



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 17th March 2025** at 7.00pm

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

Present – Committee Members -

Councillors: Mike Davies, Vince Merrick, Martin Perry (Chairman) and Daisy Perry

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

Clerk: Rachael Wright

01/25 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Evans, Ed Hughes and Alan Peace.

02/25 - Declarations of Interest

None

03/25 - Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 21st October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2024 were approved as a true record.

04/25 - Matters arising from the minutes of 21st October 2024

None

05/25 - Brickbridge Playing Fields

a) The Clerk informed members she had received an update from their Solicitors informing her that the draft lease was still with the Solicitors for South Staffordshire Council. They had enquired as to whether the Parish Council insure the changing rooms, she confirmed they did.

b) Members made a small adjustment to the signage and approved it for production.

06/25 - Events at Brickbridge Playing Fields

Members considered the request from Wombourne Allstars to hold a Anniversary Event at the Playing Fields and noted it could be agreed, so long as the following criteria was met:

a) Wardens standing on the gate should not hold collection buckets – the playing fields remain free to use on the day of the event and attendees should not feel obliged to make a donation upon entry

b) Stewards must be visible during the event

c) Flyers must be delivered to neighbouring properties and a number should be given for on the day issues – this was not done last time and is a requirement of the agreement to hold the event

d) Parking is managed on the day to avoid disruption to residents.

Members noted the request to have alcohol at the event and agreed this would not be allowed, as per the rules for the site.

07/25 - Poolhouse Play Area

a) Members noted the balance of £24,718.04. The Clerk noted she would seek approval from Full Council to move the funds to Earmarked Reserves.

- b) The Chairman reminded members the new equipment was installed during inclement weather, meaning the pathway through the park is still fairly boggy. He has asked South Staffordshire Council to reinstate the pathway to lift it slightly, which should mean it doesn't get as muddy. Grass seed has been purchased to put down when the weather is suitable.

08/25 - Bratch Park

- a) The Chairman informed members he attended a tree planting event last week, arranged by South Staffordshire Council, involving the Forrest of Merica and children from Westfield Primary School. An oak tree was planted to replace the ash tree that had to be felled last year and several trees were planted to create an orchard. The Forrest of Merica will maintain the trees for the next two years, after which time, South Staffordshire Council will maintain them. The event was well received by nearby residents and members agreed the Clerk and Chairman should agree the next Friends of Bratch Park meet up and invite the children from Westfield Primary School to take part.
- b) Members noted the work to replace chain link fencing from Bratch Hollow to the park had been agreed at a cost of £270.

09/25 - Inspection Reports

Members reviewed the inspection reports, noting there were no items which needed immediate attention. The Clerk agreed to ask the Park Warden at Bratch Park to regularly sweep the bark under the multi-play unit, particularly where the slide is positioned.

10/25 – Bus Shelter

- a) Members noted the inclusion of funds in the 2025/26 budget for a new shelter.
- b) Members agreed the shelter should be positioned along Common Road to replace the shelter that was burnt down several years ago. It will be positioned to the left of the bus stop sign near the bin.
- c) Members asked the Clerk to draft a letter to be sent to the houses close to the shelter, to inform them of their intention to replace the shelter.

11/25 – Skate Park

Members considered the letter from a resident regarding a skate park. They agreed an intensive study had taken place over a number of years to identify a suitable area for a skate park, but none had been found. Various issues were found during the investigations, including badger sets and a lack of support from residents for the park to be located near their properties. The funds in Earmarked Reserves set aside for the skate park were spent in 2018 on the new equipment at Bratch Park. Members asked the Clerk to contact the resident to inform him of this.

12/25 – Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members **RESOLVED** that under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

13/25 – Lease with Wombourne Allstars for use of Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) Members agreed sole access for Wombourne Allstars for a further 12 months
- b) Members noted the annual charge in 2024 of £2,200
- c) Members noted the cost of maintenance at Brickbridge Playing Fields was £9,019.25 excluding repairs to the changing rooms
- d) Members agreed an annual charge of £2,500 for 2025

e) Members agreed requests from Wombourne Allstars to sublet the playing fields should be rejected.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____