

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm**

Mr D Cox (Chairman)  
Mr R Drew (Vice Chairman)  
Mr A Carloss  
Mr J Hart  
Mr M Hart  
Mrs L Jones  
Mr B McFarland  
Mr C D 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 Kate Easthope and PC Ross Williams

185. **Apologies.** Councillor Mrs V Bordewich due to hospital appointment and Mr D Jones due to holiday.

186. **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, L Jones, 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.

187. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 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;**

188. **To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.**

PCSO Kate Easthope welcomed PC Ross Williams the new PC for Kidderminster North and East.

Issues this month;

Cookley - Vehicle Crime Lionfields Road - caravan stolen, Burglary Kinver Lane. Vehicle Crime Castle Road - van stolen from delivery driver, Theft of BMX Staite Drive also in Staite Drive gun firing at windows.

Operation Prospero has been running (Scam callers), have had a lot in Cookley, be very careful never send bank details to anyone,

Wolverley - Heathfield School, middle of the day Catalytic Converter stolen off car parked on the car park, Hedge cutting Hayes road random people offering to cut hedges for extortionate amount of cash from elderly residents, Sladd Lane - male saying car broken down and needs to get to hospital - asking for money, There was an incident at Wolverley Social club where drinks were spiked at a party, all local pubs have been notified and are displaying signs, please be careful and do not leave your drinks unattended.

189. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

**County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;**

LOCAL ISSUES:

Quarry Application: A Quarry Application has been received and verified with the Reference 19/000053/CM.

I will give the website link details to the Clerk. This will be accessible from this Thursday, & paper copies will be available to view at Kidderminster Library or County Hall Worcester.

Lea Lane Landslip: Paul Green, Highways Engineer has informed me that the contractor will be starting work within six weeks - provided all parties' permissions have been agreed. The proposed solution is to use large concrete blocks which slot into each other (like Lego!)

The Crescent: I have again chased Paul Green regarding the agreed outstanding road surface repair and that the County Council will write to the landowner whose trees are overhanging too low into the road.

Wolverley Bridge Damage Blakeshall Lane: I have reminded Highways that the repair work for this is still outstanding.

I met last week with the Cabinet Member for Highways and made clear my dissatisfaction with the amount of casework for my Division that is taking far too long to be dealt with!

#### STRATEGIC ISSUES:

The County Council's Cabinet have now approved their budget strategy and are proposing increasing Council Tax by 1.99% and having an Adult Social Care Levy of 2%. Full Council will meet on 13th February to approve the Budget.

Mr Simon Mallinson, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services for the County Council, is retiring this month, after 21 Years of service.

Councillor Drew enquired on any progress with the ramp by the canal opposite the Lock Inn Pub which is bubbling with water, flooding and is almost impassable. This has now been referred to Canals and Rivers Trust.

#### **District Councillor Mrs Lisa Jones reported;**

##### Local Issues

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

We arranged for a thorough Litter pick on the A449, Wolverley Road and along the Shatterford Road to the Bridgnorth Road.

I arranged for the heavy-duty road sweeper to clear away the leaves along Lea Lane, this now looks a lot better.

I surveyed the Road Name Signs in Cookley, Caunsall and Wolverley for any damage to the signs or posts, this list has been forwarded to Green Street's Operational Services for their comments and timescale for the replacements and refurbishments. We will report back when we have further information.

Myself, Ian and Marcus had an enjoyable evening supporting the Memorial Hall Project's pantomime.

I was invited by Wolverley allotments to plant their spring bulbs in the orchard and participated in their Wassail.

I had a site visit to the New Hub and Green Street offices and liaised with officers regarding local issues.

Regarding enforcement issues, we have had meetings with Planning and the new enforcement officers, they are still investigating and compiling evidence regarding the influx of stables and a Manege on the A449 and rear of Kimberlee Avenue in Cookley.

We have been working hard with local residents and officers including a site visit on 16 January and various meetings to look at the evidence and what action can be taken regarding the Motor Cross activities that are causing an enormous amount of upset and stress both from a noise and a planning point of view.

Marcus has previously contacted Worcestershire Regulatory Services who have given some clear advice on when and what level of activity there would be to constitute a statutory nuisance. Apart from the Court Farm site which is regulated at 10 times over a 12-month period, the other two sites are 14 times in a 12-month period. We would be very grateful if residents could keep a log for us to forward onto the officer.

Correspondence has been sent to Mr Strong regarding these issues and have asked him to comply with all of the regulations. The Enforcement Officers have now spoken to Mr Strong and explained his duty and regulations for the events. He has also assured officers that the events will not exceed the 14 days per calendar year.

There are three sites where these are taking place, please see attached plan. Court Farm, Wolverley which is at the back of Heathfield's Sports field. At the front of the A449 which is being used as training field for children, we have been advised today by Mr Strong that these events will cease from Mid-February when the crops will be planted.

Regarding the large dirt ramps and change of use from Agricultural use to a Motor-Cross business, again the planning and enforcement officers have advised that residents keep a log of all events for all three sites, these events are allowed for 14 times over a 12-month period. Mr Strong has assured the officers today that the dirt ramps near to Mr & Mrs McDonald will be removed within the next 8 weeks and they are only used for his friends. Officers will be speaking to Mr Strong in 8 weeks if he hasn't carried out this work. Could the residents please keep us informed on this please.

All correspondence that has been forwarded to us has been sent onto each of the officers who are investigating these matters.

Please be assured that ourselves and the officers are looking at this very seriously and are doing our utmost to ensure that these activities are within the planning regulations and noise parameters.

## Wyre Forest Issues

Wyre Forest District Council's cabinet will be meeting next week to finalise the budget proposals which will set the council tax and set the council's new draft medium term strategy which will set out the spending proposals, investment plans and council tax for the year starting 1 April 2020. This will then go to full council on 26 February.

The draft budget processes an increase of 3% in council or by £5.00 (for a band D property).

The Progressive Alliance also intend removing All Free parking periods from all car parks; to increase parking charges overall and extend the charging period till 9.00 pm each day. And introduce seasonal increases for Stourport and Bewdley car parks. Full Season tickets for senior citizens will increase from the present 25% cost to 44% of the cost.

They are also proposing reduced Grass Cutting frequency of verges across the District.

Under the Heading of Localism, they are wishing to save considerable monies by transferring responsibility for various services to the Town and Parish Councils.

The District Council's updated Local Plan will shortly be scrutinised before being debated at Full Council on 20th February.

The Progressive Alliance are proposing an additional 800 houses in the green belt making a total of 1400 for the development overall.

We are being re-consulted on the names for the roads on the former Sion Hill Middle School site and would be interested in the further views of the Parish Council.

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

Councillor Drew expressed concern over the Motor Cross activities and that no action will be taken for at least 8 weeks, he asked whether the organisers could be approached and asked to reduce the number of bikes which would in turn reduce the noise, also as the old quarry area by the canal is no longer classed as agricultural land could Mr Strong be subjected to Business Rates?

Councillor M Hart advised Wyre Forest have been asked to look into Business Rates but the Valuation Office would deal with this. Worcestershire Regulatory Services can be asked to try and limit the number of bikes. The area used near the bungalow clearly show the land has been changed and man-made ramps put there which will require a planning application if he doesn't put land back in 8 weeks.

190. **Financial Matters; Accounts for Payment** - agreed the following schedule of cheques to be signed.

|    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 67 | Mrs B J Drew<br>(Salary January 2020)                       | 880.47 |
| 68 | Mrs B J Drew<br>(Stationery)                                | 27.65  |
| 69 | T & A Dale<br>(Lengthsman Fee)                              | 681.30 |
| 70 | DM Payroll Services Ltd<br>(Payroll Services)               | 70.50  |
| 71 | Cookley In Bloom<br>(Maintenance of Elizabeth Bache Corner) | 118.38 |
| 72 | Cookley In Bloom<br>(Britain in Bloom Entry Fee)            | 55.00  |

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

The Planning Application has now been validated. Consultation runs from 6<sup>th</sup> February - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and therefore discussion, vote and response will take place at the next meeting.

192. **To discuss Moto Cross Events being held in the Parish and agree any action.**

Already covered.

193. **To discuss Lea Castle Site Redevelopment - Parking at The Crescent, Cookley.**

Clerk read e mail received from Homes England inviting Parish Council representatives to meet to discuss parking options at The Crescent, Cookley with the new Lea Castle redevelopment. It was agreed Councillors Cox and Carlross attend.

194. **Wyre Forest District Council - Off Street Parking Places Order 2020.**

Noted.

195. **To discuss New Code of Conduct.**

Worcestershire CALC has adopted a new Code, Wyre Forest District Council are looking at it, Clerk advised to wait and adopt new code at the annual meeting in May.

196. **Appointment of representative to Wolverley and Cookley Charities.**

Councillor S Sherrey advised that a new representative is needed from the Wolverley area as Tony Higley is no longer on the Charity and recently Rev. Shillock passed away.

Current representatives are C Nicholls, D Lowe for Cookley, S Sherrey for Wolverley and Rev Nigel Taylor.

Councillor Nicholls advised he has represented this charity since 1994 and he strongly feels that the vacancy should be filled by a co-opted member of the parish and not a parish councillor as Councillors Nicholls and Sherrey are Parish Council representatives, Mrs Dot Lowe is co-opted for Cookley and Rev. Taylor has replaced Rev. Shilvock. Councillor S Sherrey advised that the Clerk, Peter Copsey had confirmed it can be filled by a Parish Councillor.

Councillor Nicholls proposed the new representative should be from Wolverley and should be co-opted from the residents, with 2 for, 6 against and 4 abstentions this was not carried. Councillor S Sherrey proposed Mrs V Bordewich be appointed, with 6 for, 3 against and 3 abstentions this was carried.  
Clerk to advise Mr Peter Copsey.

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

Councillor Wood reported the CLT are talking to homes England to look at a small site amongst the existing Lea Castle boundary.

198. **Article for Wolverley and Cookley Matters monthly magazine.**

Councillor Drew advised an article needs to be drafted for the March issue and suggested publicising the consultation on the quarry and giving an explanation of council tax increase.

Councillor Nicholls expressed concern that not all areas received the magazine, especially many roads in Cookley.

After much discussion it was agreed an article be submitted for March edition and Councillor Drew will speak to the editor regarding where the magazine is delivered to ensure even distribution.

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

**PC No    WFDC No/Details**

3452    19/0814/TCA: Fell 1 x Whitebeam, 1 x Yew and 1 x Sycamore, Reduce 1 x leading branch on juvenile beech to balance aesthetics of the crown at Sinkers Cottage, The Shortyard, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

3453    19/3063/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Proposed single storey rear extension at The Woodlands, Little Hobro Lane, Wolverley.

3454    19/3066/PNRES: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house at Barn at Moat Farm, Solcum Lane, Wolverley.

3455    20/0011/TCA: Oak - Crown raise and reduce hyper extended branches, Hazel - Reduce to approx. 2m high at Oak House, Wolverley Village.

Recommend Approval

3456    20/0017/Full: Single storey rear extension at 18 Bridge Road, Cookley.

Recommend Approval

3457    20/0023/Full: Erection of 0.8 metre high rear patio with steps at 28 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

3458    20/0029/Full: Replacement of permitted garage with lifetime home (bungalow) at land at Wyre Mill Cottage, Wolverley.

Councillors Mr M Hart and Mrs L Jones advised that this application is likely to go before Wyre Forest District Council Planning Committee therefore their views will be predisposed so not to affect discussion at Wyre Forest.

Councillor C Sherrey quoted from the Appeal Decision dated 12<sup>th</sup> November regarding proposed garage, Wyre Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Wolverley, Decision 4 - "The garage shall not be used for any purpose other than that ancillary or incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house and shall not be used as living accommodation."

Councillors Nicholls and Carlross commented that it is sad that age related illness is not considered as we should be looking after our elderly. Councillor C Sherrey recommended refusal, seconded by Councillor J Hart with 6 in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions it was carried.

**Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required**

200. Clerks Report (Clerk). Appeal Dismissed - The Retreat, Lowe Lane, Probity in Planning Guidance, IDOX Planning System, Volunteer and Skills Fair, Community Organisations share in £5,000 grant fund, Conservation work to start at Habberley Valley, Wyre Forest Local Plan, Sebright Foundation Accounts.

201. Update on Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease. (MH) The Solicitor for the Memorial Hall has now made contact with our Solicitor in Birmingham.

- 202. Update on site visit. (RD) No progression with planters on island, works are being investigated regarding flooding bottom of Highlow Bank.
- 203. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. (RD/WS) All work requested has been completed.
- 204. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. None
- 205. Dates for Meetings:  
Worcestershire County Council Spring Parish Conference - 18th March 2020.  
Wyre Forest Area CALC - Thursday 19th March 2020.
- 206. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd March 7.00pm, Cookley School.

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

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Chairman - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

A resident spoke on Planning Application 20/0029 for a lifetime home for elderly parents in law struggling with many health issues but who would be able to continue independent living if this application to replace a permitted garage with a bungalow is permitted. They advised neighbours are supportive, there are no conflict with green belt policies and asked for the Parish Council to support this application.

Councillors with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on the Quarry application left the room.

A resident expressed disappointment that so many Parish Councillors cannot take part in the debate at the next meeting and cannot vote on the Quarry application. He urged the Chairman to ensure enough time is devoted to this matter at the next meeting to enable full discussion and participation by the Public. Councillor Drew advised that as it is such a huge issue for the Parish sufficient time will be allocated.

Councillor McFarland advised that upon advice from Wyre Forest District Council he can take part in the meeting but cannot vote. He is disappointed that the Parish Council have not received a copy of the planning application. Councillor Hardiman advised the application will be available to view online from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and paper copies will be available to view at the library.