

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.00pm

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

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

120. **Apologies.** Cllr. B McFarland (Holiday), Cllr. D Jones (Emergency Hospital Visit) and West Mercia Police.

121. **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.
Cllr. J Hart PC3495 as Parish Council representative to Wolverley Memorial Hall.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No public present

122. **Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 at 7.00pm.**

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

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

123. **Police Report**

Written report circulated;

Wolverley

Burglary - Shatterford Lane - Between 7th and 8th October, unknown offenders have attempted to gain entry to a clubhouse and broken into the storage hut. No entry was gained to the clubhouse however damage was caused to get into the storage hut. No items stolen.

Burglary - Park Gate Road - Unknown persons have gained entry to a building site and taken equipment from within.

Theft from vehicle - Wolverley Road - Unknown persons have gained access to a builder's yard and stolen diesel from vehicles.

Vehicle interference - Franche Road - At approximately 0120hrs on 30th October, unknown persons have approached a vehicle parked securely on the driveway and tried the car doors. One of the offenders were seen on CCTV with an unknown device.

This device is suspected to of been used in order to try and intercept the car key signal from within the property. No entry was gained and the offenders left the location.

Criminal Damage - Sebright Road - Between 3rd and 4th October unknown persons have scratched the passenger door of a vehicle.

ASB - Wolverley Doctors Surgery and Bury Hall - We have received several calls about Wolverley High School students causing ASB at these locations. We are currently working with the school to obtain names of the students involved so we can make their parents aware.

Cookley

Vehicle interference - Wolverhampton Road - At approx. 1445hrs on 2nd October unknown persons were seen trying car door handles on a vehicle. No entry was gained.

We would also like to inform you that today (Monday 2nd October) sees the launch of Rural Farm Watch for Kidderminster East and North areas. This will be operated by a What's App group between farmers and will be publicised in due course.

County/District Councillor Reports

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 3rd Nov. 2020

Strategic Issues:

Coronavirus Pandemic: Our Hospitals are still coping very well with capacity on all 3 sites and as you would expect given the nature of Worcestershire, we still have been less affected by infections than many other authorities.

Worcestershire "Here 2 Help" continues to provide excellent support to Residents and Businesses. Their telephone number is 01905 788053, or simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire.

Free School Meals: The Government ceased the voucher scheme for the recent half term; however, we agreed as a County Council to step in with the Districts in Worcestershire to fund the costs 50/50 to ensure that no child went hungry and that they had access to food but unlike other local authority areas, we did not produce vouchers but asked anyone who needed food to either phone the Here 2 Help dedicated hotline or go onto the website and a food package would be sent out to them. We are presently considering our approach to the Christmas holidays, February half term and the Easter holidays as clearly with the Covid 19 pandemic, we are in unprecedented times with many people losing their jobs and struggling financially. We are working with our MP's and indeed await further clarification from Government as we move forward.

County Council meetings are still taking place virtually.

Local Issues:

LEA CASTLE QUARRY: I have not received a further update from County Planning Management.

LEA LANE LANDSLIP:

A. Still no progress reported on talks between County and Canals & Rivers Trust.

B. I am awaiting a definitive response from Highways regarding the question of permanent closure for vehicular through traffic.

I am still awaiting progress with:

SPEED ENFORCEMENT ISSUES: Wolverley Road, past the Lock / B4189 Shatterford Lane / Lowe Lane upper section. (Awaiting Safer Roads Partnership)

Lowe Lane: Cables survey within the 30mph upper section.

Axborough Lane: Awaiting a meeting with the Highways Engineer to discuss speed reduction options for here.

The Crescent: Still outstanding are the Road Repair to correct drop in surface / Tree Branch overhanging the road in same location.

COOKLEY, BRIDGE ROAD PARKING SCHEME: Awaiting a commencement date for this.

District Councillors Report: Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council Meeting – 3 November 2020**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.

Regarding the Motor Cross issues, Enforcement have been in contact with Mr Strong regarding the ramps which still have not been removed, the officer has visited site and has advised that the ramps will now be removed.

Regarding the building on The Lock Car Park, an application has been received but is invalid and the planning department are waiting for some additional information i.e plans. A letter requesting this information was sent on 13th October 2020, the officers have chased up this information.

Regarding the Equestrian planning applications, we had a meeting with Paul Round last week to discuss this and other issues in the ward. Paul will compile a report describing the policies and relevant planning laws, this will be forwarded to the Parish Council for the December meeting.

We are extremely happy that the Cookley Bloom Team are the second highest charity towards obtaining the target set for funding from the Wyre Forest Community Lottery, they have achieved 84% of the target. Tickets are available on the Wyre Forest Community Lottery website and tickets are £1 each. If you would like to support them, you can by clicking on 'find a cause' and typing Cookley in Bloom. We wish them the best of luck in achieving the target.

The Cookley walking market last Sunday was a great success and Lisa enjoyed seeing the community spirit and crafts available to purchase.

There is a dead tree in Castle Road that has been reported to us, we have forwarded our concerns to both the District Council and the Highways Department at the County Council.

Wyre Forest District Issues

The Local Plan, the Public Hearings by the Planning Inspector will be held from Monday 11th January on selected days into early February 2021. Information can be found on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

The Government's Planning White Paper, we believe this paper is ill-conceived; we recommend submitting your view on this to MP Mark Garnier.

The District Council's Consultation of its future, The Progressive Alliance who presently run the Administration of the District Council are to hold a Public Consultation on their intention to make the District Council smaller, inevitably entailing redundancies and the transferring of services to Town and Parish Councils. This consultation will run from 11th November. The Cabinet is meeting on Tuesday 10 November to discuss its plans. The main concept is of a smaller council that protects front-line services.

Local residents and businesses are being urged to share their views about Kidderminster as part of a major consultation to shape the future of the town centre. Town centres throughout the UK have and continue to experience the challenges of a societal shift in changing shopping habits as well as the influence of Covid-19.

The online survey launching on Thursday 5 November at 9am at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/towncentresurvey is an opportunity for anyone who lives, visits, works in or has a view about Kidderminster to have their say on how they think the town centre could be made into a better place over the next twenty years. It is designed to establish current views on the town and includes questions about shopping habits before and during the Coronavirus pandemic, reasons to visit the town and more.

We can now confirm that unless otherwise instructed by central government, the Household Recycling Centres in Worcestershire will remain open during the second national lockdown.

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

Shoppers can take advantage of free parking at all Wyre Forest District Council car parks after 3pm during the festive period. The Christmas parking offer is running from Friday 20 November to Sunday 3 January 2021.

There will be no Christmas light switch-on ceremonies in Kidderminster, Stourport or Bewdley this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr. Southam asked why no enforcement action had been taken on the stable applications on the A449. Cllr. L Jones advised that Paul Round is producing a Planning Advice Note on Horsiculture in the Green Belt which will be discussed at the December meeting. Cllr. M Hart advised that there are other options available to the applicants and they may submit revised applications or put stables on skids. No enforcement will be taken yet.

Cllr. Carlross enquired whether Mr Strong will be billed for removal of ramps. Cllr. L Jones and M Hart advised that the District Council will not remove them, Mr Strong has been asked to remove. Cllr. Carlross also asked if WFDC reduce services and pass to Parish Councils what additional resources will be made available. Cllr. M Hart advised none, Wolverley & Cookley already undertake grass cutting, bin emptying and litter picking and receive grants for doing these.

125. **Financial Matters**

Agreed the following accounts be paid:

40	Mrs B J Drew (Salary October 2020 plus back pay plus ex gratia payment)	2990.99
41	Mrs B J Drew (Book of Stamps/Ink/Zoom)	31.52
42	Mr T Dale (Lengthsman Sept/Oct - from last month) (Attended fallen tree, cut, and removed) (Lengthsman Oct - received Tuesday 27th)	874.50 180.00 129.60
43	PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit Fee)	360.00
44	DM Payroll Services (Administration of payroll and pension services 2020/2021, first half year)	90.00
45	Cookley In Bloom (3 Planters)	60.00
46	Plants - Highdown Nursery (Mr R Drew) (7 Planters plus 5 Barrier Baskets)	222.42
47	The Poppy Appeal (Wreaths)	150.00

Chairman advised that Cllr. Southam and himself have checked the Lengthsman Invoices and are happy. The Clerk will try and reclaim the fallen tree invoice from WCC. The Chairman also explained the costs for the Winter Planting and advised that 4

wreaths have been collected, 2 for each village for the Church and the Memorial. Cllr. C Sherrey advised that payment 39 includes all items agreed in the Clerks Salary Review.

126. **To report on action on Street Lighting Columns in Parish following Structural Testing Report.**
Chairman advised that following the alarming report received last month on the condition of street lighting columns following the structural testing report the Clerk has had lengthy discussions with James Douglas, WCC Street Lighting Manager. He has advised that where columns have been converted to LEDs, the lanterns can be re-used which will reduce the cost of replacement by approximately £200 per column. He advised that the tests by contractor KIWA were visual tests. The Clerk and Chairman checked the seven lamps identified as needing replacement before the 31st March 21. Three of these had definite visual cracks (Kimberlee Ave, Gaymore Rd and Kinver Lane). Mr Douglas agreed to put works in hand for these three and he will inspect the other four identified and advise prior to raising an order. Then co-vid permitting he will meet with Parish Council representatives next year to look at and discuss the remainder of the report.

127. **To discuss acknowledging support for local businesses during Co-vid.**
With the current Co-vid pandemic and a second National "lockdown" the Parish Council acknowledges and places on record the difficulties faced by the greatly valued local businesses in the Parish.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

- 3491 WF/20/0541/FULL: Change of use of land to equestrian use at land at Os 38162 279143, Lowe Lane, Wolverley, Recommend Deferral awaiting Planning Advice Note on Horsiculture in the Green Belt.
- 3492 WF/20/0603/HOU: Removal of conservatory at rear of house, replacement with new extension, change fascia and render of lower external elevations (amended scheme to Planning Approval 19/0247/Full) at Sinkers Cottage, The Shortyard, Wolverley, Recommend Approval.
- 3493 WF/20/0808/ADV: 2 printed panel signs adjacent Park Gate Road, 5 flag poles adjacent to Park Gate Road, 6 flag poles adjacent the marketing suite, 1 fascia sign on the north elevation of the marketing suite, 2 wall mounted signs on the north and west elevations of the marketing suite and 4 vinyl signs on the glazed elevation on the north, east and west elevations of the marketing suite at former Lea Castle Hospital, Park Gate Road, Recommend Approval.
- 3494 WF/20/0809/FULL: Erection of a marketing suite and associated bollard lighting and car parking at former Lea Castle Hospital, Park Gate Road, Recommend Approval.
- 3495 WF/20/0825/FULL: Roof extension and Covering at Wolverley Memorial Hall, Recommend Approval.
- 3496 WF/0841/TCA: Weeping Willow (T1) Remove and replace with different species, Oak (T2) Fell, 2 x Sycamore (T3 and T4) Fell at Sinkers Cottage, The Shortyard, Wolverley, Recommend Deferral awaiting comments from Tree Officer.
- 3497 WF/0843/TCA: Fell Birch (T1) at Pipers Croft, Wolverley Village, Recommend Deferral awaiting comments from Tree Officer.
- 3498 WF/20/0881/RES: Reserved Matters Application to consider access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale following outline approval 19/0498/OUT for the erection of 5 dwelling houses at 29 - 31 Kimberlee Avenue, Cookley. Recommend Approval.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

129. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Remembrance Day - still awaiting clarification from both Vicars on arrangements following news of second "lockdown". The Chairman and Vice Chairman however intend to lay a wreath at each Memorial at 11am on Sunday 8th if there is no church service and parade. Cllr. M Hart advised that government guidance has been issued 4 hours ago. Clerk will advise all once details confirmed. Wolverley Memorial Hall Land Registry Form has been completed, thanks to Cllrs. D Jones and J Wood. WFDC Local Plan Examination dates advised, External Audit Report received and closure notices displayed on noticeboards and website. Worcestershire CALC AGM - Cllr. L Jones to attend. Clerk and Cllr. C Sherrey completed safeguarding form from HSBC bank.
130. To update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Further work is needed, please advise the Clerk or Cllrs W Southam or R Drew. Cllr. L Jones asked for all grit bins to be checked and filled and work to cut bush in Austcliffe Lane. Cllr. Southam advised of tree opposite Hardwicks needs cutting back.
131. To update on Wolverley Memorial Hall Play Area. (CS) The Play Area is open, repairs completed and is being disinfected three times a week. Thanks had been expressed to the Parish Council for their financial assistance. In line with government guidelines the play area will remain open during the second "lockdown".
132. To update on Horsiculture/Stable Developments Briefing Paper. (MH) Agenda for December meeting.

133. To update on improvements to walking/cycling routes in the Parish. (DJ) Clerk will re agenda if needed.
134. To update on temporary use of adopted telephone kiosks for food banks. (DJ) Clerk will re agenda if needed.
135. To update on Self-Watering Planters - Cookley Project and Winter Planting (WS/RD) Cllr. Southam expressed disappointment that the licences have still not been received. After much discussion County Councillor Ian Hardiman will chase this and copy in the Cabinet Member as a priority tomorrow morning. It is unfortunate that currently the Highways Liaison Engineer for Wyre Forest is also covering Worcester City and therefore has a doubled workload.
136. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
137. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. None.
138. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 1st December 2020.

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

Chairman - 1st December 2020