



WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

held on **Monday 21st October 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, Ed Hughes, Vince Merrick, Alan Peace, Martin Perry (Chairman), Daisy Perry

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

Absent without apologies - Councillor(s): Andy Clay

Clerk: Rachael Wright

34/24 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Evans and Elizabeth Keeling.

35/24 - Declarations of Interest

None

36/24 - Approval of last Committee Meeting minutes from 22nd July 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2024 were approved as a true record.

37/24 - Matters arising from the minutes of 22nd July 2024

None

38/24 - Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) Members noted that South Staffordshire District Council would not include grass cutting as part of the lease. Members agreed to proceed on the terms offered.
- b) Members agreed to a 3-year fixed deal with Pozitive Energy.
- c) Members agreed the signage for the exterior wall of the changing rooms should include the Parish Council logo along with messages such as 'No dog fouling,' 'No motorised vehicles,' 'Respect your neighbours,' and 'Use bins provided.' It should also include a contact number and a statement that the Parish Council gifts the use of the playing fields to the residents of Wombourne.
- d) Members considered the offer from Pitch Power and declined it.
- e) Members noted the email from Wombourne Allstars regarding fox activity on the pitches. The Chairman had asked a local resident to refrain from feeding foxes near the pitches, but acknowledged that foxes were inevitable due to the nearby woodland and nature area. It was agreed that Wombourne Allstars should complete a sweep the pitches before and after matches.

39/24 - Events at Brickbridge Playing Fields

- a) Members noted the email from Wombourne Allstars thanking them for use of the playing fields for a Charity Event
- b) Members agreed to use the existing event framework, set up by the Clerk, requiring a 3-month notice period for events.

40/24 - Poolhouse Play Area

- a) The Chairman reported that the Council had been successful in securing funding from The National Lottery. He and the Clerk would meet with representatives in the coming days to discuss the next steps.
- b) The formal lease document from South Staffordshire Council was still outstanding.
- c) Caloo had been informed of the grant funding and updates would be shared with residents once installation dates and timeframes were confirmed. The S106 funding needed to be spent by the end of March 2025, meaning the project must be completed before then.

41/24 - Bratch Park

- a) The recent Friends of Bratch Park day was a success, with residents and their children attending. Six of the nine benches in the park were repainted, with the Chairman planning to complete the remaining three before the end of the year. Litter picking, pruning and topping up the bark area with three new bags of bark were also completed. The Chairman confirmed he would persist in seeking a replacement tree for the one that had to be felled last year.
- b) Members agreed for the Clerk and Chairman to decide the date for the next Friends of Bratch Park day, likely to be in March 2025.

42/24 - Inspection Reports

Members reviewed the inspection reports, particularly noting moderate-risk items at Bratch Park. They agreed to seek Full Council approval to replace the boundary around the bark pit and approved a quotation of £4,592 for 150x150 edging. They also agreed to replace the broken chain.

43/24 - Budget Wishlist

Members agreed to include the following items in the budget for costing and presentation for 2025/2026:

- Pothole repairs to Brickbridge Playing Fields car park
- Parish van
- Parish Orderly
- Maintenance to the toilet block, including tidying up the roof, repainting the exterior and interior, painting the doors, new signage for the doors and LED lighting for the exterior.

It was also noted that the Grounds Maintenance charge from South Staffordshire Council was increasing by over £3,000, as no increase had been applied since 2017. Members acknowledged that the alternative quotation received in 2023 was over £8,000. While they agreed to seek an alternative quotation, they also agreed to explore options to hold the price for more than one year.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____