

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7.00pm

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

County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Marcus Hart, Lisa Jones
West Mercia Police; Apologies

77. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Councillor Mr S Sherrey (Holiday) and Mr I Hardiman (Holiday).

78. **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 J Wood in agenda item 16 as planning application from neighbour and Councillor D Jones in Public Question Time correspondence as from his son.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No public present

An e mail received by the Clerk from a Parishioner had been circulated and all Councillors confirmed they had read the e mail. It alleged racist views had been expressed by the Council at a recent meeting. The Chairman stated that no public were present at the last meeting, the minutes had not yet been approved so the allegations are unsubstantiated, and it was strongly affirmed that NO Councillor had ever expressed any racist views. Requests for circulation of the audio recording of the meeting was raised and it was stressed that Councillors need to remind themselves that minutes from a council meeting are not a verbatim account of everything that is said but a brief record of the meeting referenced to decisions taken. Recording is undertaken solely to enable the clerk to prepare the minutes after the meeting as she cannot type them directly when on a ZOOM meeting as would happen in a "normal" meeting.

79. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 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.

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

80. **Police Report**

Cookley

00284_I_03082020 - Theft - Bridge Road -Between 1800-0800hrs on 03/08/2020, unknown persons have stolen an electric bike along with the charger from the back of a motor home on Bridge Road.

00301_I_04082020- Burglary - Kimberlee Avenue- Between 01/08/2020 and 02/08/2020 unknown persons have gained entry to two void properties and taken copper from within.

00099_I_05082020- Theft- Bridge Road- Between 04/08/2020 and 05/08/2020 unknown persons have stolen metal aluminium garden furniture including 2 tables and 5 chairs from the garden of a property.

00150_I_08082020 - Caunsall Road- Suspicious Circumstances - Male seen in the garden of a property. Officers attended, no sign of the male, no damage caused to any property.

00058_I_11082020 - Theft - Wolverhampton Road, Cookley - Between 10/08/2020 and 11/08/2020, unknown persons have stolen batteries from the traffic lights.

00058_I_16082020 - Criminal Damage - Bridge Road - At approx. 0100hrs on 16th August, 2 males were seen causing criminal damage to a business premises on Bridge Road, Cookley. No entry gained.

Wolverley

00281_I_09082020 - Suspicious Circumstances - Fairfield Lane, Wolverley - A male was seen acting suspiciously outside a property. Once the security light came on he ran off towards Lowe Lane.

81. **County/District Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Reports:

County Councillor Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley PC

Local Issues:

Lea Lane Landslip: Highways Engineer, Paul Green who I contacted at the end of last week, explained that unfortunately agreement has not yet been achieved between The County Council and the Canals & Rivers Trust to allow commencement of the agreed works.

Lea Castle Quarry: I confirm that, as notified last week to the Parish Clerk, The County Planning Development Manager is still awaiting further information from the Applicant's Agent; the timescale for this submission is likely to be by the end of September to mid-October.

A449 Hedge Overgrowth: Although Paul Green, Highways Engineer believes that this work should be carried out by the County Pavements Team as it will require Traffic Control for this very busy highway, he has been told that he cannot programme the project until agreement from the landowner that they will cover the costs, has been obtained!

Wolverley Road / & B4189 Shatterford Lane Speed Enforcement: Both of these locations are still awaiting enforcement by the Safer Roads Partnership as has been agreed. I have therefore reminded County Highways of this and requested that they pursue the matter with haste as residents are disappointed that there has yet been no action on this.

Gravel on Pavements following Surface Dressing of Wolverley Road: I have again asked for Highways to attend to the considerable residue remaining on the pavements which makes walking uncomfortable for pedestrians and spoils the general appearance and tidiness here.

Caunsall Road Caunsall, Road Subsidence: I investigated residents' concerns regarding Large deep cracks opening up in the road's tarmac surface at approximately 100 metres past property No 63 Caunsall Road, near to a steep drop into the fields below! One of the residents found badger holes deep under the road and this has caused the tarmac to become unsupported. I have reported this as a safety concern to Highways; they have agreed to programme necessary works to resolve the problem.

District Councillors Report:

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

Local Issues

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

Regarding the Motor Cross issues, Enforcement have been in contact with Mr Strong regarding the ramps which still have not been removed, the officer has visited site and has advised that the ramps will be dealt with when the Quarry application is brought forward to the District Council's Planning Department.

We have been informed by the enforcement officers that the Motor Cross events have been given an additional 14 days from 1 July 2020 until 21 December 2020. All logs from residents have been given to the officers and have asked if residents continue to keep logs of the events.

We have received additional reports from residents regarding the 4x4 activities that have been taking place in the woods at the rear of Woodlands Road. We have contacted both enforcement officers again and asked for their advice. They stated that they could not find any advertised events for this location, these would be treated the same as the Motor Cross events and would ask residents to inform ourselves of any advertised events and keep logs of dates.

Regarding the enforcement issues in Lower Lane, the owner of the field at Wolverley end with the advertisement for paddocks has put in a planning application for change of use for horses, they are awaiting supporting documents, the stables on the site are temporary and on moveable slats, they are aware that they need to be moved around the field every 3 months.

The field in front of Brookfield Cottage - The enforcement officer has written to the owner on land registry regarding the builder's rubble, they have arranged for the rubble to be removed but the owner has constructed a track to the agricultural building, they have contacted them again and advised them that planning permission is required and is waiting for an application to be submitted.

The field on the opposite side of the road to Brookfield Cottage, the officer has sent out several letters to the owner on Land Registry regarding the stables and has received no response, therefore the next stage will be a PCNotice and will update us on this issue.

We have as local members have been consulted on the street names, we would welcome your views to report back. We suggest that the roads are named after a local connection and have researched what the hospital wards were called, they were all named after plants and were as follows:-

Ash, Beech, Clover, Dahlia, Elm, Fern, Gorse, Holly, Ivy, Jasmine, Knoll, Laurel, Acorn, Bluebell, Crocus

Also, there were 3 prominent consultants that worked there, Dr Gerry Simon, Dr Evan Jones and Dr Alexander Patterson (who the special school was named after).

We feel that the local connection names are far better than the native woodland suggestion. We note only 6 road names and one building name in the first instance so why not use the first 6 plants alphabetically and Alexander Patterson as people will recognise this the most as this is who the school was named after.

The Trustees of the social club are holding a village fete and dog show on Sunday 6th September, with entries for the show to arrive between 7.30am to 10 a.m. and are charged at 25pence per entry.

Lisa will be attending the Parish Forum on behalf of the Parish Council this month.

Wyre Forest Issues

The updated Public Space Protection orders will be discussed at this month's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting along with the Property Flood grants.

The enforcement team have successfully charged a fly-tipper for dumping rubbish along our lanes and highways. We as members are continually working with the enforcement team regarding various environmental issues that blight our villages.

There has been a campaign launched to discourage the use of laughing gas drug abuse within our communities to raise awareness about the dangers and the related litter in our public spaces.

Local voluntary groups and charitable organisations in Wyre Forest can now apply for a grant between £200 and £500 to help towards the cost of projects that benefit local people. The information can be found of the council website; you can also contact ourselves as local members for assistance. There is also funding available from Worcester County Council for local groups and organisations, this can also be found of the County Councils website. Lisa has been assisting the Trustees of Cookley playing fields with funding for new play equipment and outdoor gym equipment along with other local groups within our District Ward.

The District Council are backing the Worcestershire County Council's bid to improve walking and cycling routes within our district. A motion was passed at July's Full Council Meeting welcoming the positive impact increased cycling and walking has had on resident's health and wellbeing. A second application is currently being put together by the County Council.

The District Council has created a Wyre Forest Community Lottery for local causes and organisations to benefit from. There will be a virtual event taking place on Wednesday 16th September at 11am, the District Council will be inviting organisations to express an interest in attending. If there are any local groups that you feel would benefit from this funding, please contact the new Lottery Manager Rachel Symons. The first draw will take place at the end of November and tickets will cost £1 with 60pence going towards local causes. The draw will be weekly with a jackpot of £25,000 for a matching sequence of six numbers, other prizes being £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets. The council will not make any money out of the lottery.

Staff and members have been asked to complete a survey regarding the implications of home working and attending meetings on zoom by the Chief Executive, we will inform you of the results and any updates.

We have received updated statistics regarding the number of fatalities from the Covid virus for the Wyre Forest District, there has been a total of 116 and a total of 5 within our parish. We would like to remind residents to continue being careful and ensure that social distancing is still maintained and respected for the safety of all residents and the vulnerable people in our community.

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public as is the Green Street hub save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications.

82. **Financial Matters**

Agreed the following accounts be paid:

29	Mrs B J Drew (Salary August 2020)	889.23
30	Mrs B J Drew (Stationary - Paper/Ink/Zoom/Stamps)	48.85
31	Smith of Derby (Clock Service)	294.00
32	Mr K Basketfield (5 th Grass Cut)	671.00

The Chairman advised that when undertaking the Clock Service it was highlighted that the 2 bulbs need replacing and changing to LEDs. Smith of Derby quoted £594.00 plus VAT. It was agreed to ask Councillor Cox to obtain two further quotes.

83. **Lengthsman Scheme**

No timesheet or invoice received this month despite some work being undertaken. Clerk to re-iterate that these need to be submitted monthly to comply with requirements for re-imburement from Worcestershire County Council. E-mail communications had been spasmodic so will need to be monitored.

84. **Litterbins**

Clerk advised that it had come to light that black bags supplied by this Council were being used for Churchill & Blakedown bins. The contractor has been made aware and Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council have offered to supply sacks for our bins for the next few months to recompense.

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

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

86. **To discuss improvements to walking/cycling routes in the Parish following WFDC Media Release 17th August 2020.**

Following the recent media release from Wyre Forest District Council backing Worcestershire County Council's bid to improve walking and cycling routes in the area Councillor D Jones requested that the Parish Council supports the improvement of Canal Towpath through Cookley Tunnel beyond Causall to County Border by Whittington PH as this will continue recent improvement work between The Lock, Wolverley and the start of Cookley Tunnel and to request County Council/District Council investigate the creation of a Cycle/Pedestrian friendly Lea Lane, Cookley. After some discussion it was agreed Councillor D Jones pursue this and report back.

87. **To discuss temporary use of adopted telephone kiosks for food banks.**

Councillor D Jones reported that other villages have done this, canned food would be deposited in the unused telephone kiosk for people in genuine need. He would monitor this weekly to ensure there are not out of date items. Obviously, there is no monitoring of who takes the food it is down to trust. Councillor D Jones to trial.

88. **To agree any requirement for Winter Grit.**

Chairman asked Councillor Southam to ascertain how much Parish Grit is in stock.

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

Three quotes now received, unanimously agreed to proceed with Cookley In Bloom Group.

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

Still awaiting written confirmation of agreement from Highways.

91. **Article for Wolverley & Cookley Matters Magazine.**

Deadline 16th September, any contributions would be gratefully received.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3482 WF/20/0581/PNH: Erection of conservatory to rear of existing rear extension at 103 Castle Road, Cookley
Already responded due to timescale - Recommend Approval.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

93. Clerks Report. (Clerk)

Road Closure Order, Publication of Worcestershire Minerals and Waste Authority Monitoring Report, Wolverley Memorial Hall, Cookley Village Fayre, Street Lighting Conversions, WFDC Media Releases.

94. Website Accessibility. (RD) In hand. Delegated Authority agreed to get statement on web by 23rd September.

95. Clerks Review. (MH/CN) In hand. Staffing Committee to meet 3rd September and report back to next meeting.

96. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Grant Application being prepared. CLT 4 potential sites identified.

97. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Motocross Events (DJ).

98. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th October 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.