



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

held on Monday 30th September 2024 at 7.00pm

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

Present - Councillors: Barry Bond MBE, Alan Peace, Dan Kinsey BEM, Daisy Perry, Ed Hughes, Elizabeth Keeling, Jan Evans, Martin Perry (Vice-Chairman), Mike Davies, Ian Sadler, Mary Roberts, Vince Merrick (Chairman), Matt Powell

Public - 4 members of the public, plus PCSO Lee Mason

Clerk - Rachael Wright

131/24 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Evans.

132/24 - Declarations of Interest

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

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 Daisy Perry noted she was a member of the Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee and Wombourne and District Community Association.

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

133/24 - Public Participation

- A lady who attends Dementia Singing Friends enquired about the Council's plans to establish a 'warm hub' this winter. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM mentioned that Sarah Slater, who runs Friendly Faces, had submitted a request for the Council to review.

- A resident from Apse Close raised concerns regarding the lack of communication with Wombourne Online to correct a post from March 2024 about motorists at red light. Councillor Vince Merrick asked the PCSO to address this.

He also requested updates for residents on changes to bus routes. Councillor Mike Davies agreed to address this. Additionally, he highlighted the lack of representation for residents in South Staffordshire regarding Transport for West Midlands proposals and urged the Council to address this injustice. Councillor Mike Davies agreed to investigate.

- A resident from Brookside Close complained about misleading road signs regarding upcoming road works and suggested the Parish Council should consider his previous suggestion of donating Christmas parcels to the elderly. Councillor Mary Roberts noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would review this suggestion later in the month.

134/24 - Approval of Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 29th July 2024.

135/24 - Report from South Staffordshire Council

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM updated members on recent changes in Cabinet and with the Leader of the Council, congratulating Councillors Mark Evans and Mike Davies on their appointments.

He noted the District Council would celebrate its 50th anniversary and highlighted ongoing maintenance on the council building's roof, along with potential increases in housing targets due to government mandates.

136/24 - Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

- **Wombourne and District Community Association:** Councillor Daisy Perry noted the AGM on 12th September, where existing officers were re-elected and 28 new volunteers were recruited.

- **Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee:** No meeting held

- **Wombourne Carnival Committee:** No meeting held

- **Wombourne Charity Trustees:** No meeting held

- **Wombourne Best Kept Village:** Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM reported that individuals continued to tidy the village despite no formal meetings

- **Wombourne Retailers Liaison:** Councillor Elizabeth Keeling shared the Chairman's visits to celebrate local businesses and acknowledged concerns about potential future vacant shops

- **Police Liaison:** Councillor Vince Merrick informed members about his meeting with Ben Adams, the Police Commissioner and efforts to address poaching along the canal

- **Giggetty Action Group:** Councillor Vince Merrick mentioned he would ask the Clerk to share the minutes from their last meeting. Councillor Mike Davies informed members that Lorraine Fowkes from South Staffordshire Council recently joined him and Vince on a walkabout of the estate, where they engaged with residents, who expressed their concerns to the Councillors.

137/24 - Parish Council Finances and Administration

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments, bank reconciliations, and petty cash for July 2024.

138/24 - Planning Applications

Members noted the submissions made to South Staffordshire Council in lieu of a meeting.

139/24 - Correspondence

A resident requested feedback on the Parking Pilot and enquired about the newsletter publication, as well as feedback on the Ward Walks and the Surgeries. Councillor Vince Merrick agreed to respond.

140/24 - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

Members noted the completion of the audit for 2023/2024. Councillor Mary Roberts thanked the Clerk for her hard work in ensuring another clear audit.

141/24 - Friends of Wombrook

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM proposed Ian Sadler as a member of the Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Mike Davies and unanimously supported by all members.

Councillor Ian Sadler expressed his gratitude for the appointment and shared the Committee's main concerns, including giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, and Japanese knotweed.

142/24 - Meeting Schedule

Members noted the following upcoming meetings:

- a. Full Parish Council Meeting - Monday 28th October 2024
- b. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting - Monday 7th October 2024
- c. Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting - Monday 14th October 2024
- d. Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting - Monday 21st October 2024

143/24 - Reminders

Members noted that tickets for the Cool Yule Dinner Dance and the Panto are now on sale and acts are still being sought for Small Business Saturday on 7th December.

144/24 - Chairman’s Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their hard work, noting his attendance at various meetings with residents, shops and the Police.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM congratulated the Recreation and Amenities Committee Chairman, Councillor Martin Perry, and the Clerk for their efforts in securing a National Lottery Grant for Poolhouse Play Area.

The meeting closed at 7.47pm.

Signed:

Dated: