

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 at 7.00pm**

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

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman  
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman, Marcus Hart, Lisa Jones

139. **Apologies.** West Mercia Police.

140. **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. Cllrs. A Carloss, D Cox, D Jones, L Jones, C Nicholls, W Southam and J Wood in The Quarry re-consultation. Cllr. B McFarland cannot speak or vote but can stay in the meeting to listen.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllrs J Hart, M Hart and S Sherrey - WF/20/0931 Heathfield School and Cllr W Southam 20/0927 Debdale Farm.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

The Chairman welcomed Mr & Mrs Elcock. Mr Elcock thanked the Parish Council for considering their upcoming planning application to construct a single detached eco dwelling at Townsend House, Wolverley. They have lived in Wolverley over 20 years and hope to build this small property to downsize and remain in the village and sell the main house.

141. **Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

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

**Matters for Discussion / Decision:**

142. **Police Report**

Written report circulated;

**Wolverley**

Burglary - Gipsy Lane - In the early hours of Thursday 19th November, unknown persons have gained entry to several garden sheds at two properties on Gipsy Lane by cutting the locks. Nothing has been taken.

Criminal Damage - Sebright Road - At approx. 2200hrs on 21st November, unknown persons have smashed a window to a property. No attempt has been made to gain entry.

Vehicle Crime - Franche Road - On 26th November, a male was seen entering a vehicle parked on a driveway to a property. Police attended and located the male involved. No items were taken.

**Cookley**

Suspicious Circumstances- Woodlands Road - At approx. 0400hrs on 23rd November an unknown male was seen acting suspiciously and taking pictures of vehicles on Woodlands Road.

143. **County/District Councillor Reports**

**County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley and Cookley PC, 1st December 2020**

Strategic Issues County Wide:

Covid-19: Schools' 'bubbles' are collapsing and there are approximately 5,000 students at home self-isolating out of a school population of 84,500. In Wyre Forest cases continue to reduce thankfully.

Our Hospitals are still coping very well with capacity on all 3 sites and despite our increases, we still have been less affected by infections than many other authorities in the West Midlands region but there are now deaths again on the acute side; and we should not be complacent as we are not yet in the lowest Tier.

Our Household Waste sites are both remaining open.

Libraries are remaining open but with reduced services.

Council meetings are likely to take place virtually until May.

We are starting to plan for next year's budget. We still have significant pressures in Adult's and Children's Social Care and SEND.

We have had substantial Government Grant to tackle the Coronavirus response in Worcestershire.

Local Issues:

LEA CASTLE QUARRY: (Application: 19/000053/CM) The Formal Consultation will run till 4th January 2021. I am not aware yet of the date that this application will be considered by the County's Planning Committee. As I actually sit on the Planning Committee, I must avoid expressing any view on this application and will judge it when it is being considered by the Committee.

LEA LANE LANDSLIP: Again, still no progress to report; I am awaiting a fresh update from Highways.

LEA LANE CHANGE TO NO THROUGH ROAD: The question of permanently preventing vehicles but allowing cyclists and pedestrians only to travel the length of the Lane is still under consideration by Highways. i.e. No Update available.

I AM STILL awaiting Progress with: Highway Issues in the Crescent/ Speed Survey for Lowe lane/ Speed reduction options for Axborough Lane/ AND Speed Enforcement in Wolverley Rd, B4189 Shatterford Lane - (Awaiting Safer Roads Partnership.)

I should make you aware that I wrote to the Head of Highways Customer Service and the Cabinet member for Highways, expressing my disappointment in the unsatisfactory attention to my many outstanding casework items for this parish and in fact other parishes within my Division. I received a response accepting that our Highways Engineer Paul Green has been over busy with a large workload and resultantly I and other County Councillors in Wyre Forest are not being supported appropriately; also, I was reminded that the Pandemic has reduced Highways' ability to attend as efficiently as they would wish; one example given to me is that with social-distancing measures, staff have been prevented from travelling in the same vehicle as others and such as installing 'cables across the road' which usually are installed by a pair of officers cannot be readily achieved.

**District Councillor Mrs L Jones reported;**

Local Issues

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

Regarding the Motor Cross issues, Enforcement are still in contact with Mr Strong to rectify the issue.

We are still liaising with the Planning Officers regarding a business operating in the village without planning consent.

Regarding the Equestrian planning applications, Paul Round has now compiled a detailed report for the Parish Councillors in respect of planning policies.

Residents from Brown Westhead Park have been in contact with us regarding parking issues on a Sunday whilst the football matches are taking place. We will be conducting a site visit with residents to address the issues with the club.

The Environmental Enforcement department are currently working through new strategies to decrease the amount of Fly Tipping dumped in our lanes, these will include, new Webpages, communication plans and further deterrents. A presentation from the Enforcement department to the Parish Council will take place early next year. We have been working alongside this department for quite a while to look at new ways to deter fly tipping throughout our District Ward.

Wyre Forest District Issues

In respect of the WFDC's draft Local Plan, the Public Hearings by the Planning Inspector will begin being held from Monday 11th January on selected days into early February 2021. Information can be found on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

We hope you responded to the Government's Planning White Paper consultation, we believe this paper is ill-conceived and feel that it will be amended and we understand many MP's have concerns and feel that this is at least a consultation and that there

is a lot of water to go under the bridge before it receives Royal Assent! Please have your say and feel free to give your views on this to our MP Mark Garnier. WFDC's overview and scrutiny panel have also looked at this matter.

The Progressive Alliance who presently run the Administration of the District Council are to hold a Public Consultation on their intention to make the activity that the District Council undertakes smaller, inevitably entailing redundancies and the transferring of services to Town and Parish Councils. This consultation is currently running. We are very concerned at the scale of some of the reductions.

The Progressive Alliance want to make home working the norm post Covid and we have some concerns regarding this. This matter was looked at by the cross party overview and scrutiny panel recently and overwhelmingly voted for the Cabinet to look again at this matter and recommend to Council that this process is paused and looked at further in April 2021 when hopefully we will have a clearer picture on Covid.

The Progressive Alliance want to look at a commissioning a business case to look at options to sell all or part of Wyre Forest House!

Local residents and businesses are being urged to share their views about Kidderminster as part of a major consultation to shape the future of the town centre. Town centres throughout the UK have and continue to experience the challenges of a societal shift in changing shopping habits as well as the influence of Covid-19. The online survey launched on Thursday 5 November at 9am at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/towncentresurvey](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/towncentresurvey) is an opportunity for anyone who lives, visits, works in or has a view about Kidderminster to have their say on how they think the town centre could be made into a better place over the next twenty years. It is designed to establish current views on the town and includes questions about shopping habits before and during the Coronavirus pandemic, reasons to visit the town and more.

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

WFDC has implemented a further Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which is District wide and now prohibits the walking of 3 or more dogs. There is also an expansion to certain areas in Stourport and Bewdley where the consumption of alcohol in a public is prohibited.

WFDC has also launched a lottery for good causes.

Shoppers can take advantage of free parking at all Wyre Forest District Council car parks after 3pm during the festive period. The Christmas parking offer is running from Friday 20 November to Sunday 3 January 2021. It does not include Weavers Wharf.

There will be no Christmas light switch-on ceremonies in Kidderminster, Stourport or Bewdley this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

144. **Financial Matters**

a) **Agreed the following accounts be paid;**

46	Mrs B J Drew (Salary November 2020)	1046.52
47	Gordon Ellis & Co (2 Self Watering Tiered Planters for Cookley)	852.00
48	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Zoom/Office)	102.37

b) **To discuss budget for financial year 2021/2022.**

Councillor C Sherrey requested that any items Councillors wish to be included in the budget for 2021/2022 be submitted to the Clerk by 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at the latest. The Village Improvements Budget will need discussion on whether it is repeated, and Street Light Repairs are to be included, after discussion with the Chairman, following the KIWA report.

c) **Cookley Fund - Children's Play Area.**

Councillor D Jones sought approval to spend the Village Improvement Funds for Cookley on the Children's Play Area. After much discussion it was agreed Cllr. Jones will obtain a detailed quote for a specific project and submit to Councillors for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr. Jones will also ascertain what funds, if any remain for play area improvements from the contribution from the Cookley Bonfire.

145. **Consultation - Wyre Forest District Council Cabinet Budget Proposals.**

Councillor M Hart advised that the District Council are severe financial deficit with difficult decisions to be made. A survey is available on-line to provide comments. This is more suited for individuals to respond rather than the Parish Council.

146. **Public Footpath No 635 (c) Diversion Order.**  
It was unanimously agreed there is no justified reason to divert this ancient historic footpath which is very well used by locals and walking groups. Clerk to respond strongly objecting to the proposed diversion order.

147. **To discuss Horsiculture in the Green Belt Planning Advice.**  
Councillor M Hart spoke on the Planning Advice Note received from Paul Round, Development Manager on Horsiculture in the Green Belt, which had previously been circulated by the Clerk. The note sets out the Planning Policy and other considerations that can be taken into account when making recommendations. Visual Impact on the openness of Green Belt is very subjective and open to interpretation. The note also discusses planning law where moveable structures do not constitute development and therefore there is a danger that mobile structures causing a poor and cluttered visual appearance could become common and problematic if a positive approach to horsiculture applications is not taken.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council need to consider each of this type of application individually and decide whether it is better to give consent or to refuse and risk applicants going down the route of using skids for a number of equine buildings.

Planning Application 20/0541 (Lowe Lane, Wolverley) deferred last month awaiting this guidance will now be re-circulated by the Clerk for comment.

Application 20/0379 has been withdrawn.

The two applications on the Wolverhampton Road have been refused and we are awaiting any further applications from these.

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

PC No    WFDC No/Details

3499    WF/20/0829/FULL: Retrospective change of use of land and stationing of temporary building for hot food takeaways at The Lock Inn, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval for change of use on a temporary basis, restricted to 12 months, on the basis that appropriate materials are used on the building to fit into the green belt area.

3500    FOR INFORMATION ONLY - WF/0827/PNR: Conversion of Agricultural Building to Dwelling at ancillary building, Horsley Hill Farm, Wolverley,  
Noted.

3501    WF/20/0926/NMA: Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 20/0217/Full to amend the layout of Plot 3 at Brown Westhead Park, Wolverley,  
Noted.

3502    WF/20/0927/FULL: Change of use of stable buildings to create single residential dwelling and garaging/storage building at Debdale Farm, Cookley,  
Recommend Approval.

3503    FOR INFORMATION ONLY - WF/20/0931/NMA: Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 20/0150/NMA to alter the internal layout and size of extension along with associated changes to the number and position of external fenestration and omission of rooflights at Heathfield School, Wolverley.  
Noted.

3504    WF/20/0739/FULL: Construction of a single detached 'eco-dwelling' and associated works at Townsend House, The Shortyard, Wolverley.  
Recommend Deferral awaiting comments from the Planning Case Officer and the Conservation Officer as this would be development in the Conservation area and Green Belt.

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

149. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Decision Notices.
150. Planning Appeal: WF/19/0242 Change of use of approximately 285,000sq ft of floorspace within the Drakelow Tunnels for the storage of wine and other alcoholic drinks (Class Use B8), erection of 2 portacabins and new boundary treatment, refurbishment of metal structure at Drakelow Tunnels, Wolverley. Cllr. M Hart attended the hearing on ZOOM and advised the Planning Inspector agreed to visit the site and then a decision will be made.
151. To report on action on Street Lighting Columns in Parish following Structural Testing Report. Chairman reported no further action, awaiting advice from WCC, Clerk to chase.
152. To update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
153. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
154. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Lengthsman Contract (RD).
155. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th January 2021.

156. **Re-consultation on Planning Application 19/000053/CM - Proposed sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement at land at Lea Castle Farm.**

Councillor M Hart commented that the main objection remains the totally inappropriate huge, large scale development within the green belt which will have a devastating adverse effect on the openness and amenity of the area which would be immense and is not justifiable.

Councillor C Sherrey re-iterated the proposed location is surrounded by residential areas, two villages, a new development of 600 houses on the former Lea Castle Hospital site, 51 houses on the former Sion Hill School site and is near 5 schools, 2 Nurseries, Nursing Home, Caravan Park and Sports Ground.

It was unanimously agreed to re-affirm the original comments submitted opposing this application.

Councillor M Hart enquired with County Councillor Hardiman whether the Parish Council could request to speak at the Planning Committee Meeting when this is determined. Cllr. Hardiman will enquire and advise the Clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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Chairman - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021