

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 4th August 2020 at 7.00pm

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

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman, Marcus Hart
West Mercia Police: Apologies

56. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Councillor Mr D Cox (Working) , Mrs L Jones (Holiday) and Mr J Wood (Holiday).

57. **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.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.
Councillor M Hart in agenda item 12 as member of Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue.

An e mail had been received by the Clerk from a Parishioner which will be read before Agenda Item 10 - Black Lives Matter Campaign.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

58. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2020 at 7.30pm.**

These having previously been circulated it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

59. **Police Report**

WOLVERLEY

Burglary - Kinverdale Caravan Park - reports of sheds being broken into and power tools stolen from within. Padlocks cut to gain entry

Suspicious Males - Sladd Barn - a car was seen in this location with 3 males inside who claimed they were just looking at the horses. They became abusive when asked to leave. They were in a grey ford escort

Suspicious Male - Sladd Lane - male in white transit seen in the rural location stating he was there to fit laminate flooring (which the owners had no knowledge of) - concerns as owners have previously had two pushbikes stolen

Suspicious Circs - Little Hayes - report from member of public stating that they had heard loud bangs in the middle of the night - this was a genuine mistake/ call to police as it was a resident leaving their property in a rush

COOKLEY

Theft - Castle Road - Coping stones from the top of a wall have been stolen

Anti-Social Behaviour - Cookley Playing Fields - reports of boy racers on the car park - officers did a targeted patrol operation in this area, and although saw cars parked there, no one was driving. On another occasion police attended and spoke to a group that were standing by cars talking who stated that a female from the club had already been to speak with them and said that they could stay there so long as they were respectful and didn't leave litter.

Vehicle Crime - Gaymore Road - Van parked on driveway has had holes cut in the back door to gain entry. Power tools stolen from within

OVERVIEW - we have recently conducted speed surveys in the Cookley area on Castle road - the average speed was 26mph

We have planned some dates with local livery yards to do some horse tack marking and will be publishing this throughout August to see if there are others in the area that wish to have this done

60. County/District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Reports;

County Councillor Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 4th August 2020

Wyre Forest Issues

WCC highways work on the Churchfields site continues with the creation of the spur road off the island which will take traffic out of town. This coming week there will be disruption as one of the lanes is closed to facilitate the work. Work has stopped as a result of Coronavirus, but I understand contractors will be starting with safe distancing measures being put in place.

As reported previously, the additional funding for the Hoobrook island has now been agreed as part of the budget and we should see this scheme commence this year to tackle this major congestion hotspot in Kidderminster. A design scheme has been drawn up and it is anticipated that work could commence before Christmas this year.

Strategic Issues County Wide

The County Council has continued to be heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Six Libraries re-opened on 4th July, The Hive, Kidderminster, Redditch, Malvern, Evesham and Bromsgrove. At first, only limited services are available. A further 5 will open on 3rd August, relevant to this area, Droitwich and Stourport.

The majority of household waste sites across Worcestershire are open including the Stourport Road site. The Worcester Road site opened on 27th July but by way of an online bookings system to manage demand. This is due to the infrastructure at this location.

Registrations of births and deaths are now able to be done at the offices but at 7 of the 9 offices there is an appointment system.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well.

Annual council took place on 16th July over Zoom and the new Chairman of the Council, is Cllr. Bob Brookes from Droitwich.

Local Issues

I have reported to Highways the A449 hedge overgrowth issue raised last meeting.

Unfortunately, although our Highways Liaison Engineer Paul Green is now back on duty and I met with him earlier in July, many of my casework matters are still to be resolved. We are meeting again this week when I shall be pushing for attention to these outstanding issues.

Regarding the proposed Quarry, I have no further update to report.

Lea Lane Landslip Update: Further to my update report yesterday, unfortunately, I am now informed that whilst the County Council are in a position to commence the works, they are experiencing "difficulties" with the C&RT apparently and unable to proceed yet! This is frustrating for the project team who are I believe trying their best to sort things. Paul Green will keep me informed regarding progress.

Councillor D Jones raised again the overgrown foliage along the A449 which remains uncut. Councillor Hardiman will report again to the Highways Liaison Engineer.

District Councillors Report:

Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC 4th August 2020 from District Councillors Marcus Hart, Lisa Jones Ian Hardiman.

Since your last Parish Council meeting in July, the District Council has held two Full Council Meetings:

Firstly, a scheduled meeting on 15th July, held via Zoom, when two Notices of Motion were debated and eventually approved subject to some amendments. An Overview & Scrutiny Interim Report was presented regarding Flooding; it reported that the Environment Agency is considering the case for a permanent flood system scheme for Beale's Corner in Wribbenhall, Bewdley and is aiming to complete their initial review by the end of the summer.

The Chief Executive was authorised to initiate consultation with staff and unions to maximise home working at the optimal level. And that he should survey Councillors to identify the impact of remote working on them.

Secondly, a Special Full Council meeting was held on 28th July to confirm acceptance of the District Councils' Policy on Pavement Licences and to Delegate the Council's functions regarding this subject to Worcestershire Regulatory Services (to be hosted by Bromsgrove District Council). This follows the Government's recent Business & Planning Bill on allowing licence applications for placing street furniture outside business premises for trading purposes, to help them safely trade following the re-opening of shops.

61. **Financial Matters**

The Chairman queried item 26 which should have been completed under the Lengthsman Scheme and included on monthly timesheet in order to reclaim from WCC. After discussion it was agreed Clerk ask for this to be re-invoiced under the Lengthsman Scheme, together with an invoice, if this is done in a timely manner the bill will be paid.

It was unanimously agreed to approve all other payments in the list.

22	Mrs B J Drew (Salary July 2020)	889.23
23	Mrs B J Drew (Stationary)	22.38
24	Mr Keith Basketfield (Grass Cutting 4th Cut)	671.00
25	Underhill Farm (Lengthsman Work June 2020)	324.00
26	Underhill Farm (Attend to Tree)	180.00
27	Revive Exterior Maintenance (Removal of Graffiti - Litterbin Bridge Rd)	35.00
28	Groundwork UK (Repayment of underspent Grant)	1805.14

62. **Lengthsman Scheme**

Councillor S Sherrey reported that a meeting had been held with Mr & Mrs Dale, Councillor C Sherrey and S Sherrey to discuss work being done by the Lengthsman following the shutdown, the relationship that currently exists between the Parish Council and the Lengthsman and the current operation of the Lengthsman Scheme. The Lengthsman, Tim Dale, confirmed he still wishes to continue as Lengthsman and acknowledged there have been communication issues on both sides. Bearing this in mind it was felt necessary to establish procedures to ensure that there was a line of communication that existed to enable the Lengthsman to be instructed on works to be carried out.

It was agreed that all works that were to be carried out would be confirmed to Tim by email even though the original instruction might have been verbal. The email instruction would be issued by the clerk. Ideally the work would be planned in advance and it would be necessary to prioritise jobs.

Tim will email us at least once a week to keep us up to date on the work being carried out. We accept that there are certain small jobs that Tim undertakes on his own initiative as a diligent lengthsman and we were happy for this to continue as long as we were notified on the weekly email that this had been done. There are also larger jobs that Tim sees that need to be done and, in these cases, we need to be notified so that it can be agreed that the work is carried out.

It was established that whilst we are moving into the harvesting season Tim will still have limited hours available to help us as well and it was agreed that invoices must delivered or emailed by close of business on the Wednesday prior to the first Tuesday of the month. It is necessary for them to be received within this timescale to enable them to be approved prior to submission to the Parish Council for payment.

There was much discussion on this very delicate situation and all Councillors expressed sincere thanks to Councillors C and S Sherrey for having this meeting to try and resolve the various issues.

It was agreed by all that now clear lines of communication have been agreed, the Parish Council need to watch, and monitor work undertaken and check the timesheet when it is received. This needs to be reviewed by the Parish Council monthly and have a follow up meeting with the Lengthsman in 6 months, or before if felt necessary.

The Chairman summed up and asked Councillors to send any requests for work, in priority order to the Clerk by Friday. On Friday the Clerk will then e mail these to Tim and when an e mail is received back from Tim detailing work undertaken this will be forwarded to all Councillors, as will the timesheet once received for checking prior to approval of payment.

This will be put on the next agenda for review of the month.

63. **Conversion of remaining street lighting columns to LEDs**

The Clerk expressed many thanks to Councillor Dave Jones for providing a list of outstanding streetlight conversions in Cookley and Causall, a total of 60 lights.

The Clerk advised having spoken with the Street Lighting Department at WCC regarding these they have advised that they are currently undertaking the structural safety testing of all light columns as there have been issues in the South of the

County with concrete columns crumbling at the bases. They have advised that once all have been checked they will send a report to the PC and advise of any they suggest need totally replacing.

The PC therefore have a decision to make whether to;

- a) carry on and order all outstanding LED conversions,
- b) check the outstanding column conversions to see if any are concrete columns and possibly exclude these at the moment,
- c) wait for the WCC report.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that Councillor D Jones would identify any metal columns and these will be placed on order for conversion with the remaining concrete columns put on hold until the structural report has been received.

64. **Horsiculture / Stable developments in the Parish**

Defer to next meeting when briefing note from Mr Paul Round should have been received.

65. **Black Lives Matter Campaign**

Clerk read out e mail from parishioner in Cookley "The making of political gestures should remain private acts, Council business should be concerned with local matters."

Councillor D Jones advised that he was not intending to make a political statement but wanted to ask the Parish Council to support Black Lives Matter. Councillor M Hart stated that it is a political statement and that nobody would not say Black Lives Matter but need to be clear that All Lives Matter. Councillor McFarland declared if a motion had been proposed Black Lives Matter he would second this. After slight confusion Councillor D Jones confirmed he made a proposal and Councillor M Hart reserved his right as second speaker to make an amendment to the proposal to All Lives Matter, this was seconded by Councillor J Hart. After lively debate with 7 voting FOR the amendment, 3 AGAINST and 1 abstention, the amendment was substantive and was carried.

66. **PCC Town and Parish Council Survey**

Clerk and Councillor S Sherrey to complete.

67. **Consultation on Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service draft Community Risk Management Plan (2021 - 2025)**

Clerk and Chairman to complete.

68. **Wardle Way / Hayes Road - Proposed prohibition of waiting at any time order**

Councillor C Sherrey said this was sad but necessary due to inconsiderate parking. It was unanimously agreed.

69. **Maintenance of the wooden surround on Elizabeth Bache Corner in Cookley.**

Defer to next meeting where Councillor L Jones will present three quotes.

70. **Self-Watering Planters - Cookley Project.**

Quotes have been received but still awaiting written confirmation from WCC Highways of agreement to site the Planters. Defer to next meeting.

71. **To discuss September meeting**

Further to recent guidance this will again be undertaken via ZOOM.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3478 WF/20/0133/Full: Revised Plans The Retreat, Lowe Lane, Wolverley - Recommend Refusal

3479 WF/20/0309/Full: Plot D, off Wolverhampton Road, Cookley - Recommend Refusal

3480 WF/20/0502/HOU: 34 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley - Recommend Approval

Already responded due to timescale.

3481 WF/20/0554/HOU: Single storey extension to rear and enlargement of existing flat roof dormer window to front at 42 Castle Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

73. Clerks Report (Clerk) News from WFDC

74. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT (DJ/JW) Application for further grant has been submitted.

75. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Litterbins / Clerks Review

76. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 1st September 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

