



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm

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

**Present** - Councillors: Mike Davies, Elizabeth Keeling, Dan Kinsey BEM, Vince Merrick (Chairman), Alan Peace, Daisy Perry, Martin Perry (Vice-Chairman), Matt Powell, Ian Sadler

**Public** - 4 members of the public

**Acting Clerk** - Judith Vasiljevic

### **14/25 - Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barry Bond MBE, Jan Evans, Mark Evans, Ed Hughes and Mary Roberts.

### **15/25 - Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Daniel Kinsey BEM declared he was a Trustee of Wombourne and District Community Association, a member of Wombourne Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Chairman Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee.

Councillor Daisy Perry noted she was a member of Wombourne and District Community Association.

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

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

Councillor Ian Sadler declared he was a member of Friends of Wombrook.

### **16/25 - Public Participation**

- a) A resident from Apse Close raised his concerns regarding the local bus service. An application to build 123 new homes on land off Pool House Road was submitted in May last year and the developer had suggested rerouting the number 15 bus service. The latest agreed target date for reaching a decision on this application is 25<sup>th</sup> February and County Highways recommended refusal for a number of reasons. They state that the nearest bus stops are located on Planks Lane approximately 700m south-east of the proposed site, the stops are located slightly further away than we would recommend. The resident advised that in the Design Guide for Bus Infrastructure, produced by the County Council it states that The Institute of Highways and Transportation recommend that bus stops should be located such that all premises are located no more than 400m from them. He asked the Parish Council to consider requesting the County Council to be more assertive and to require the provision of a bus service as part of any planning approval for housing developments in this area.

He also asked if Councillor Davies could comment on the discussions the County have had with Transport West Midlands regarding the review of bus service.

He advised another issue regarding buses was that the County Council is responsible for Transport matter. Cannock Chase District Council and Tamworth Borough Council are within the County of Staffordshire. Both are smaller with fewer Councillors than South Staffordshire, however they have representation on the Board of West Midlands Combined authority, which is where the review of bus services will be considered and determined following the current consultation. He asked that a lack of a Councillor from this area be addressed under item 9.

On a different topic he informed members that various reasons had been given for several postponements of fixing potholes in Pool House Road, Ounsdale Road and School Road. Repair work was scheduled to be carried out during October half term, but this had been called off due to the delivery of over 100 wide loads transporting large units to Wombourne High School. Reds 10, the company carrying out construction work at the High School, had advised residents that these deliveries would take place during July or August. The resident asked the Parish Council to consider requesting the County Council for some form of voluntary contribution from Reds 10, as they were a major cause of delays to road repairs.

Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM responded to the resident's request regarding the lack of representation on the Board of West Midlands Combined Authority. He informed the resident that he had spoken to the leader of District Council and written to the Combined Authority. The District Council had informed him that the issue was with the Combined Authority as there was no mechanism for adding in other representation and to go through the County transport team with any issues. He also reported that the developers had taken on board the issues with the bus service and would be asking about the bus routes being rerouted.

- b) A resident from The Longlands expressed her concerns over signage at Mill Lane car park not being in an appropriate position to make people aware it is a Council car park. She did not know this and had received a parking charge notice.

Councillor Vince Merrick, who had already spoken with the resident regarding this matter, advised her concerns had been raised with the Staffordshire County Council and this would be followed up.

- c) A resident from Common Road, who is Chairman of Trustees of Wombourne Institute, informed members of issues with anti-social behaviour at the institute. Windows had been smashed and children had been found inside the building. He also advised, as Church Warden of St Benedict Biscop Church, there had been a problem with a small group of children going into the Church during the day and acting suspiciously.

Councillor Mike Davies asked the resident to speak with him to look at whether the public space protection order could be extended to include this area.

### **17/25 - Approval of Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **18/25 - Report from Staffordshire County Council**

In response to a resident's earlier comments regarding road repairs, Councillor Mike Davies acknowledged that repairs to School Road, Ounsdale Road, Giggetty Lane and other roads in Wombourne had been delayed again, but he confirmed that they would go ahead.

### **19/25 - Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies**

- a) Wombourne and District Community Association - Councillor Daisy Perry informed members that herself and Councillor Martin Perry were unable to attend the meeting, but she would share the minutes when received.
- b) Wolverhampton Business Airport Consultative Committee - The Chairman informed members on behalf of Councillors Roberts that no meeting had taken place.

- c) Wombourne Carnival Committee - The Chairman informed members on behalf of Councillor Roberts that no meeting had taken place.
- d) Wombourne Charity Trustees - Councillor Mike Davies informed members that applications for help to support various residents would be published on social media and to make people aware of this, if they needed help.
- e) Wombourne Best Kept Village Committee - Councillor Alan Peace informed members regular meetings had taken place and this month BKV funds had been increased, particularly through the efforts of Sally Lewis. There had been discussions about the ongoing maintenance of the planters around the village with the Parish Council asked to consider this when 2026/27 budget is being agreed. The Facebook social media platform now had 2,800 followers and has received over 22,000 views. The possibility of the Parish Warden's job to include maintenance of the village planters was discussed. The ongoing name of the group and whether it needs changing had also been discussed. It was decided to retain the known brand name of Wombourne BKV. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM, gave an update on the Wombrook Bridge being finished and the work due to be carried out on the Railway Walk from Bridgnorth Road to the Platform Café. Last Saturday, 10 volunteers had spent 3 hours clearing brambles encroaching green space at the back of the Council Chamber.  
Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed members that grant funding from the Council had been spent on purchasing plants that would come back each year, but a maintenance budget would need to be put in for next year. Councillor Mike Davies advised members that the UK Prosperity Fund may be able to help with this.
- f) Wombourne Retailers Liaison - Councillor Daisy Tait informed members she had spoken with retailers and they felt that the workshop held last November had been very useful.  
Councillor Elizabeth Keeling informed members she had been in touch with businesses and they want the Council to be more proactive. She had raised the idea of business brunches. Retailers were asking about the road works. The recent highlight was the opening of the Lidl store.
- g) Police Liaison - Councillor Vince Merrick informed members that no meeting had taken place.
- h) Giggetty Action Group - Councillor Vince Merrick informed members that he had been speaking with the group to find out what their proposals were and it was mainly the landscape which he is in discussions with them about.
- i) Friends of Wombrook - Councillor Ian Sadler reported members had been provided with a copy of the summary from the A.G.M. held on 13<sup>th</sup> February. There had been an interesting and informative talk and Friends of Wombrook would be carrying on as before.

## **20/25 - Update from Committees**

- a) Civic Centre Management Committee - Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM informed members that Marwood Surveyors had been appointed to oversee the work to the windows in the vaulted ceiling of the Wodehouse Suite, which had been causing problems for some time. They would obtain 3 quotes and nominate the one they felt was best to undertake the work.  
He reported members noted the Energy Survey had been received and would be looked at more closely. The continued use of the Day Centre had been agreed and he had requested that figures were kept so usage was known.  
A caterer had asked to go on our approved list. The request was declined, but the Committee were open to them going on our reserve waiting list.  
A resident had offered the use of their paintings to be displayed in the Brook Room and this was agreed, subject to a number decided by the Clerk for a certain period of time. It could then be opened up for other residents to display their work in future.  
The planning application of the former Barclays Bank building and the covenant were considered and it was agreed for it not to be discharged, but rewritten.

## **21/25 - Planning Applications**

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

**22/25 - West Midlands Bus Network Consultation**

- a) Members noted the current consultation with deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- b) Members agreed to respond as an authority.
- c) Councillor Alan Peace was nominated to take the lead on the response from the Council and members agreed.

**23/25 - Village Warden (Orderly)**

Councillor Martin Perry proposed the appointment of a Village Warden as set out in the 2025/26 budget and Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM seconded the proposal. Councillor Mike Davies informed members he had doubts about the appointment and would like it to be deferred, so a business proposition could be submitted showing costs and savings. Councillor Davies then proposed the appointment be deferred and Councillor Perry seconded the proposal. A vote was taken and deferral was not agreed as less than half of members voted for it. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM then proposed the appointment again. Councillor Vince Merrick seconded the proposal and this was agreed by the majority of members.

It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council could go ahead and employ the Village Warden, based on the terms set out in the budget.

**24/25 - Correspondence**

None.

**25/25 - Meeting Schedule**

Members noted the following upcoming meetings:

- a. Full Parish Council Meeting - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- b. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025
- c. Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- d. Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**26/25 - Chairman’s Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their support with the opening of Lidl and the re-opening of the footbridge over Wombrook Walk. He noted there had been some successful times recently and asked Councillors to keep up the good work.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....