

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, 7.00pm, Cookley School, Cookley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PCSO Becky Ruston
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Apologies

123. Apologies

Cllr. Mr I Hardiman, Mr M Hart and Mrs L Jones due to full council meeting at Wyre Forest District Council and Cllr. C Sherrey due to Covid.

124. Declarations of Councillors Interests

- a) Register of Interests: The Clerk reminded Councillors that it is their responsibility to update their register of interests forms as required.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. No Public Present

The meeting now reconvened to conduct the items of business listed below.

125. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th October 2021 at 7.00pm

These having previously been circulated it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting and these were signed as such by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

126. Police Report

Report Circulated.

We have now a new Safer Neighbourhood Officer looking after Cookley and Wolverley (and in fact all of Kidderminster East & North) as Derya has moved to another department. The new Police Officer for the area is PC Matt Ling

The Dementia Café has now re-started in Cookley - this time at St Peters Church. The next meeting being Wednesday 3rd November at 2pm

Wolverley

Police ref 00662_I_23102021 - Suspicious Circumstances - Drakelow

At 20:41hrs on 23rd October an unknown person has tried the door handle of a house, a shadowed figure has then run off and been seen at the opposite side of the property. No entry was gained to the house nor were any items removed from the property.

Theft - Brown Westhead - Police Ref 00343_I_10102021 - a caravan stored in this location has had a small window taken out. This has happened sometime between midnight 9/10 and 7am 10/10

Theft - High Low Bank - Red Diesel was stolen from a tractor in this location. We are pleased to say that the offender has been caught and that a resolution was reached whereby the victim has been reimbursed financially.

Accident Franche Road - Car abandoned - caught up later in Bewdley and arrested for DD

Cookley

Burglary - Axborough Lane - Police ref 00149_I_25102021 -Between Sunday 24th October and Monday 25th October, unknown persons have attempted to gain access to an outbuilding by smashing the window. No entry gained, no items stolen.

As always as the darker evenings are upon us, please use light timer switches in your property when going out, and stay vigilant!

Cllr Southam advised of recent antisocial behaviour in Castle Road.

Cllr D Cox asked if any officers are on duty Friday pm if they could show a presence at the bonfire at Cookley Playing Fields.

127. To receive Councillors Reports:

District Councillor Report:

Report Circulated.

Local Issues

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

We have contacted Community Housing regarding the pot hole repairs needed to their car park in Austcliffe Road, Cookley, they have advised us that these works will be carried out shortly.

We have been working with Royal Mail to replace the post box that was taken out of commission from the Old Post Office wall in Cookley, we have been consulted on regarding the positioning of the replacement box and have advised them that Bridge Road would be our first choice and Austcliffe Road by the public house car park our second. We are awaiting confirmation of the location and an installation date.

We have received an update from the Planning Officer that the Red Lion Planning Application is currently being consulted on, they are awaiting a Heritage Statement and Ecology assessment to be carried out. They have received the report from the Conservation Officer regarding the historical content of the building and its local importance. We will give you an update when a decision has been made.

Enforcement Issues :-

The Old Post Office, Cookley - The enforcement notice has now been sent to the owner and agent by the District Council's Planning Lawyer. They have been given six months to return the shopfront to its original design, the timeframe was decided on the basis that the wooden shopfront windows will need to be made and fitted, also the reinstatement of the brickwork below the bay window.

We have asked the local police team to inspect the site and boards for pedestrian safety, they have assured ourselves that there are no safety issues at present. We have also taken advice from the licensing team regarding the owner possibly opening the shop whilst the enforcement notice is in action and apply for a liquor license, the planning team are a direct consultee in this process and would comment accordingly.

Wyre Forest District Issues

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

The District Council are carrying out a consultation on the main modifications to the Local Plan. There will be a drop in session at Wyre Forest House on Wednesday 3 November from 10am-12pm and 4pm till 6pm for residents requiring further information.

Following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2021 and Comprehensive Spending Review announcements, please see below some key points.

The £17.9m levelling up fund bid for Kidderminster has been approved in full.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund worth over £2.6 billion over the next three years. Successor to the EU Structural Funds. This will rise to £1.5 billion a year by 2024-25.

£1.6bn a year new grant funding for English councils in addition to social care funding, there is no information on what this is for or how it will be distributed. There is no guarantee how much or any of it will come to district councils.

Increase of 3% a year in core spending power - there was no separate figure given for district councils.

There is no mention of local government funding reform. There is no confirmation that business rates will be reset or would be delayed beyond 1 April 2022.

The referendum threshold for increases in council tax is expected to remain at 2% per year. In addition, local authorities with social care responsibilities are expected to be able to increase the adult social care precept by up to 1% per year. Police and crime commissioners proposed to have a £10 threshold.

NB the usual "or £5, whichever is the greater" flexibility for district councils was not announced as part of the Chancellor's speech but hopefully will be confirmed in due course. Also, please note that this policy proposal applies across three years, so no hint of letting councils have genuine freedom on council tax. The County Council will have much tighter criterion for the

social care precept. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities "will set out full details of the council tax referendum principles and proposed approach to allocating grant funding through the Local Government Finance Settlement".

Business Rates multiplier is frozen for 2022-23. The government has also announced a range of other measures, including a new, one year 50% Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief up to a cap of £100k per business, and support for investment in property improvements and green technology.

More than £300 million has been awarded to implement free, separate food waste collections in every local authority in England from 2025. However, this seems unlikely to cover the full costs. There was no mention of funding for free garden waste collections.

The public sector pay freeze will not continue: 'fair and affordable' pay rises over the whole Spending Review period. Local government will make its own decisions on pay and were not bound by the pay freeze in 2021. However, the near 7% increase in the minimum wage and projected CPI of 4% over the coming year will fuel pressure on local government pay in 2022.

County Councillor Report:

Report Circulated.

Local issues:

Lea Castle Farm Quarry Application:

I enquired with the County Council's Development Manager as to when he thinks this Application will be considered by the Planning & Regulatory Committee; he hopes that this will happen by February 2022 but certainly will not be before the end of 2021.

Lea Lane Landslip:

As still no progress is being made towards commencing the reinstatement of this highway lane, I last week referred this for Senior Management's attention at County Highways, reminding them that the Landslip occurred some two and a half years ago! I am awaiting their response.

Site Visits and appointments with residents:

Unfortunately several issues which were to be attended jointly by myself and Paul Green, Highways Engineer had to be cancelled as Paul and his family were forced to isolate owing to Covid-19 Infection.

I am hoping to restore these appointments during this coming week, as Paul has now returned to duty.

Caunsall, Kinver Lane vehicle Speeds:

Residents, concerned about ongoing vehicle speeding have asked for engineering solutions and have enquired whether village gateways could be installed by the 30mph signage at the upper end of Kinver Lane before the residential properties. Paul Green has no objection but suggested that I refer this to the Parish Council to prompt their consideration in purchasing gateways for this location.

I shall await the Parish Council's response on this.

Cllr Drew advised that he and Cllr Southam will liaise regarding a possible gateway on Kinver Lane.

128. Financial Matters.

Unanimously approved the following accounts be paid;

42	Andrea Holmes Consultancy (www.cookleyandcaunsall.co.uk - Sept 21-Sept 22) APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS	155.00
43	Mrs B J Drew (Salary October 2021)	1067.71
44	The Poppy Appeal (Wreaths)	150.00
45	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Stamps)	20.19
46	Ms Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman - October 2021)	180.00
47	Cookley In Bloom (Planters x 3)	90.00
48	R M Drew (Wolverley Planters x 6, compost, plant food plus wetland plants for planter x 1 Highlow Bank)	262.55
49	DM Payroll Services Ltd (Administration of Payroll 1st half year)	90.00

129. Local Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications to the Wyre Forest District Local Plan.

Cllr Drew reported on two items that affect the Parish

ED57 31-2-5 Page 304 - The amendment is to make it clear that improvements must be delivered rather than contributed to. The policy needs to be flexible to allow the Highway Authority to consider the best solution for the junctions and surrounding road network. This will in reality be a Development Management matter considered by Planning Committee once the detail is submitted.

ED57 31-1-9 Page 301 - The policy is now more specific, the cycle route was never going to and from the site the whole way to Kidderminster Town Centre. This now provides clarity to the principle of delivering cycle routes to Broadwaters (which is Kidderminster) and to Cookley.

It was felt that the information was not clear and accessible and there was a lack of drop in sessions. Clerk to respond on this.

130. Localism Agenda.

Nothing to report - no information received from Wyre Forest District Council. Clerk to agenda again at December meeting.

131. LED lighting upgrades.

The Clerk advised that 60 lights in Cookley are still awaiting conversion to LED. Following the structural safety testing undertaken by KIWA, 7 category 4 columns were identified as needing urgent replacement and these works were immediately put in hand. All have been replaced except the column outside 44 Gaymore Road which required a site meeting, this has now taken place and works should be completed in December. The Parish Council have not yet been billed for these works, although anticipate the cost to be in the region of £1300 per column. The Clerk suggested the Parish Council await the outstanding bill for these and then review any budget remaining or amount to budget next year for the next phase of conversions.

132. To discuss The Queen's Green Canopy – Tree Planting / Platinum Jubilee Events.

There was much discussion on this and varying opinions.

It was agreed to keep this as a standing item on the agenda for further discussion and consideration.

133. Remembrance Day Services.

Clerk advised there will be no parades. Church Services are;

Wolverley	-	10.30am
Cookley	-	6.30pm

134. Notice of Appeal: 21/0721/CLP – Wyre Mill Cottage, Wolverley.

Noted.

135. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

PC No	WFDC No/Details
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3581	21/0973/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Single storey rear extension (Larger home Extension Notification) at Sunrise, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley,
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Cllr. S Sherrey commented on the size of the extension which almost doubles the size of the dwelling.

3582	21/0990/S73: Variation of conditions 2,3,5,12,13 and 14 along with approved plans of 21/0066/S73 to allow changes to layout, changes to floor levels, removal of 4 additional trees and realignment of footpath at former Lea Castle,
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Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council are aware that variations to conditions are needed to allow changes once the site is being developed and accept this, however are totally opposed to the removal of 4 additional trees which will have an adverse affect on the Environmental Impact. The Parish Council ask whether an alternative solution can be found to avoid the removal of these trees. A large number of trees have already been removed on the site which now makes it much more visible than originally anticipated.

3583	21/0998/TCA: G1- Thin understory consisting of smaller Oaks, Hazel and some fruit trees at The Old Vicarage, Wolverley.
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Recommend to support the decision of the Arboricultural Officer on this application. The Parish Council did feel that the plans for this application were lacking detail.

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required.

136. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Decision Notices 21/0619, 21/0870, 21/0836, 21/0772, Road Closure – C2019, C2015, Footpath Closure WC 537, CALC AGM 16th November, Non Material Amendment 21/1026 Cookley School , for information only.

137. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Excellent work in both villages.

138. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) None

139. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 7th December 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman - 7th December 2021