

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mr T Botterill
Mr D Cox
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mr D Jones
Mrs L Jones
Mrs C Lewis
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr P Smith
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

District Councillors: Stephen Williams / Marcus Hart
West Mercia Police; PCSO Nikki Merson

180. **Apologies.** Apologies received from County Councillor Ian Hardiman.

181. **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 Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Councillor M Hart declared an ODI in Wolverley Lodge, Lea Lane, Cookley as he has previously spoken to the applicant and given advice.

182. **West Mercia Police Report**

PCSO Merson reported that there has been an increase in crime in general this month. In Cookley, 2 vehicles stolen, van broken into Westhead Road and damage again at the Lea Castle site.
Wolverley - damage Sebright Road, Bicycle stolen Wardle Way, Motorbike abandoned, incident by Debdale, 2 lurcher dogs have killed a deer. A new neighbourhood watch has been set up in Wardle Way.
Next PACT will be on 2nd March, also bike marking and tack marking events are being planned.

Councillor Cox advised of 2 shed break ins Elan close / Elm place but they might not have been reported yet,

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - please see notes after the minutes.

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

183. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th December 2018 at 7.00pm. (minutes previously circulated).**

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;

184. **To receive Councillors Reports.**
Councillor S Williams, District Councillor reported;

Budget proposals have been put forward by the District Council's cabinet. Residents are urged to complete a Budget Survey it runs from 19th December 2018 until 17th January 2019. Comments and feedback will then be considered by the Council before the budget is set in February.

The main budget proposals include;

Freezing car parking charges across Wyre Forest in 2019-2020

Investing £30,000 to maintain standards of highway verges for 2019-2020

Strengthening the Councils Planning Enforcement and Environmental Protection teams

Increasing the amount of Council Tax for District Councils services by 2.39% 2019 - 2020

Topping up the districts Localism Fund

Continuing to provide £33,000 for the Community Leadership Fund which supports local charities and good causes in every ward of the District.

The 2.39% increase for residents in Band B properties equates to an extra £3.89 per year or 8 pence a week.

Councillor M Hart advised the opening of traffic to Worcester Street is now well underway.

A site meeting was held before Christmas in Copes Lane where consent given for storage of agricultural equipment has been contravened. Action has now been taken to clear this and the matter resolved quickly. The racking at TG Hardwicks is being pursued.

Councillor M Hart read County Councillor Ian Hardiman written report;

Wyre Forest Issues

The public realm work for Worcester Street in Kidderminster Town Centre is progressing and should be completed by the autumn.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues and should be completed by the end of this year.

Strategic Issues County Wide

Work continues to set up the wholly owned company for Children's Social Care. It will be October 2019 when the company is completely set up and it is now likely for economies of scale and to improve outcomes for children that Education and Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will go in to the company as well.

The Cabinet launched its budget and financial strategy at the December 2018 meeting of cabinet and is currently out to consultation and I would encourage the PC to take part in the Parish Council engagement event on 23rd January.

A 2.99% increase in Council tax and a 1% increase in the Social Care levy, are being proposed, which are the maximum increases permissible without a referendum. These increases will see an average Band D property have their bill increase by about £48 per year, 93pence per week and is estimated to be £1260.75.

Worcestershire is still in the lowest percentage quartile compared to other Shire Counties, the national average being £1,277 In 18/19 and Worcestershire's was £1,212 in 18/19 for a Band D property. The good news is that for 19/20 the council tax base County wide will increase by circa 2,100 properties and it is estimated this, and the council tax increase will yield an additional £13.3 million to spend on services for residents.

We believe that with recent Government announcements we will receive an extra £6.5 million in 19/20 for Adult Social Care but this is only about a third of what we really need. We have also benefited from the Government's national pothole fund recently to the tune of about £6.6 million, which is better than we expected.

It is proposed that the net revenue base budget will be £330.4m in 2019/2020, an actual net cash increase from £324.2m in 2018/2019.

We are investing an additional £14.1m into Adult Social Care, £7.7m into Children's Social Care, £3m for apprenticeships, skills development and business growth and £2.8m into regeneration and infrastructure projects.

Full Council will debate and approve the final budget at its meeting on 14th February.

Local Issues:

Fencing Damage Caunsall:

The fencing near to the River Bridge in Caunsall has been damaged by a lorry turning here. The Highways Engineer has inspected and agreed that Highways will replace this fence line which is of County's responsibility.

A449 - 40mph Speed limit request:

I am still awaiting a response from Highways regarding my request for the speed limit to be reduced between the Traffic Lights along to beyond the Caunsall Road junction.

Gritting Cookley, Staite Drive:

I have been made aware that only the upper section of Staite Drive is gritted by the County's vehicle and the lower section is not. Highways informed me that this is because traffic parked in the lower section prevents the Gritter's driver from turning around; however, residents have assured me that this is incorrect as the residents park their cars on their drives! I am therefore taking this up with the Highways Engineer to encourage complete gritting throughout Staite Drive.

Wolverley, Franche Rd, Fairfield Lane junction:

My attention has been drawn to the apparent difficulties experienced by bus drivers who when turning into Fairfield Lane meet with parked vehicles close to the junction; Local residents have asked for the introduction of extended double yellow lines here to allow reasonable turning access for bus drivers. I will take this up with Highways.

Councillor M Hart advised still no planning application received yet in relation to a Quarry.

185. **Financial Matters;**

- a) To agree Budget for Financial Year 2019/20.

Councillor C Sherrey presented financial schedules to all Councillors.

Schedule 1 - Income and Expenditure, all the figures contained therein were explained, street lights bill always come late, village hall grants will be on schedule of payments next month, Localism Fund was explained, election expenses for Cookley election and poll cards for Community Governance Review.

Schedule 2 - Forecasting cash flow for the forthcoming year to 2020. Councillor C Sherrey again explained the figures contained therein. Councillors Nicholls and M Hart are to meet to discuss Clerks salary, Lengthsman put in an extra £750.00 for discussion, grass cutting - currently looking at whether we take over grass cutting, looking at 5 cuts per year, this may need to be 6 cuts so put in extra £750 to cover this, Planters and Gateways - put in extra, gateways are getting quite dirty so need to keep them looking smart, clock maintenance is based on total spend this year, Legal fees re Wolverley Memorial Hall, Elections expenses may be less if not contested, GDPR got quote from company,

Schedule 3B - shows the actual figures on an accrual basis, this shows a deficit of £3k at end of year 2020.

Councillor Sherrey was thanked for his presentation on the finances.

Councillor Cox mentioned the Clock maintenance and repairs and is happy with the budget estimate. It is hoped that if the bulb is converted to LED this should last and reduce costs for replacement.

It was explained that there is no Shortfall Funding this year, previously the government gave a financial adjustment to WFDC because everyone's tax base went down, WFDC passed this on to local parish councils but the government have now stopped this so it has been phased out,

After discussion it was proposed Councillor Cox, seconded Councillor S Sherrey and unanimously agreed to approve the budget for 2019/2020.

- b) To agree Parish Council Precept for Financial Year 2019/20.

Councillor C Sherrey suggested the Precept needs to be increased and the percentage needs to be kept in perspective monetary wise. He proposed a 10% increase, taking a Band D property from £27.95 per year to £30.75, an increase of £2.80 per year or 5.4 pence per week. This was seconded by Councillor J Hart and unanimously agreed.

- c) Accounts for Payment - unanimously agreed the following cheques be signed;

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 61 | Mrs B J Drew (Salary December 18) | 892.96 |
| 62 | Inland Revenue (Tax and NI Oct - Dec 18) | 190.66 |
| 63 | T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee December 18) | Cancelled |
| 64 | DM Payroll Services (Administration of Payroll and Nest to March 19) | 53.75 |
| 65 | Worcestershire County Council (Parish Lighting) | 11189.56 |
| 66 | Mrs B J Drew (Stationary) | 25.63 |
| 67 | Smith of Derby (Clock Repairs) | 180.00 |
| 68 | Worcestershire County Council (New Column point 74, Caunsall Rd, Caunsall) | 1250.55 |
| 69 | Mrs Y Biggs (Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure) | 202.99 |

186. **Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry and Restoration Scheme at land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley.**

The Chairman advised an e mail had been received from Mr Robin Smithyman, agent acting on behalf of the applicant for the Quarry application asking to meet with the Parish Council.

After much discussion it was agreed that as he wants to engage in pre- application discussions he should be invited to address the council and answer questions. Concerns were expressed over potential volume of members of the public due to the strength of feeling in the community and the size of the hall.

The Chairman will liaise with Mr Smithyman.

187. **Cookley and Causall Neighbourhood Plan.**
The Neighbourhood Plan Public Launch meeting is on Sunday 27th January 2019, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Cookley Village Hall.
188. **Bin Emptying / Litter Picking Contract.**
Councillor C Sherrey advised that following a meeting with Wyre Forest District Council, they are proposing a further 5-year contract for Bin Emptying / Litter Picking with an increase of 2.5% per annum. There have been a few issues during the summer and Councillors C Sherrey and R Drew are meeting with the Lengthsman prior to the renewal of the contract to address these. The contract period may be reduced to 3 years depending upon the outcome of discussion on grass cutting. The remit of litter picking needs to be clarified.
- The Parish Council unanimously agreed with this course of action and approved delegation to Councillor C Sherrey and R Drew to deal with this matter.
189. **Signage - Top of Castle Road, Cookley.**
No further action, Councillor Cox to liaise with Councillor Hardiman.
190. **Cookley Millennium Clock.**
Repairs have been completed and the clock is now working.
191. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**
- | <u>PC No</u> | <u>WFDC No/Details</u> | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| 3376 | 18/0737/TCA | Reduce English Yew by a maximum of 1 metre at Elliot House, Wolverley Village, |
| Already determined | | |
| 3377 | 18/0748/PIP | Residential development (up to 4 houses) at Wolverley Lodge, Lea Lane, Wolverley, |
| There was much discussion on this application with various concerns expressed. There was discussion on whether it is actually a Brownfield site although Wyre Forest do support this as it is considered development on previously developed land, however concerns were expressed whether a Tennis Court could be classed as previously developed land. There were concerns over the additional traffic along Lea Lane as although walking will be encouraged cars will be used by the additional properties. | | |
| It was proposed Councillor Smith to Recommend Refusal, this was seconded by Councillor D Jones and moved with 8 in favour and 6 against. | | |
| 3378 | 18/0785/Full | Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, first floor extension, dormer window to front and rear and erection of detached garage at 33 Bridge Road, Cookley, |
| Recommend Approval | | |
| 3379 | 18/0786/Full | Single storey rear extension at Horseley Hill Farm, Horseley Hill, Wolverley, |
| 3380 | 18/0787/List | |
| Recommend Approval | | |
| 3381 | 18/0792/TCA | Reduce a Sycamore to suitable growth points by a maximum of 25% at The Music Room, Wolverley Village. |
| Recommend Approval | | |
- Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required**
192. Clerks Report (Clerk). Closure Notice, Clerks and Councils Direct
193. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Councillor Smith queried certain works that are not being undertaken however it was reiterated any jobs identified need to go through Councillor Cox and Botterill who liaise with the Lengthsman. Councillor M Hart feels that the Parish Council should embrace the Lengthsman Scheme, the County Council budget has been slashed with 70% of budget now on adult and social care. Hourly rate will be reviewed with the contract.
194. Grass Cutting - Councillor C Sherrey gave an update and this will be on the main agenda in February.
195. Metal Bridge - Causall. - Now open again.
196. Additional Noticeboards. - Still awaiting costs.
197. Red Telephone Box, Causall. - Nothing to update.
198. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Memorial Hall Lease
199. Dates for Meetings:
Budget Engagement Meeting - Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 6.00pm.
CALC Executive Committee - Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 7.00pm.
200. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th February 2019, 7.00pm, Cookley School.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman - 5th February 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The applicant for Planning Application 18/0748/PIP gave an overview of planning application. The Lodge was bought in 2012 and was in bad repair, it is a substantial property and the proposed development will help to refurbish the main property. The application seeks permission in principle for up to 4 houses, it is supported by WFDC as it is on previously developed land, it is well screened by trees and hedges and the low density development will compliment Wolverley lodge. The site has been reviewed for sustainability. They have had discussions with highways and will implement measures if required. The site is within walking distance of lots of amenities and the applicant would welcome support from the local councillors, Concerns were expressed over increase to traffic on this narrow lane.