

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 5th November 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 Councillors: I Hardiman, M Hart, L Jones
West Mercia Police; PCSO Nichola Merson
Highways Liaison Engineer; Paul Green

130. **Apologies.** No Apologies

131. **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.
- 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.

132. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st October, 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:

133. To receive Councillors Reports;

Paul Green, Highways Liaison Engineer was present to report on the Lea Lane landslide.

He advised that the landslide had occurred due to a Severn Trent leak and this resulted in a blockage in the canal and damage to the highway. On the day it happened all parties attended on site and worked together to close the highway and maintain a water supply to residents. Since then the communication between the parties involved - Worcestershire County Council, Severn Trent, Canals & Rivers Trust and a private individual that owns the bank itself has been very delicate and has now almost broken down. Worcestershire County Council are undertaking a ground investigation 25th November and need to get a technical design prepared and signed off with a view to starting work in February 2020 which will also involve Severn Trent.

Thanks were expressed to Paul Green for his update.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Lea Castle Quarry: Whilst no planning application has yet been received, County Planning Officers believe that one may soon be submitted.

The Crescent Residents' Concerns: Several issues raised at a recent site meeting together with Cllr Adrian Carloss and residents' representatives, are being addressed. However, specific concerns remain regarding the pending 'Reserved Matters' Application for 600 dwellings on the Hospital Site footprint which appears to designate The Crescent's existing road as being a main route for access and egress for the development's residents. Furthermore, County Highways suggestion originally that this road should have a buses only barrier installed was seen to be withdrawn when the District's Planning Committee approved Outline Permission in 2017; but it was understood that the Planning Development manager would consider it at a 'Reserved matters Stage' of the application. As I support the residents' view that this road is not suitable for through access for All vehicles, I have requested a site visit by a County Highways Officer and a District Planning Officer, to hear

residents' views expressed by their spokesperson. I have now received agreement for the site meeting, so will identify a suitable appointment as soon as possible.

Cookley, Castle Road: The identified Blocked Drains have now been cleared.

Austcliffe Road Walkway Safety Barriers: These have been inspected by the Highways Engineer who is supportive of these being repositioned to allow easier access by disability scooter users.

Road Flooding: There are three locations identified requiring specialist technical drainage system investigation. These are Kingsford Lane, Lowe lane and Highlow Bank. Unfortunately, county wide there are some major flooding issues creating a backlog of site investigations, causing our sites to be still outstanding!

Wolverley School Time Parking Issues: Together with Cllr Marcus Hart and the Highways Engineer, I met this afternoon with residents of Blakeshall Lane who contacted us regarding vehicle parking on the narrow bend above the High School, causing near collisions at school drop-off and pick-up times.

We were able to witness the vehicle passing problems, unwittingly being caused by parents vehicles parked along the inside bend of the road. Consideration is now being given by the Highways Engineer to resolve this hazard, possibly by the introduction of double yellow lines.

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.

Whilst attending the Calc Conference at County Hall Lisa obtained leaflets from the Wildlife Trust regarding pollinators along with leaflets for grants that are available to towns and parishes to create wildlife rich habitats. Lisa is passing these on to Bill Southam for the Britain in Bloom Team.

Lisa is attending the annual service with the British Legion at Wolverley High School.

Lisa has now received advice from WFDC's solicitor, in respect of the quarry that despite not predetermining her view, given the proximity of Lisa's house to the site, Lisa should declare a disclosable pecuniary interest at any meeting where she is required to vote on the matter and play no part in the decision making.

Lisa is totally opposed to the quarry as Lisa fears it will have an adverse effect on the openness of the countryside and is very concerned about the large number of additional lorries that will be using the roads in the Parish and regarding the additional noise, mess and disruption that the quarry will cause.

Lisa also has very strong concerns about the health and wellbeing of our residents and the health of our children living in the villages and attending our local schools. Lisa has been consulting and working with Mark Garnier our local MP regarding this issue. Ian and Marcus cannot comment at this stage as they wish to ensure they can fully vote and take part in the debates and decision-making process.

We have been liaising with the Planning and Enforcement officers regarding the unauthorised stables along the A449 and to the rear of Kimberley Avenue and Gaymore Road in Cookley. We will report back to the Parish Council in due course with the action taken. This is taking a while but progress is being made, further to the officer's site visit. The three of us are going to have a further meeting with officers about this matter as we have concerns about the openness of the countryside.

As the parish council are aware, in the Progressive Alliance's Local Plan proposals they are still proposing 1400 houses for the site as a whole, 600 on the footprint of the former hospital, school and other buildings. This is what is known as 'previously developed land'. Indeed, there was an outline planning application approved in 2017 for the 600 houses.

They may also be aware, that the 'reserved matters' application for the 600 houses is due to be submitted imminently. The application has not yet been submitted. The 'reserved matters' in essence means, site layout, house types and design, and landscaping.

We have been advised that there will be some bungalows, albeit a relatively small number and the houses will be 2,3 and 4 bedrooms. There will be 40% affordable housing/affordable rented/shared ownership.

There will be a management company responsible for the management of all of the public open space of which each property will pay an annual fee.

All three of us are aware of some concerns regarding the road layout and access of the whole site being possible through the Crescent and Ian as county councillor is leading on this and liaising with WCC highways as back in 2017 at one point a bus barrier was proposed for the access on and off the site through The Crescent but by the time the application for outline consent was determined WCC highways had removed this proposal and felt one was not needed. However, Ian and Marcus who sat on the committee at the time were given the impression that this matter could be further considered at 'reserved matters stage' and we are pressing for consideration of this.

Regarding the rest of the Lea Castle site and the potential further 800 houses, it will be for the Progressive Alliance's Cabinet to bring forward a proposal to Full Council, likely to be in February 2020 on what their 'preferred options local plan is' with a view to then sending it to the Planning Inspector for an examination in public throughout the summer of 2020, with Full

Council approving a plan in the autumn of 2020. As stated, it is the Progressive Alliance's preferred option to have 1400 houses in total on the site, together with community facilities, shops and a new Primary School.

Wyre Forest Issues

The local plan consultations have now closed and we are awaiting details and findings to come to the Full Council. We will inform the parish council of any amendments in due course.

We welcome a new planning enforcement officer to the planning team, we now have two officers who can deal with enforcement issues within our parish.

The Progressive Alliance are compiling a car parking charges review for the whole of the district including consideration of charging blue badge holders, charges in the evening and overnight and removing free car parking locations, together with a 5% increase. We will report with further information once the matter has gone through Scrutiny and the Cabinet have made their final decision.

A large part of the Progressive Alliance's savings plans are predicated on localism with the Town and Parish Councils expected to take on more services.

Shoppers can take advantage of free parking at all Wyre Forest District Council car parks after 3pm during the festive period. The offer is running from Friday 22 November when the first of the district's Christmas light switch-ons is taking place in Stourport. Kidderminster's lights switch-on will follow on Saturday 23 November and Bewdley's on Saturday 30 November. The offer finishes on Sunday 5 January 2020.

The Clerk advised Councillor L Jones to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the Quarry as advised by the Solicitor at Wyre Forest District Council, she declared this.

Caution was expressed by many over the intention to encourage Parish Councils to take on more services and amenities through Localism.

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

PCSO Nichola Merson gave the police report:

3 burglaries, 2 sheds in Staite drive and a dwelling in Franche Rd, Wolverley, Kimberlee Avenue, 2 vehicle crimes and criminal damage - Drakelow lane,

Nichola reminded people to light up houses at this time of year and she advised the police will be present at both Remembrance Day parades.

Councillor Southam expressed thanks for prompt response on abusive door to door salesman.

135. Financial Matters:

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

44	Mrs B J Drew (Salary October 19)	880.47
45	Mrs L Jones (Councillors Expenses)	17.10
46	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee)	Not Received
47	Kirkwells Limited (Preferred options analysis, advice and support - From NP Grant)	3444.00
48	Mrs B J Drew (Stationary - Ink/Office Sub)	90.98
49	Keith Basketfield (Grass Cutting)	465.00
50	Worcestershire CALC (Training)	30.00
51	The Poppy Appeal (Donation for Wreaths)	100.00
52	Oakvale Nurseries (Village Planters - Summer 2019)	790.00

- b) Payroll Services from 1st April 2020. Clerk advised of e mail received from DM Payroll Services advising costs to administer Payroll and Nest from 1st April 2020 will be £180.00 a year. It was agreed they provide an excellent service and that they should continue to provide the Payroll Services.

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

No formal planning application yet received.

137. **To discuss Lea Castle Site.**

Although the reserved matters planning application has not yet been received, following presentations from Galliford Try points of concern were made for information only to Councillors over access through The Crescent and a lack of green, environmentally friendly initiatives, The Chairman advised that Councillors would have the opportunity to comment once the formal application has been received.

138. **Report on Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan / Wyre Forest Community Land Trust.**

Plan is progressing.

139. **Consultations:**

- a) Budget Consultation Questionnaire - Noted
- b) PCCs rural crime strategy consultation. - Noted

140. **To discuss metal bridge, Caunsall.**

Councillor D Jones asked if re paint of this bridge could be included in the Parish Council Budget next year. Councillor C Sherrey requested an estimate be obtained and presented at the budget setting meeting.

141. **To discuss parking in Lea Lane, Cookley.**

This to be pursued through the WFDC Enforcement Officers.

142. **Street Trading Application.**

Notification from Worcester Regulatory Services for street trading consent to be granted to sell ice creams on a mobile basis. Noted.

143. **To discuss arrangements for Remembrance Day Parades.**

Marshalls in hand for both Wolverley and Cookley.

144. **Article for Wolverley and Cookley Matters.**

The magazine has now been taken over by Andrew Preece.
Councillor D Jones will draft an article for the December issue.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

- | | |
|------|---|
| 3434 | WF/19/3049/Dem: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Demolition of garage block at Elan Close, Cookley |
| 3435 | WF/19/3050/Dem: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Demolition of 29 and 31 Kimberlee Avenue, Cookley |
| 3436 | WF/19/0582/Certp: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Detached log store, 2 freestanding canopies to rear of house at Narok, Birds Barn Lane, Wolverley |
| 3437 | WF/19/0583/Full: Proposed subterranean swimming pool complex including associated ground works at Gardeners Cottage, The Shortyard, Wolverley |
| | Recommend Deferral. This is a large development in the middle of a conservation area very close to an ancient wall, the Parish Council would therefore request comments from the Conservation Officer on this application. In addition comments also from Worcestershire Regulatory Services regarding potential noise from the ventilation and heating systems and plant room. |
| 3438 | WF/19/0587/Full: Proposed single storey rear extension, pitched roof to front bay window, new storm porch, replacement windows and render finish to existing external walls at The Woodlands, Hobro Lane, Wolverley |
| | Recommend Approval |
| 3439 | WF/19/0606/Full: Remodelling of roof pitch (to match existing) at Windy Ridge, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley |
| | Application Withdrawn |
| 3440 | WF/19/0608/Full: Single storey front and rear extension at 1 Little Hayes, Wolverley |
| | Recommend Approval |

3441 WF/19/0625/Full; Erection of three stables and a tack room at land off Solcum Lane, Wolverley

Recommend Refusal - overdevelopment of site and adverse impact on the openness of the greenbelt.

3442 WF/19/0636/Out: Erection of 5 detached dwellings with associated vehicular access, parking and landscaping at land at Caunsall Road, Caunsall.

Recommend Refusal - although this site has been submitted as a preferred options site in the Local Plan this has yet to be approved so it is premature to agree development on this land in the greenbelt.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

146. Clerks Report (Clerk):

Notice of Appeal - The Retreat, Lowe Lane, Wolverley

Notice of Appeal - Wyre Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Wolverley

Appeal Dismissed - Hobro Chalet, Hobro, Wolverley

GBSLEP Habitats Grants Programme for a Dementia Sensory Garden. Application Unsuccessful.

Fly tipping/CCTV Meeting - Slides forwarded by Clerk to all Councillors.

Blakeshall Common Stakeholder Meeting - Noted.

Community Asset Mapping - Noted.

Information on make our roads safer/Operation SNAP - Noted.

Members Information Bulletin - Noted.

European Social Fund Community Grants - Noted.

Christmas Trees in the Parish - Councillor D Jones to liaise for Cookley and R Drew for Wolverley.

Honorary Alderman Title - Noted.

147. To update on Lengthsman Scheme, work undertaken and schedule of hours remaining.

Councillor Southam and Drew expressed concern that once again no Lengthsman work has been undertaken in the Parish this month despite work being given. There was much discussion on this matter which all agreed needs to be dealt with in a sensitive but positive way. It was agreed that a formal meeting needs to be held with the Lengthsman to discuss concerns over the level of service being provided and also thought should be given to the contract going forward from April 2020. It was also discussed that any exit strategy would need to include provision for bin emptying.

148. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Councillors were all reminded to attend at 6.30pm next month for presentation to former Councillor Peter Smith.

149. Dates for Meetings: Worcestershire CALC AGM, Wednesday 20th November, 6.30pm. Councillors Mrs L Jones to attend.

150. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd December, 2019 at 7.00pm. Wolverley Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Chairman - 3rd December 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

A resident spoke on the matter of banners displayed in the Parish advertising local events at Cookley Club being removed within a few days of display whereas other posters around the Wyre Forest area do not seem to be removed. The advertising is vital as the monies raised from the events are used to help fund local charities and fund future events.

Councillor M Hart commented that although he had not seen the posters, he encouraged the club committee to speak to Wyre Forest District Council about the policy in respect of advertising.

Councillor Mrs L Jones advised that she had told the club to seek advice but Rob Beeston has said nobody has.

Councillor David Jones advised they have changed the format of banners so they do comply with what is allowed.