

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 7.00pm

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

County Councillor: I Hardiman
District Councillor: I Hardiman, M Hart, L Jones
West Mercia Police: Inspector David King, PCSO Zara Williams

108. **Apologies.** No Apologies

109. **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. Councillors A Carloss, C Nicholls, J Wood, W Southam on potential quarry, Lea Castle Farm from advice received from WFDC Solicitor. Councillor J Hart and M Hart on Planning Application 19/0528 as interest in property next to site.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Councillor B McFarland on potential quarry following election literature.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME;

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and invited questions. Please see notes after the minutes.

110. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2019 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:

111. To receive Councillors Reports;

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Lea Castle Quarry: Still No application received by the County Council.

Lea Lane Landslip: I have requested an update from the Highways Engineer but am awaiting his Report back. Meanwhile, Parish Councillor Adrian Carloss has drawn my attention to Lea Lane residents' concerns regarding traffic chaos occurring near to the school and the surgery; apparently some drivers are parking inconsiderately, blocking driveways and even turning into driveways and parking on the pavement, impeding parents using pushchairs. I have therefore asked and received agreement that the District Council's Enforcement Officers will step-up their presence, particularly at school start and finish times. I have also sent a request to County Highways to consider painting white H-Bar lining by driveways to deter drivers from blocking them.

Franch Road Tigers Teeth by the primary school: I am pleased that this has at last been installed; it is a safety measure designed to create an apparent width reduction of the road to cause drivers to drive more steadily. (this was funded from my Highways Funding allocation).

Sebright Road/Little Hayes Dropped Kerb for disability Scooter users: The Highways Engineer has agreed to process this on the basis that I will use my Divisional Funding to cover the costs.

A449 Dropped kerbs at the Traffic Lights junction: This is still being considered but I have offered to cover the costs for this from my Divisional Funding.

The Crescent pavement overgrowth: I am pleased to report that the lengthsman has carried out the necessary siding out successfully, and the required siding out for the Sladd Lane lower section pavement has been completed.

Cookley Castle Road Drains Blocked: The Highways Engineer has confirmed that a works order has been raised and assured me that this is scheduled for completion very soon.

Austcliffe Rd/Staite Drive alleyway Bollards Re- positioning of barriers: The Highways Engineer has assured that these barriers will be moved to allow disability scooters to access & use this lane and the work should be carried out in November.

Caunsall Road Fence Repair by the river bridge: I have been assured that this work will be effected during this month (October).

As reported for last month's meeting, I am concerned that much of my casework for the parish is taking far too long to process by County Highways. I have expressed this to the appropriate County Cabinet Member and am still awaiting a meeting on this.

Questions;

Councillor David Jones advised that there is also a need in Austcliffe Lane to move barriers to allow disabled access.

Councillor Hardiman noted this and will investigate.

Councillor McFarland expressed dismay that there has been no further progress on the A449 traffic issues, it is difficult to turn from Castle Road onto the A449, there is an increased number of HGVs, he enquired whether County have any plans to alleviate the flow of traffic. Councillor Hardiman advised he has requested a speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph, but it is likely that highways will form a solution when the lea castle site is developed.

Councillor Carlross advised of an email received from a resident in The Crescent regarding various issues, Councillor Hardiman asked for it to be forwarded but advised that he had already discussed the road surface with the highways engineer who has stated it is not a safety hazard and will not be changed.

District Councillor Lisa Jones reported;

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.

Ian, Marcus and I attended a meeting with the Enforcement Officer and his new assistant regarding Wolverhill in Wolverley. We discussed the removal of the unapproved signage; we were assured that this would be removed as soon as possible. If any resident or Parish Councillor observes that the sign has been reinstated, please let us know.

I spent the afternoon working with the Enforcement Assistant gathering evidence regarding the stables and buildings that have been erected without permission on the fields to the rear of Kimberley Avenue and along the A449. The officer is now in the process of informing the landowners accordingly. Whilst on the site visit, we noted that the public footpath that runs the length of the village was extremely overgrown and has not received any maintenance for quite a long time. This was reported to Bill Southam and the Lengthsman for action.

I attended the Calc Parish Forum with the Clerk and expressed concerns to the Leader Graham Ballenger from the Parish Councils that we represent regarding the cancellation of the Parish Council Chairman's Meeting. I asked if he could investigate this issue and reinstate the meetings soon. I am attending the County Calc Parish Forum this month. This is a valuable source of information regarding services and assistance available to residents and Parish Councils.

As in previous years I have taken delivery of the Winter Information Leaflets and room thermometers and will deliver them to all Housing Association and private bungalows in the parish. If there are any vulnerable residents who require one please let me know at the end of the meeting.

Marcus and I sit on the District Planning Committee and both spoke against the planning application at Drakelow Tunnels for a Wine Merchants and Storage business. We felt along with the Parish Council that this site was completely unsuitable. This application would have had a severe impact on residents with the additional traffic from heavy and light duty vehicles along the small lanes in Wolverley. We are pleased to report that the application was refused.

Wyre Forest Issues:

Green Street Depot - The new customer service centre opened on Monday, 9th September at 10:00am and staff have now moved over from Wyre Forest House.

Local Plan - The consultation re-opened on 2nd September and all the consultation sessions have now ended. We will advise residents and the Parish Council of any news as soon as we hear ourselves. We do know however that the Lea Castle site will be coming forward for development.

Full Council Update - At the September Full Council Meeting the Progressive Alliance stated a desire for Parish Councils to take on more localism projects with the support of the District Council. A Hidden Disabilities campaign has started with the Sunflower being the emblem for badges and lanyards, these can be obtained from the reception desk at Wyre Forest House. This is being promoted to local businesses, council offices and residents and it is hoped that wearing these will assist residents with difficulties and receive the additional help and assistance they need. Council employees pay increases were discussed and it was agreed that these would be in line with the national increase.

If you have any issues you would like us to deal with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Questions;

Councillor Nicholls commented that a lot of duties that were previously the responsibility of the County Council now seem to be cascading down to the Parish Council and the Lengthsman. He queried responsibility for Common Barn Lane and Beech Tree Lane which are very overgrown. Councillor David Jones advised that although Wyre Forest District Council drop in sessions on the local plan have closed, he and Councillor Wood are holding some in the Cookley Club.

Councillor Wood advised of numerous signs in the District advertising Paintball, Councillor Hardiman asked if any are in our patch please advise him and he will report.

112. To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector David King;

The Chief Inspector introduced himself and advised he was trying to attend as many Parish Council's as possible so people can put a face to a name. He has been in West Mercia Police for 19 years in a variety of roles, local policing, response, CID, special branch, serious organised crime, custody manager and covered Redditch and Bromsgrove as Inspector. He wants to give reassurance about villages having dedicated teams looking after them.

He has welcomed new officers starting at Bromsgrove which is freeing up local resources for Kidderminster and is great news for the geographic area.

He is passionate that people know their local officers and how to contact them and all details are on the new website.

Councillor M Hart commented that there has been some confusion with the wording of the automated message if you e mail the safer neighbourhood team which suggests the matter of parking and obstruction are a matter for other statutory bodies. Inspector King advised that in May 2013 parking was decriminalised and parking enforcement officers deal with this who do work 7 days a week however if a road is being obstructed, including a pavement let the team know and they will try and do something about it.

Inspector King confirmed that nothing is changing for our area in the reconfiguration of safer neighbourhood teams, Derya Mustafa remains our contact.

Various Councillors commented on the great working relationship this Parish Council has with the PCSOs and we appreciate their involvement in local events in both villages.

PCSO Zara Williams gave the police report;

Wolverley - 1 incident theft of Trailer from paddock in Kingsford Lane

Cookley - Burglary along riverbank Cookley, access gained on foot, Antisocial Behaviour Cookley Playing Fields - 2 people sent Letters which can then escalate.

Councillor Cox advised of Cookley Bonfire, Friday 1st November.

113. Financial Matters:

a) Approved - The following Accounts for Payment to be paid:

37 Mrs B J Drew (Salary September 19)	880.47
38 Inland Revenue (Tax and NI July - September 19)	175.29
39 T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee)	850.50
40 DM Payroll Services Ltd (Administration of Payroll first half 19/20)	70.50
41 Mrs B J Drew (Stationary - Paper/Ink)	14.94
42 PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit)	360.00
43 Worcestershire CALC (Training)	120.00

b) External Audit Report

Clerk advised report received with no comments.

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

No formal planning application yet received.

115. Report on Cookley and Causall Neighbourhood Plan / Wyre Forest Community Land Trust.

Councillor David Jones advised this is progressing and a further meeting arranged with the Consultant.

116. To discuss applying to the GBSLEP Habitats Grants Programme for a Dementia Sensory Garden.

Councillor Southam advised of a meeting held last week to finalise expression of interest form. It was agreed this be submitted in the name of the Parish Council.

117. **Wolverley Memorial Hall:**

- a) Wolverley Tennis Club sub lease, Councillor C Sherrey advised that the Wolverley Memorial Hall need consent from the Parish Council to sublet to the Tennis Club. This was unanimously agreed.
- b) Advertising. –Councillor Drew commented on the number of posters from organisations outside of the parish being displayed on the corner of the field. Councillor John Hart will raise this at the next Memorial Hall meeting.

118. **Offer of Christmas Trees to the Parish from Kinver Edge Committee.**

Clerk to liaise with Councillor Drew for Wolverley and Councillor David Jones for Cookley regarding size, location and delivery.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

- | | |
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| 3424 | WF/19/0528/PIP: Proposed three-bedroom two storey dwelling at land adjacent Lowethorpe Barn, Lowe Lane, Wolverley, Recommend Refusal in Green Belt and not previously developed land. |
| 3425 | WF/19/0532/Full: Single storey side extension at 7 Sebright Road, Wolverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3426 | WF/19/0541/Full: Proposed rear extension at 20 Gaymore Road, Recommend Approval. |
| 3427 | WF/19/0545/Full: Proposed loft conversion with flat roof dormer at 18 Bridge Road, Cookley, Recommend Deferral for case officer comments. |
| 3428 | WF/19/0553/Full: Proposed detached house with car parking at 14 Elan Close, Cookley, Recommend Approval (1 abstention) |
| 3429 | WF/0556/TREE: Reduce back by 2-3 metres a group of oak trees adjacent to property (Cedarwood) to suitable growth points, taking into account the trees natural form. Fell sub dominant hazel and hawthorn under the mature tree canopy at Cookley Woods, Lea Lane, Cookley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3430 | WF/19/0567/Full: Single storey pre-school building and classroom extension to internal courtyard at Wolverley Sebright Primary School, Wolverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3431 | WF/19/0569/Full: Proposed two storey extension at 43 Wardle Way, Wolverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3432 | 19/2065/CR: Removal of Condition 16 relating to Bus Strategy of Planning Permission 17/0205 - Recommend Approval subject to no detrimental affect to bus service to this site. |
| 3433 | 19/9012/NMA: INFO ONLY: Nonmaterial amendment to 18/0529/Full to remove pumping station and amendments to plots 21-25 now the pumping station has been removed and a 15metre stand off the wet well is no longer required. Noted. |

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required

120. Clerks Report (Clerk): Parish Forum, West Mercia Website, Volunteer & Skills Fair. WFDC Grants Schemes, WCC Grit Flyer, LED Conversions.
121. Worcestershire County Council Minerals Local Plan. Response submitted and acknowledgement received.
122. Wyre Forest District Local Plan. Response submitted.
123. IDOX Planning Training. Councillor S Sherrey updated on training attended last week on a new system for planning applications which will be introduced in November.
124. To update on Lengthsman Scheme, work undertaken and schedule of hours remaining. Councillor Drew has held a meeting with the Lengthsman to discuss concerns over delay in getting work done.
125. To update on Grass Cutting. Councillor Drew advised that the final cut would only be to areas needed and will be done in the next week. The grass cutting subcommittee will meet with the Contractor in the New Year to discuss the forthcoming season.
126. To update on Payphone, Bridge Road, Cookley. Permission received from Tony Higley therefore Clerk progressing.
127. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Lea Castle Site, Marshalls Remembrance Day Parade, Metal Bridge Causall.
128. Dates for Meetings: Fly tipping/CCTV Meeting 10th October 2019, 3.30pm. Parish Forum 17th October 2019, 5.00pm
129. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th November, 2019 at 7.00pm.

The Chairman requested that the December meeting also be held in Wolverley to ensure the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2020 is rotated between the two villages.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

A resident from Lea Lane commented on problems with traffic and parking in the lane which has worsened since the closure of the lane. Cars are continually reversing on residents drives and parking irresponsibly and it is totally unsafe for children. Councillor Carlross added that numerous residents have complained about this and are very frustrated with the delay on opening the lane fully. Councillor Wood also added that the village hall and club are experiencing problems with cars parking on the double yellow lines.

Councillor Hardiman reported that he had already spoken to Councillor Carlross on this matter and has been assured by Rob Beeston, Enforcement Manager that attendance will be increased in this area, he has also spoken to the highways engineer regarding the possibility of white h bars. One resident commented that the school and the surgery need to do some education also.

Councillor Hart confirmed that enforcement do work weekends. Councillor Hardiman advised that the police can be called if there is an actual obstruction, Inspector King also advised of Operation Snap where you can take photographs and upload onto the new website.