



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 4th November 2024** 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), Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Martin Perry, Mary Roberts (Chairman), Ian Sadler

Present – Non-Committee Members – N/A

Absent without apologies – None

Clerk – Rachael Wright

62/24 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Evans and Vince Merrick.

63/24 - Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed members he was a Governor at St Bernadette's Primary School.

64/24 - Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 7th October 2024

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

65/24 - Matters arising from 7th October 2024

None

66/24 - Newsletter

Councillor Elizabeth Keeling informed members the newsletter had been distributed with positive feedback being received. Members agreed for the Working Group to put together the next newsletter for distribution in January.

67/24 – Village Centre Improvement Fund

The Clerk informed members grants had been requested for a bus shelter on High Street, picnic benches near to the public toilets in the village centre and for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

68/24 – Chain of Office Policy

Members approved the policy.

69/24 - Christmas Lights Switch On Event (Friday 29th November 2024)

Members noted -

- a) St Bernadette's School Choir will perform.
- b) Two students from Cherry Trees School will attend to turn on the lights.
- c) Paul Maddox will provide the PA system.

- d) Fire Monkey Pyro has been booked for the firework display at a cost of £850.
- e) The Christmas Lights application has been submitted to Eon and has been sent to Staffordshire County Council.
- f) The Risk Assessment and Councillor rota were noted and agreed. It was noted that Councillors Mary Roberts and Alan Peace would be unable to attend and that the Clerk would leave the site immediately after the event.
- g) Members noted the tree housing the end of the lights down Maypole Street had been felled and, therefore, the lights will stop at the lighting column opposite the public toilets, rather than into the junction of Church Road this year.

70/24 - Small Business Saturday (Saturday 7th December 2024)

Members noted that the craft fayre tables had all been sold. They agreed to inform Dudley Building Society they could set up a stall outside the Chamber, if they wish. They also agreed for the Clerk to inform Barclays as a new tenant they could do the same.

71/24 – Parking Outside Schools

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM tabled the idea that the Parish Council host a meeting with Schools and other stakeholders such as the County Council and the Police, to discuss the issue with parking outside Schools to see if a resolution can be found. Members asked the Clerk to write to schools setting out the idea to gauge interest and report back at the next meeting.

72/24 – Banking Hub

Members noted the suggestion from a resident that a Banking Hub should be requested for the village, given there is not a single bank or building society available for residents. Members asked the Clerk to complete the Cash Access Request Form from Link.

73/24 – Reserves Policy

Members approved the Policy subject to an amendment to 3.2 ii to read ‘If General Reserves fall below the target due to approved drawdowns, the Council will restore the balance within the following three years’.

74/24 – Budget Wishlist

Members agree to request the following items for the budget wishlist: Poles for Christmas lighting, Parish badges, two High Street events, business workshops, an event to be held at the Civic Centre (e.g. a ball), costs associated to becoming a Fair Trade Council, walkie talkies, funding for printing and distributions of a newsletter and bleed kits in the defibrillators in the village.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

Signed:

Dated: