Trees School had been asked to attend the Christmas Lights Switch On and the application had been made to EON for the installation of the lights. The United Reformed Church and St Benedict Biscop Church had agreed to open on Small Business Saturday to house performers. Members had agreed to donate one third of their stock of litter pickers to BKV. There were no volunteers from the Committee to make a scarecrow for the Annual Festival, so assistance would be sought for that. Finally, members reviewed the Clerk's proposal for the investment of funds which would follow later on this agenda.
- c) Councillor Matt Powell informed members the Planning and Development Committee had continued to deal with applications via email, which would be noted later on this agenda.
- d) Councillor Martin Perry informed members the Recreation and Amenities Committee had noted the ongoing lease renewal for Brickbridge Playing Fields. An annual pitch hire fee had been agreed for Wombourne Allstars. Three residents had contacted the Parish Council regarding the shrubs and trees at Brickbridge Playing Fields and the Committee had agreed to request maintenance work from South Staffordshire Council as part of their District Councillors' allowances. The application to the National Lottery for Poolhouse Play Area was ongoing and the final quotation for fencing was pending. The lease for the play area was still outstanding with South Staffordshire Council. Friends of Bratch Park would be meeting on 14th September and the Committee had agreed to the replacement of four bollards and a bin. It had been noted youths were in the park at an unsociable hour, but it was felt this was a one-off incident, rather than an ongoing concern. Finally, the Chairman had agreed to meet a resident, who had put forward an idea in relation to a bike track and sports area in the village to seek more information from him.

121/24 – Report from Staffordshire County Council

Councillor Mike Davies informed members they may be seeing lots of white lines around vehicles in the road. They are marking out pre-repairs to be completed prior to the area being resurfaced next year.

Cabinet members from Staffordshire County Council were considering various options in relation to Wombourne Recycling Centre, which would go to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in due course.

122/24 – Reports from members appointed to Outside Bodies

- a) Wombourne and District Community Association – Councillor Martin Perry noted he was not able to attend the meeting and asked Councillor Alan Peace if he could update members. Councillor Alan Peace declined to provide an update.
- b) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts informed members no meeting had taken place since her last update.
- c) Wombourne Carnival Committee – Councillor Mary Roberts thanked the Chairman, Councillor Jan Evans and other Councillors for their help on the day. 2nd Wombourne Brownies won first place for Best Float, Wombourne Allstars came second and St Benedict Biscop School came third. It was estimated 4,000

people attended the event. The WI had 60 entries into their show, the youngest entrant was 5 years old up to residents in their 80's. The Committee were disappointed in the number of shops participating this year, with 1st place in Best Dressed Window being Taylor Biddle. The Round Oak pulled out the evening before the Carnival, so the Parish Council's bar was the only one open on the day. The inconsistent weather meant crowds of people inside the Civic Centre, but there were no issues to note.

- d) Councillor Mike Davies informed members the Wombourne Charity Trustees meet every 3 months, unless there is an application to be reviewed before the next meeting.
- e) Wombourne Best Kept Village – Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed members that individuals were still working hard across the village, including himself who had spent last Monday cutting the grass along Maypole Street. BKV equipment was being used frequently, which was stored in the shed behind the Village Hall. They were leaning towards becoming carbon neutral with the equipment they are purchasing. Unfortunately, he was still concerned to note that there was no formal structure to the group.
- f) Wombourne Retailers Liaison – Councillor Elizabeth Keeling informed members the Parish Newsletter should be issued soon, which she hoped would help to raise the profile of retailers. She explained herself and Councillor Daisy Tait were still considering the contents of a letter to Barclays Bank. She noted some Councillors had visited the new Lidl development in the last week. She would draft letters to Lidl and Sainsburys regarding assistance with funding projects in Wombourne. Wombourne Fish Bar had been visited and spoken to regarding the volume of litter from their premises in recent weeks.
- g) Police Liaison – Councillor Vince Merrick reminded members Ben Adams would be attending their Full Council meeting in October and any questions members wished to ask must be directed through the Clerk.
- h) Councillor Vince Merrick informed members no meeting had taken place, however there had been a recent cross border operation to remove drug users on the estate.

123/24 – Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members approved the payment schedules for June 2024.

124/24 – Planning Applications

Members noted the responses to planning applications made to South Staffordshire Council in lieu of a meeting.

125/24 – Correspondence

The Clerk informed members she had forwarded an email to them from South Staffordshire Council regarding the Gambling Act 2005 and a Draft Statement of Gambling Principles 2024-2027 for comment no later than 30th August 2024.

126/24 – Scheme of Delegation

Members noted the Scheme of Delegation in place to deal with urgent matters during the recess period.

127/24 – Investment of Funds

- a) Members considered the Clerk's report previously presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee
- b) Members considered the earlier presentation from CCLA
- c) Members **RESOLVED** to open an account with CCLA using their Public Sector Deposit Fund
- d) Members **RESOLVED** to deposit funds as set out in the Clerk's report
- e) Members **RESOLVED** to the Clerk/RFO solely managing the transfer of funds to and from the account as required

- f) Members **RESOLVED** for the main point of contact and signatory to be the Clerk/RFO (Rachael Wright) with the Assistant to the Clerk (Judith Vasiljevic) having like for like access and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee (Councillor Mary Roberts) also having access/authorisation to the account. It was agreed they could authorise the investment into CCLA on behalf of Wombourne Parish Council.

128/24 – Meeting Schedule

- a) The next Full Council meeting will take place on Monday 30th September 2024
- b) Committee meetings will be held as follows:
Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7pm – Planning and Development Committee Meeting – only if required

129/24 – Reminders

- a) Members were reminded of the Parish Council Office hours until the beginning of October 2024
- b) Friends of Bratch Park – 1st meeting to take place on Saturday 14th September 2024 from 10am to 2pm
- c) Tickets for the panto (7th December) and the Dinner Dance (6th December) will go on sale at the end of August/beginning of September 2024.

130/24 – Chairman’s Closing Remarks

Councillor Vince Merrick invited Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM to address members.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed members as Chairman of South Staffordshire Council this year, he was raising funds for his Chairman’s charities of which he had chosen 3 to support – Papyrus, Staffordshire Blood Bikes and South Staffordshire First Responders and would be completing a skydive on Saturday 10th August 2024. He asked members to share his fundraising efforts via his Just Giving page and if they wished to sponsor him they could do so by scanning the QR code on one of his flyers.

Councillor Vince Merrick closed the meeting by congratulating Councillors Martin Perry and Daisy Tait on their forthcoming wedding, sending them best wishes from everyone at the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Signed:

Dated: