

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7.00pm

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mr D Jones (Vice Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr A Carloss
Mr D Cox
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mrs L Jones
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

157. **Apologies.** Cllr. B McFarland - due to another meeting, West Mercia Police.

158. **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. Cllr. D Jones - WF/20/0965/HOU as owner of property. He will move to the waiting room during the discussion.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Dean Talbot and Mr & Mrs Elcock to the meeting.

Mr Talbot asked that the Parish Council consider points raised by the Stop the Quarry Action Group when responding to the Quarry application as it was not sufficient just to object on inappropriate development in the green belt. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had discussed this last month and a detailed response had been submitted to Worcestershire County Council prior to the deadline which has now passed. The Chairman also advised that the Parish Council had requested a Councillor attend and speak at the Planning Meeting where this application is discussed, this however is not allowed.

Mr Elcock advised that they are working closely with the Planning Officer to amend the planning application to address concerns raised and revised plans will be submitted in due course.

159. **Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2020 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.

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

160. **Police Report**

Written report circulated;

Cookley

Vehicle Crime - Westhead Road North

At approx. 0030hrs on 9th December unknown persons approached a vehicle parked on the driveway to a property. They have attempted to gain entry, setting off the alarm. The offenders have then left the location in another vehicle, possibly a BMW. No damage has been caused to the vehicle.

Suspicious Incident - Causall Road

At approx. 0120hrs on 13th December, unknown persons have been seen jumping a fence to a property, they have then been disturbed by a resident and left the scene in a Silver Vauxhall Astra.

Vehicle Crime - Causall Road

Between 19th and 20th December unknown persons have approached two vehicles and placed them onto bricks. It is believed that they were trying to steal the catalytic converters however nothing stolen at this time.

Suspicious Incident - New Road, Causall

At 1135hrs on 26th December an unknown male was seen trying a car door on New Road. The male is described as having dreadlocks, no entry was gained and no damage caused to the vehicle.

Wolverley

Vehicle Crime - Hayes Road

On Tuesday 8th December at approx. 1510hrs a Silver Vauxhall van was stolen with keys from outside a property on Hayes Road, Wolverley. The owner was delivering a parcel to an address in this location. A dark coloured 4x4 was said to of turned left out of Knight Road onto Hayes Road, where a passenger got out and into the stolen vehicle, they then proceeded to drive off in the stolen vehicle towards Lowe Lane. The stolen vehicle has now been recovered.

Theft - Sebright Road

At 1505hrs on Tuesday 8th December a blue Carrera bike was stolen from the garden of a property. The offenders seemed to be in company with the vehicle and occupants that stole the van mentioned above.

Vehicle Crime - Drakelow Lane

Between 1730hrs on 22nd December and 1030hrs on 23rd December, unknown persons have stolen a vehicle parked in a layby outside a property. The vehicle has now been located and recovered.

Burglary - Castle Hill

At 0050hrs on 28th December, unknown persons have forced entry to a garage. A road bike and multiple tools worth a substantial amount of money have been stolen.

161. County/District Councillor Reports

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC, 5th January 2021

LEA CASTLE QUARRY: (Application (19/00053/CM) . The Formal Consultation concluded yesterday, 4th January 2021. I am not yet aware of the date that this application will be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee.

LEA LANE LANDSLIP: I am still awaiting an update (which I have again requested) from Highways.

LEA LANE CHANGE TO NO THROUGH ROAD: Again, I am still awaiting an update from Highways.

Highways Outstanding Issues Disappointment: Further to my Report in December, things have not improved unfortunately; the situation has been exacerbated by the absence due to ill health of our Highways Liaison Engineer Paul Green and other absences in the Liaison Team. I still have many casework issues outstanding but will continue to chase.

Brown Westhead Park/ Sunday Street Parking Issues: Together with Cllrs Marcus Hart and Lisa Jones, I met with the residents on 6th December when the consensus was that there is a need for increased parking capacity within the football grounds and we agreed to pursue this by firstly approaching the District Council who are the landowners with the view to enquiring whether dormant land adjacent to the playing fields can be either rented or purchased for parking use.

District Cllrs Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 5th January 2021

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

The Progressive Alliance are proposing scrapping the Localism Fund and the Community Leadership Fund which allocates £1,000 to each councillor to spend in their ward on community groups.

The District Council has been successful in securing £20.5 million from the Future High Streets Fund, something we are delighted about as this will transform and regenerate Worcester Street in Kidderminster and was a bid signed off in 2018 by Marcus and Ian when they were Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

162. Financial Matters.

a) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

51	Mrs B J Drew (Salary December 2020)	1046.72
52	Inland Revenue (Tax and NI - October - December 2020)	1156.19
53	WFDC (Black Sacks)	76.80
54	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Zoom/Stamps/Stationary)	39.10

55	The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust (Annual Grant 20/21)	1484.53
56	Cookley Playing Fields and Village Hall Association (Annual Grant 20/21)	1484.53
57	Wolverley & Cookley Matters (Bi-Monthly Full-Page Article)	350.00

b) **To agree Budget for financial year 2021/2022.**

Councillor C Sherrey presented schedules to the meeting on Income and Expenditure, Budget forecast and possible Precepts and discussed figures contained therein. After discussion it was agreed to keep the full allocation of £7500.00 for village improvements, all other figures were agreed and the Budget as proposed was unanimously agreed.

d) **To agree Parish Council Precept for financial year 2021/2022.**

Councillor C Sherrey advised that the Tax Base has reduced by 5 despite the new properties on Weavers Chase due to an increase in 25% property discounts and an increase in claimants under the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme. After much discussion, a 15% increase was proposed, with 11 for and 2 against this was carried.

e) **Cookley Fund - To discuss quotation for swings Children's Play Area.**

Councillor D Jones presented a quote of £2623.48 plus VAT for replacement swings at Cookley Playing Fields. This was well supported but a question asked regarding VAT registration and confirmation requested that the village hall or club would be able to claim the VAT back. Councillor D Jones confirmed they would. It was therefore proposed Cllr. C Sherrey, seconded Cllr. C Nicholls and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council pay the sum of £2623.48 from the Village Improvements Budget for new swings at Cookley Play Area on production of an invoice from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd.

163. **Wyre Forest Local Plan Examination.**

As the Parish Council had not previously raised matters on the above this was noted.

164. **To discuss Lengthsman Contract 2021/2022.**

It is good practice to re tender for contracts every few years and as this has never been done with the Lengthsman Contract since the introduction of the Lengthsman Scheme in 2006 this matter was fully discussed and all Councillors agreed it should be done for the contract commencing 1st April 2021. It was unanimously resolved to set up a small working group consisting of Cllrs. M Hart, D Jones, C Sherrey and S Sherrey to progress. They will update at the next meeting.

165. **To discuss Category 4 Street Lighting Columns and agree action on column 112 Gaymore Road, Cookley.**

The Parish Council have advised WCC to replace the 7 identified urgent Category 4 Street Lighting Columns as soon as possible. There is however a problem with column 112 Gaymore Road which is on a resident's property and could cause damage to their wall if replaced. It was unanimously agreed a site meeting should be held with James Douglas (WCC Street Lighting), Prysman (Contractor), Cllr. D Cox (Parish Council representative) and Mr D Talbot (landowner) to agree the best course of action.

166. **To discuss Parish Grit and filling of grit bins.**

The Lengthsman has advised that all Parish Grit has been used. As TG Hardwicks are currently shut due to lockdown it was suggested the Clerk approach Worcestershire County Council to ascertain if they will supply grit.

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

PC No	WFDC No/Details
3504	WF/20/0739/FULL: Construction of a single detached 'eco-dwelling' and associated works at Townsend House, The Shortyard, Wolverley. Recommend Refusal to this application in its present format. The Parish Council are aware that the applicant and agent are currently liaising with the Planning Case Officer to make amendments that are acceptable to the concerns raised by Highways over access, the Conservation Officer, North West Water Management and Neighbours. If revised plans are submitted the Parish Council will be happy to be re-consulted.
3505	WF/20/0945/FULL: Provision of new additional car parking at Bodenham Arboretum, Hobro, Wolverley. Recommend Approval.
3506	WF/20/0965/HOU: Single storey rear extension at 31 Woodlands Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval.
3507	WF/20/0992/HOU: Single storey side and rear extension at 3 Sebright Green, Wolverley. Recommend Approval.
3508	WF/20/1068/HOU: Erection of two storey side extension after demolition of an existing garage at 19 Woodlands Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

- 168. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Schedule of Meetings Circulated.
- 169. To update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
- 170. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
- 171. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. None.
- 172. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman - 2nd February 2021