

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th November 2023, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr B Brookes
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mr D Jones
Mr B McFarland
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr A Webber
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: Apologies
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, M J Hart.

Cllr R Drew opened the meeting. Members of the Public, Neighbouring Parish Councillors, Press and local Councillors welcome to the November meeting of Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council.

Before the meeting starts, I would like to say a few words about our colleague Simon Sherrey who sadly passed away very suddenly on 8th October.

Simon joined the Parish Council in May 2007 and was elected Chairman in May 2012. He took this role very seriously and took great pleasure in distributing commemorative mugs from the Parish Council to children in the Parish to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. He also presented Rev Geoffry Shilvock with an engraved vase on his retirement. In his year as Chairman, he introduced the item matters for discussion/decision on the agenda in order to streamline it, which we still use now. Simon was a very active councillor, always came fully prepared for meetings and always actively contributed. Our sincere condolences to Vicky, Kate, Amy, and family. He will be greatly missed.

Will you please join me in a one-minute silence.

103. Apologies

Cllr Dean Cox due to work commitments in London, Cllr I Hardiman due to ill health and West Mercia Police as no officers on shift.

104. 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. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Cllr R Drew declared an NRI in Item 4 as a Potential Risk of Bias as former Tennis Club member and friends with several current members of the Tennis Club.
Cllr J Hart declared an ORI in Item 4 as Parish Council representative to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

Cllr C Sherrey declared an NRI in Item 4 as a Potential Risk of Bias as auditor for the accounts of the Tennis Club and friend of the Chairman.
They will leave the room when Item 4 is discussed.

Public Question Time:

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and asked for any speakers.

Three representatives from Wolverley Tennis Club addressed the Parish Council. Their presentations are appended to the minutes.

They outlined several issues between the Tennis Club and The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust that have not been able to be resolved and asked for Parish Council support.

105. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd October 2023 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 by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

106. **To discuss correspondence received from Wolverley Tennis Club**

Cllr R Drew, J Hart and C Sherrey left the room.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair for this agenda item. It was proposed Cllr Southam and unanimously agreed Cllr D Jones take the Chair.

The Clerk had previously circulated an email received from the Secretary of Wolverley Tennis Club. This was requesting a copy of the Licence to Assign dated 26 June 2020 relating to Wolverley Memorial Hall between Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council and the Trustees for Wolverley Memorial Hall and Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust. The Tennis Club also requested to speak with the Parish Council and advised of the urgency of the matter as the Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust has taken legal action against the Tennis Club. The Tennis Club believe the Licence to Assign attempted to remove all rights over the land previously granted to the tennis club by deleting reference to "The Schedule" and are asking the Parish Council to approve a variation to the assignment document to reinstate the rights.

Cllr M Hart stated that the Parish Council were asked to discuss the correspondence from the Tennis Club. Regarding the Licence to assign, the Parish Council took legal advice on this, and the document was executed properly. Clause 13.1 does refer to the schedule of the existing lease as defined in the lease shall be deleted in full but the original 1961 lease refers to three schedules, it is interesting there is no link in the body of the lease to the schedules.

Cllr M Hart expressed sympathy with all involved and with the current situation but re-iterated, the Parish Council, as Landlord, should not be involved in what is a commercial matter between the Charitable Trust and the Tennis Club and do not have any involvement over rent charged and are legally unable to grant a lease to a third-party organisation. He suggested that if so inclined, the Parish Council could articulate to the Parish Council representative on The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust our views to urge that an amicable solution can be agreed by both parties.

Cllr Bordewich is also very sympathetic to the situation and disappointed that an agreement by both parties has not been reached but would have liked a representative from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust to give their account of the situation.

Cllr Webber commented that he liked having the community provision and is disappointed the two parties are at loggerheads. He advised all parties to step back and look at all options, there is always a resolution to conflict, and he proposed the Parish Council write to the Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust to urge them to work with the Tennis Club to reach agreement to secure the future of both Charities. This was seconded by Cllr Bordewich and unanimously agreed.

CLlr R Drew, J Hart and C Sherrey returned to the meeting and CLlr Drew took the Chair.

107. **Police Report**

Police report had been circulated;

Wolverley

Police ref 00302_I_22102023 - We are investigating a theft of a motorcross bike which occurred on Court Farm, Wolverley. The theft occurred on 22/10/2023, when a 10yr old who was at an event, had the bike taken from him. The bike is described as a HUSQVARNA motorcross bike in white, with yellow on it.

Police ref 182_I_23102023- Theft - We are investigating a theft of 4 cast metal garden urns, approx 4ft tall, which were taken from a garden in Wolverley village sometime between 19.00 - 20.00hrs on 19th October.

Police ref 194_I_21102023 - Wolverley Road - Between 20th and 21st October unknown persons have stolen number plates from a vehicle.

Police ref 00024_I_27102023 - We are appealing to the community for information following a burglary at a home on Franche Court Drive, Kidderminster. The burglary happened at approximately 01:45hours on 27/10/2023. The offender or offenders have gained access to the property via a conservatory door. However they were unsuccessful in gaining entry to the main house. Nothing was taken. Occupants were alerted to the noise however no one was seen.

Cookley

Police ref 347_I_15102023 -Theft- Elm place, Cookley - Between 1330hrs and 1430hrs on 15th October, unknown persons have stolen an electric scooter from the outside of a property.

Police ref 358_I_04102023- We are appealing for information after multiple power tools were stolen from a van on Lea Castle, Kidderminster. The theft occurred between 1330hrs and 1530hrs on Monday 2nd October 2023 when the items were stolen from the vehicle whilst it was parked on Lea Castle Drive.

Police ref 354_I_22102023 - Ash Way, Lea Castle - We are appealing to the village/town community for information following an attempt burglary at a home on Ash Way, Lea Castle, Kidderminster. The burglary happened between 18:00 21/10/2023 and 17:00 22/10/2023. The offender or offenders tried to gain entry via a downstairs window damage has been caused to the plastic upvc. It is thought that they have either gained access via a side gate or the side fence which is accessed via neighbours. No one seen at the time.

We haven't received any priorities from the parish council for Wolverley and Cookley this quarter (Oct-Dec 23), however the team have continued to conduct speed enforcement on Kinver Lane and Franche Road, Wolverley. Several residents were spoken to and advice given. No tickets were issued.

There have also been several burglaries across Kidderminster over the past few weeks so we are reminding residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour. Below are some tips to help keep your home secure.

- A home that looks empty is far more likely to be targeted by a burglar, so it's worth making sure your home looks occupied.
- If you are installing new doors and windows get ones that are certified to the latest British Standard.
- Securely lock all doors and windows before leaving the house. It's easy to forget when you're in hurry, but it's the simplest way for a burglar to enter your home.
- Window locks will help stop people getting in.
- Never leave keys anywhere near the front door, including your letterbox; burglars know where to look.

- Use automatic timer-switches to turn on a light and perhaps a radio when it goes dark, even if you are just out for a couple of hours.
- Visibly and permanently marking your belongings helps you and the police identify them if they are stolen. It can also make it difficult for the thief to dispose of the property.
- Ask a neighbour or relative for help could they clear the post away from the door mat and open and close the curtains.
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, two metre minimum fencing or walls. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult.
- Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable and observed. It is suggested that you use dusk to dawn lighting.
- Visible burglar alarms are a deterrent, there are many to choose from.
- Remove and secure items that may be used to break in or climb up such as ladders and garden tools.

Police priorities were discussed. Cllr Southam requested shoplifting be included to replace Parking. After some discussion this was seconded by Cllr Jones and priorities agreed Speeding, Antisocial Behaviour and Shoplifting.

108. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

District Councillor Report;

Report previously circulated.

Local Issues

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

We are dealing with ongoing football parking issues at Brown Westhead Park and are arranging a meeting with officers at WFDC.

We have requested that the pavement at Highlow Bank which is well used by school pupils is kept cleansed.

We have been liaising with residents and WFDC regarding the recent flooding in the village. WFDC responded quickly to supplying sandbags and road closure signs. When the floodwaters subsided WFDC provided road sweepers to clean the whole village and paths.

Wyre Forest Issues

The Cabinet at its September meeting have approved a new environmental policy and utilised the powers that the Government has conferred on them from 31st July to increase fines for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping etc.... WFDC have increased the fines to the maximum.

The Cabinet has approved a further Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley preventing the anti-social consumption of alcohol in certain zones. There are no changes to the zones and this is a further extension of the PSPO approved in 2020. Likewise, a further PSPO has been granted in respect of dog control. The only change to the previous order is a new offence of failing to give your name and address when required.

Work is well under way with the Connectivity project in Worcester Street, Kidderminster where 4 large redundant retail units are being demolished to open up this area of town. There will be much more gradual steps to what are currently there now called the 'Step Entry' and also a gradual path down, with benches and a park/public open space. We need to make this area of town attractive to urban living and link up the former Glades site which we want to see developed for residential with the wider town centre. This will be the subject of a formal planning application, however and we would not want to pre-judge this.

Work is also well under way at the former Magistrates' Court, which is being branded as the 'Creative Hub'. This will be office spaces that can be permanently let and there will be flexible lets and venue space too.

There will be free parking for 1 hour Monday - Friday between 8am-6pm from 6th November 2023 to 31st March 2025 to encourage people still to visit Bewdley due to the unprecedented disruption of the bridge being only open one way whilst the flood defence work is undertaken by the EA. You will need to display a ticket for this.

There will also be free car parking this Christmas in all WFDC owner car parks (not Weavers Wharf) from 1st - 29th December inclusive between 3-6pm. No ticket needs to be displayed for this.

County Councillor Report:

Written Report circulated;

Lea Lane Landslip:

I have again, along with Cllr Marcus Hart's support, been chasing County Highways to do whatever is necessary to facilitate the required restoration works for the re-opening to through traffic of this Lane which has been closed for four and a half years now.

Wolverley School Pick Up Parking: I am disappointed with County Highways response that they will not install Double Yellow Lines around the Blakeshall Lane/ Drakelow Lane junction to prevent the chaos caused by inconsiderate drivers, waiting for their children! They believe that Yellow lines would reduce unreasonably the opportunity for parents to park temporarily near to the school! I am not accepting this decision and have asked for further consideration to be given.

Austcliffe Road Overgrowth:

Further to my previous report, I have had further residents asking for attention here. I myself have inspected and whilst I can see that the hedges on the Canal side have been trimmed, the opposite side's hedges could do with further trimming back, so have placed a request for this again with the Highways Department.

Sunday Parking, Brown Westhead:

Together with Cllrs Marcus Hart and Robin Drew, I am still awaiting a date for a meeting with officers, the F.A. and Police to try to resolve this ongoing annoyance to local residents each Sunday.

Hardwicks Drains Nearby etc.:

Frustratingly, the necessary works are being delayed awaiting the (Golf) Landowners agreement for permission allowing the E.A/ STW/ County Highways to proceed.

Pupils Safe Routes to School(s):

I have been informed that County Highways are still investigating how local pavements and routes to school can be improved; included in their considerations is the feasibility and cost afford for a pelican crossing between the Primary School site and the River Bridge below the Lock Pub.

109. **Financial Matters:**

a) To agree Annual Grants - Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust / CPFVHA.

Cllr Sherrey advised payment of £1637.64 which is in line with budget agreed in January 23. Unanimously approved and added to accounts for payment.

b) To agree the accounts to be paid.

Proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Hart and unanimously agreed.

43	B J Drew – Salary October 23	£1,190.58
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44	B J Drew – Ink/Paper	£10.00
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45	Mr Jason Hull – Lengthsman October 23	£267.30
	Mr Jason Hull – Bin Clips	£16.80
46	Wolverley Winter Planting	£245.29
47	Cookley in Bloom Winter Planting	£214.90
48	Mrs B J Drew – Expenses	£150.86
49	WCC – Street Lighting Parish Initiative Q2	£3,596.54
50	The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust	£1,637.64
51	CPFVHA	£1,637.64

c) To discuss payment in respect of legal costs - Quarry Campaign.

Cllr Sherrey reported the £1500 paid to mfg has been returned and the Clerk and he are resolving the matter to ensure the payment is correctly made.

110. Wolverley Village Flooding/Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Cllr R Drew reported that Wolverley village flooded again on Friday 27th October. Wyre Forest District Council were very prompt in supplying sandbags to the village, but Cllr Drew wants support from the Parish Council to work with the multiple agencies involved to try and prevent this from continuing to happen. Following the flooding via social media Mike Lord made a suggestion that his land that runs along the Horsbrook could have some reservoirs made to retain flood water/fishing pools. Other contributory factors are the surface water which runs off from Blakeshall Lane, the Puxton Marsh Bund, Water courses, Drain & gully maintenance, and Property protection. For funding applications, it is far more likely to be granted if it comes from a Parish Council than an individual. It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed Cllr Drew be co-ordinator to arrange meetings, report back to Parish Council and hopefully achieve a positive outcome.

Cllr Drew will complete the Flood Risk Management Strategy.

111. Review of Polling Districts and Places.

Cllr R Drew advised that the review of polling districts proposes to create a new polling district to accommodate the Lea Castle Development, polling place will be Cookley Sports and Social Club. All Cllrs were happy with this proposal.

Cllr M Hart commented on the wider proposals supporting proposals in Stourport to move polling from school to entirely being at community centre, Lickhill Road. Also, Habberley, the use of the tenant's club was not successful so proposals are looking at using a school - the school would remain open with only a classroom being used. There was much discussion on this with opposing views being raised. It was proposed Cllr M Hart, seconded Cllr Brookes and agreed with 8 for and 4 against to feedback these comments to the returning officer. Clerk to complete.

112. Adopt a Street Campaign.

Cllr B Brookes commented that we all need to do our bit for the environment and there is no better place to start than in your own street or road. This scheme involves a commitment to litter pick three times a year and the litter can be collected by the District Council or put in individuals' bins. It is aimed to compliment services provided by the District Council, not replace them.

Cllr Southam advised that Cookley in Bloom litter pick every month. Cllr J Hart already litter picks in Lowe Lane.

Cllr Nicholls felt it is the responsibility of WFDC to do this and people paying council tax should not have to volunteer. Cllr McFarland agreed.

Cllr M Hart commented that a lot of people take pride in their area and surroundings. WFDC are not substituting their statutory obligation, there have always been volunteers and the Parish Council

should not stand in the way of community volunteering of adopting a street, they enhance and support.

113. **Communication with the Parish.**

Cllr Sherrey advised that currently the Parish Council do articles for Wolverley & Cookley matters which is fine in Wolverley, but he is aware that Cookley councillors have previously commented on poor distribution in Cookley. Cllr Nicholls confirmed distribution is non-existent in Cookley. Cllr Sherrey commented that a problem has been highlighted but a solution is needed and until that is discussed and agreed we should continue with Wolverley & Cookley matters which is better than nothing. It was agreed this to be put on the agenda in January 2024.

114. **Defibrillators.**

Cllr Webber proposed applying for funding for a defibrillator to be sited outside Costcutter in Wolverley, this was seconded by Cllr Bordewich and unanimously agreed.

115. **Parish Council Meeting Time.** Item Withdrawn

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

<u>PC No</u>	<u>WFDC No/Details</u>
3695	23/0713/HOU: Construction of subterranean workshop/store building, regrading of front garden to include retaining walls and steps, formation of a new access and associated works at The Old Telephone Exchange, Lea Lane, Wolverley. Rec Approval There are minor consultee objections, but it was resolved to Recommend Approval.
3696	22/0775/FUL: Subdivision of residential plot and erection of a detached dwellinghouse and garage together with a new access at The Dell, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley. Recommend deferral to the December meeting when more information will be available.

Planning Decisions.

23/0665/HOU - Approved 55 Causall Road, Causall

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

116. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Cookley in Bloom (Congratulations on their success), Worcestershire Tree Warden Scheme (Cllr D Jones - Cookley, Cllr R Drew - Wolverley), Planning Training (1st February), Remembrance Day Services (10.15am Church Hall, Wolverley, 6pm Cookley Church), Cookley Allotments (Documents with Solicitor), Road Closures (Circulated), December meeting (Wolverley).
117. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) WS/RD content, timesheet submitted on time.
118. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Clerks Pay Review,
119. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th December 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed by Chairman - 5th December 2023