

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 7.00pm

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mr D Jones (Vice Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr A Carloss
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mrs L Jones
Mr B McFarland
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman, Marcus Hart, Lisa Jones
West Mercia Police; Apologies

36. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from West Mercia Police.

37. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded to complete and need to regularly update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

No Public Participation.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

38. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2020 at 7.30pm.**

These having previously been circulated it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

39. **Police Report**

Theft of Vehicle - Sometime between 16th-18th June 2020 a Luna Venus Touring caravan 2015 Model has been stolen from Austcliffe caravan park where it was being stored. It has a white and Burgundy Stripe down the Front. There is CCTV coverage and enquiries are currently ongoing.

Criminal Damage - Sometime between 02:10hrs 12/06/20 and 20:35hrs 14/06/20 someone has spray painted graffiti on the rubbish bin next to the bus stop on Bridge Road, Cookley

Burglary - 2 x cars have been stolen from the driveway of a property in the Crescent, Cookley. They have gained entry to the property and taken the keys belonging to the two vehicles in order to drive them away. They have taken a Nissan X Trail and a grey Mini Clubman. The Nissan has been recovered by West Midlands Police and enquiries on currently ongoing.

Suspicious Circumstances - The Shortyard Wolverley At approximately 14:00hrs on 21/06/20 an unknown male has been seen hanging around the field where horses are kept. He became defensive when challenged and walked off. Officers attended but he had left.

Burglary Wolverley Secondary School - Sometime overnight on 17/06/20 an external container has been broken into and a number of tools taken.

Burglary Wolverley Secondary School - Sometime between 27/06/20 and 29/06/20 persons unknown have forced entry to the school grounds by smashing the gates and have then proceed to cut padlocks in order to take an Ivor Williams Trailer with a Ransom Parkway Lawnmower loaded on it. CCTV has been obtained and enquires are ongoing

40. **County/District Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Reports;

County Councillor Ian Hardiman's Quarry Application Update for Cookley and Wolverley Residents:

The County Council's Development Manager has provided an update on the Application for a Quarry at the Lea Castle Farm site. A formal request has been issued to the applicant, asking for further information under Regulation 25 of the Town and

Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The applicant is now commissioning the requested information; this may take the applicant and their consultants many weeks or even months to produce the information. The applicant has been asked to inform the County Planning Authority when the timescales for the production of this information are known; when this is received the Development Manager will update me further. Once the information has been received, the County Planning Authority will consult all those previously consulted and all those who have commented on the application. Site Notices will be put up at the site and a notice will go in the newspaper. Ian says, " It is now clear that considerable delay has been incurred and therefore, it will be some time before this application can be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee whose task it will be to decide on it."

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 7th July 2020:

Outstanding Casework: Our Highways Liaison Engineer is now back on 'Active' duty following the Lockdown and has started to assist in progressing various outstanding issues for Wolverley and Cookley. I shall be meeting with him during this week when hopefully he will provide clarification on agreed solutions. I frequently submit update reports to the Parish Clerk for circulating to Parish Councillors and will continue to do so when issues receive attention.

Road Resurfacing:

I am very pleased that County Highways have now, sooner than expected, carried out necessary resurfacing work to the Wolverley Road, also to Drakelow Lane; both roads were in need of this remedial work, now completed.

County Councillor Divisional Funding:

As previously reported, I was able to utilise the Divisional Fund allocated for my Division to support 26 good causes and organisations during 2019/2020. Like all other County Councillors, I now have a fresh Allocation for 2020/2021 and will be pleased to consider applications for a contribution from local organisations within Cookley, Wolverley and Wribbenhall, my Division of representation.

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Strategic Issues Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 7th July 2020:

Strategic Issues County Wide

The County Council has been heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Six Libraries re-opened on 4th July, The Hive, Kidderminster, Redditch, Malvern, Evesham and Bromsgrove. At first, only limited services are available.

The majority of household waste sites across Worcestershire are open including the Stourport Road site. The Worcester Road site remains closed at present it should be open this month all being well.

Schools have now opened for reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils as of Monday, 1st June and I know Chaddesley Primary School is open also with an offer for years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Secondary schools opened for years 10 and 12 as of 15th June. Throughout this time schools will also be open to vulnerable children and children of key workers as they have been since 23rd March.

Our Hospitals are coping very well with substantial capacity on all 3 sites and as you would expect given the more nature of Worcestershire we have been less affected by infections than many other authorities in the West Midlands region. We have also been assisting our many care settings with PPE. There have been no Coronavirus related deaths in our hospitals in Worcestershire now for many days. (This could change on a daily basis however).

The plan for the Acute trust is to start getting back to all of the routine work, appointments and screening etc....

Registrations of births and deaths are currently being done remotely as our Register offices are closed and County Hall is closed to the public.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet.

Annual council scheduled for 14th May which was cancelled is taking place completely virtually now over zoom at its 16th July meeting.

Siding out on the A449 was raised - Cllr Hardiman will request clearing work is undertaken.

District Councillors Report:

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

Regarding enforcement issues, Lowe Lane, Wolverley - Enforcement have contacted the land owner who have confirmed that the stables are temporary and moveable, they have advised them how often they would expect to see them moved around the field and taken off the field once a year, they are also putting in an application for Change of Use to the land which they are expecting any day now.

The land registered on the East side of Lowe Lane with the horses and the stable, enforcement have sent two letters to the owner but have received no response at yet, the next step would be issuing a Planning Contravention Notice, they are awaiting confirmation regarding this instruction.

Land in front of Brookfield Cottage, enforcement have spoken to a gentleman who is acting on behalf of the owner, enforcement have advised them that the rubble would be removed but in the meantime they have put in a track from the gates to the agricultural building, enforcement have visited the site and inspected the track and have advised that they will need to apply for planning permission.

Stables, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley - There were two planning applications for stables on the field facing the A449 that came to the Planning Committee Meeting, one for a manage and stable block and one for stable blocks for horses and Alpacas. These were both refused, both Lisa and Marcus spoke on behalf of the Parish Council and residents. We will be asking for the Parish Council's view on the remaining planning applications that have been submitted for stables on the same site.

Regarding the Motor cross issues, Enforcement are currently working through the logs of events that residents have forwarded to them. They will be contacting Mr Strong regarding the ramps that have not been removed and events being advertised again.

We will of course update you on all of the above enforcement issues.

Lisa attended the Cookley Playing Fields and Village Hall Trustees meeting last week on behalf of all three of your District Councillors. Lisa forwarded the Chairman information regarding guidelines for re-opening playgrounds and Pubs and Clubs from the District Council and Calc. Lisa is also investigating funding opportunities for the refurbishment of the play equipment from Calc.

Lisa has also attended the Wyre Forest and Worcestershire Calc meetings virtually and will be attending the Worcestershire Executive Calc Committee meeting this Thursday.

Regarding Dog fouling in and around the villages, we have organised spot checks from the Environmental Enforcement officers. They are awaiting the updated guidelines from the recent questionnaire regarding these and other issues and will then be able to implement a campaign on the new regulations. If there are any additional areas that you would like reporting please let us know.

Lisa has organised the cutting back of the hedges along the alleyway from Austcliffe Road to Staite Drive in Cookley, this was carried out very swiftly by Oakleaf's contractors on a very hot day.

The last two remaining road name signs have now been ordered and will be installed shortly. We will then have new road signs throughout Cookley and Caunsall, they look very smart and are a perfect backdrop to the beautiful planters that the Britain in Bloom team have put by the signs throughout the village.

Lisa has passed on her thanks and appreciation to the manager of Operations Services at Green Street on behalf of your District Councillors and residents, especially in these difficult times we have continued to have the high standard of customer service and swift response to all issues that have been reported to ensure our villages are clean and tidy.

Wyre Forest Issues

Kidderminster Train Station

The train station opened on 7th June, 2020.

We are very pleased that WFDC has received substantial government grant, circa £1.1 million to continue to provide services and compensate for loss of income. WFDC has also been administering and handing out substantial grants from Government to local businesses.

Car Parking charges were reintroduced from 1st June by the Progressive Alliance and after initially sating they would not cash, thanks to pressure from ourselves and others they reversed this ill thought out decision.

All refuse, recycling and garden waste collections are carrying on as normal.

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public as is the Green Street hub save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications.

Full Council, Scrutiny and Planning Meetings continue to meet virtually.

There have been a number of changes to the constitution and delegations to the Chief Executive during this emergency period. It is hoped to hold the formal meeting of annual council over the next couple of months and in any event by 30th September.

41. **Financial Matters**

a)	Agreed the following schedule of cheques be signed		
15	Mrs B J Drew (Salary June 2020)	889.23	
16	Inland Revenue (Tax and NI April - June 2020)	143.64	
17	Mrs B J Drew (Stationary)	22.38	
18	Mr Keith Basketfield (Grass Cutting 3rd Cut)	671.00	
19	T Botterill (Contribution to Plants - Wolverley Village Baskets)	60.00	
20	Mrs B J Drew (Laptop/ Antivirus Protection - agreed in Budget)	665.83 24.99	plus VAT (£799.00) plus VAT (£29.99)
21	Mr Allen Hughes (Internal Audit Work)	200.00	

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/2020

Councillor C Sherrey advised that the return has now been fully completed. The Internal Auditor is now required to confirm that the Notice of Public Rights is posted on the website in a timely manner. This is difficult to do as the website does not date when items are posted, he is however happy that it was done. In future the Clerk will e mail the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Internal Auditor the form when the AGAR is submitted.

- b) Unanimously approved Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020
- c) Unanimously approved Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2019/2020

42. **Lengthsman Scheme, work completed and hours remaining.**

The Lengthsman has not submitted any invoices for April, May or June therefore no work has been done despite requests from both Cookley and Wolverley. An invoice for July has been received at 5pm today for 20 hours work across both villages but has not yet been checked therefore cannot be included on the accounts for payment. There are many frustrations over the difficulty in getting hold of the Lengthsman and getting work undertaken and this is only going to get worse if not addressed. After much discussion it was agreed that Councillors C Sherrey and S Sherrey meet with Mr & Mrs Dale to discuss any issues on both sides. They will report back by e mail before the next meeting.

43. **To discuss new website accessibility requirements.**

The Chairman advised of new website accessibility requirements which come into effect on 23rd September 2020. The Parish Council will need to do a plan of action and accessibility statement. After discussion it was agreed Chair, Councillors M Hart, S Sherrey and J Wood will meet to look into this and report back to Full Council.

44. **Sebright Cygnets Nursery Closure.**

The Clerk advised of the sad news of the sudden closure of Sebright Cygnets Nursery in Wolverley which has been running for 24 years. The Nursery were given notice by the school to vacate the room they used as this is now required by the school and an alternative location could not be found.

45. **Graffiti - Litterbin, Bridge Road, Cookley.**

Graffiti on the litterbin has been reported as criminal damage to the Police. Removal is a delicate task to avoid any damage to the paint and lettering. Revive Cleaning, who undertook the cleaning of the gateways have done a patch test and will remove the obscene graffiti for £35.00. All agreed Clerk ask them to proceed.

46. **Maintenance of the wooden surround on Elizabeth Bache Corner in Cookley.**

The wooden fence surround is damaged in several places and needs repair. Councillor L Jones will obtain three quotes. It was unanimously agreed to give the Chair / Vice Chair delegated authority up to £500.00 to proceed with the work once quotes have been received and preferred contractor chosen.

47. **Signage - Dog Fouling.**

Councillor Wood asked if dog fouling signs could be put up in the worst affected areas in the Parish. WFDC are responsible for this and do have signs with standard wording.

48. **Self-Watering Planters - Cookley Project.**

Councillor Southam has obtained two quotes and is pursuing a third. Chairman advised that permission will need to be received from WCC Highways before planters can be sited. Councillor Southam to liaise with Ian Hardiman regarding permission and report back to next meeting.

49. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**

- PC No WFDC No/Details
- 3474 WF/20/0217 Revised Plans: Demolition of existing building and erection of 4 two bed bungalows including associated works. Already responded due to timescale.
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council continue in principle to support this development provided the objections by both WFDC (Arboricultural Officer) and North Worcestershire Water Management (WFDC) are overcome. The revised plans now show soakaways to the front of each property however there is no evidence or plan to replace the illegally felled trees which needs to be addressed.
- 3475 WF/20/0379/PNR: Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house at barn. Solcum Lane, Wolverley.
Recommend Deferral awaiting Policy Advice clarification on this application from Paul Round.
- 3476 WF/20/0405/FULL: Conversion of former stable building to dwelling, together with new vehicular access and closure of existing vehicular access (to pedestrian access only) at land at Oak Meadow Farm, Honeybrook Lane.
Recommend Refusal due to adverse impact on countryside and greenbelt. In addition the application does not meet the criteria under policy SAL.UP11 that suitable access arrangements can be made without the need for extensive new access roads as proposed on the application. Unfortunately Highways Authority comments made on Monday 15th June are not available to see on the portal which would have been helpful.
Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council support Kidderminster Foreign in their opposition to this application.
- 3477 WF/20/0415/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Construction of a garden room containing lounge, gym, study, shower and changing rooms at The Dell, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

50. Clerks Report (Clerk) WFDC Media Office Releases, CALC Summer Training Update.
51. Publication of responses to Minerals Site Allocations "Call for Sites" January - March 2020. Councillor S Sherrey gave an update on sites within the publication which was noted.
52. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT (DJ/JW) Progressing.
53. Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease (MH) Lease properly executed and all signed off and all costs met by the Memorial Hall.
54. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Horsiculture / Stables (MJH)
55. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4th August 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman - 4th August 2020