

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 1st June 2021, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Apologies
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart, I Hardiman and Mrs L Jones

30. Apologies

Cllr B McFarland due to family commitments and West Mercia Police.

31. Declarations of Councillors Interests

- a) Register of Interests: The Clerk reminded Councillors that it is their responsibility to update their register of interests forms as required.
- 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 D Cox and C Nicholls in Planning Application WF/21/0451 as governors at Cookley School.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

The Chairman welcomed members of the Public and invited them to speak.

A resident spoke on the Planning Application for enclosure of external store to enable creation of additional SEN teaching spaces at Cookley Sebright Primary School. They expressed various concerns which will affect their neighbouring property, such as noise of extractor fan, smells from cooking, noise pollution, additional noise by staff and delivery drivers using proposed new kitchen which has a separate entrance, parking, and lighting. The resident asked the Parish Council to consider this planning application carefully and asked them to consider asking for a deferral to attend a site meeting.

An update was requested on progress with the lights on the Cookley Clock. Cllr. D Cox advised difficulties in accessing the bulbs to change them. Cllr. D Jones will pursue this.

Works to the former Post Office were discussed. The District Councillors are closely monitoring this.

The meeting now reconvened to conduct the items of business listed below.

32. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm

These having previously been circulated it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting and these will be signed as such by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

33. Police Report

Burglary - Park Gate Road - Police ref 00070_I_17052021 - Between 14th-17th May, unknown persons have gained access to a building site and taken equipment from within.

Theft - Cookley - Police ref 00059_I_26052021 - Between Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th May a Royal mail post box has been cut off its pedestal in the area of the Crescent.

Police Crime Commissioner Survey - Clerk to complete.

34. To receive Councillors Reports:

District Councillor Report:

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.

Enforcement Issues :- Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane - Unauthorised Outbuilding/Extended decking area, the enforcement officers have requested that Mr Partridge submit another application not a NMA for the additional works to his annex at Wyre Mill Cottage.

Motor Cross - The Enforcement officer is still working on this issue with Mr Strong and the Development Manager. We discussed this issue with the Developmental Manager at a recent meeting and were informed that practice sessions will count as an event. The enforcement team are now being regularly notified of events and practice sessions. There were ten events last year that were recorded online which aligns with the data from residents. The ramps have not been removed as yet but are very overgrown, the officers have been working on the removal of these with Mr Strong.

Stables, Cookley - We attended a site visit with the enforcement officers and each stable/landowner to discuss how best to position each of the stables to ensure that the openness of the greenbelt is achieved and how to blend the stables into the landscape. It was decided that planting of fast-growing trees and bushes in a uniform position across each of the units along with painting the stables a uniform green colour would greatly minimise the impact these structures have at the moment. All owners agreed to this and have been working with the officers to resubmit their planning applications which will then be put forward to the District Council's Planning Committee together in order to visualise the proposals.

Lea Castle Development, Conditions - The Developmental Manager at the District Council is looking into these with the Contractor/Agent.

Local Issues - Continued

Castle Barns, Cookley - The enforcement officers have confirmed that the caravan has gone, the speed boat was moved but only to the edge of the compound, so they are going to write to Mr Strong this week and let him know that the tenants haven't removed it completely.

Camping Site, Cookley - Enforcement have received a complaint via Private Sector Housing, this would fall under a temporary use of land and therefore be permitted for normally 28 days of the year (increased to 56 this year) but they will remind him of the regulations in a letter. They have replied to the complainant and advised them of this and said if they wanted them to investigate it further then they will need to keep a log of the dates when the land is being used for camping.

The Old Post Office, Cookley - There is a building regulations application in place with a private Building Control company for the internal works.

Both of our Planning Enforcement officers have visited site and have conducted a thorough inspection of the interior and exterior of the building and works.

Planning enforcement have a copy of the drawings and have instructed the client and agent to cease external works on the shopfront until a planning application has been granted for new wooden windows and shop front that are in keeping with the architectural merit of the building and village location.

The Health and Safety Executive have visited site and explained the regulations to the contractors and the safety measures that need to be put into place on the site. These need to be implemented urgently.

The District Council's Building Control Officer has also visited the site and have inspected the building and works. The officer confirmed that the Old Post Office is not a dangerous structure.

Highways have inspected the site and given instructions to make the front of the building safe for pedestrians. The area is still not safe and no works have taken place, planning enforcement have asked highways to contact the owner again and reiterate the requirements that need to be in place urgently.

Ian arranged for Green Street to carry out a thorough road sweep along Kinver Lane, Causall.

Wyre Forest District Issues

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

Cllr Helen Dyke who is part of the Progressive Alliance is the new Leader of the District Council and Cllr Graham Ballenger is the Deputy Leader. Cllr John Aston is the new Leader of the Council and Cllr Peter Dyke is the Deputy Chairman.

At full council, members voted on the revised management structure, the timetable for implementation as well as details of further reviews which will be taking place. The Chief Executive is continuing to be the head of paid services and head up the management team.

Members attended a special forum with the Corporate Director for Economic Prosperity and Place regarding an update on the Levelling up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund for Kidderminster Town Centre, he also updated members on income generation proposals.

The Neighbourhood Watch Team have launched a new Protect your Dog from theft campaign with the increase of recent dog thefts, more information on the campaign can be found on www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch.

County Councillor Report:

Local issues:

Lea Lane Landslip:

Again, I must report that negotiations between the County Council and other parties involved are still ongoing; no commencement date has yet been agreed for the works.

Lea castle Quarry Application (19/00053/CM):

Still no date has been announced for the consideration of this application by the County's Planning Committee.

Caunsall, Kinver Lane, Sand/Silt on Road, Update: The District Council's team helpfully attended and managed to clear most of the sand and silt contamination.

B4189 Speed Analysis, Update: Highways have now agreed to carry out further speed analysis using cables across the road.

Damaged Chevron & Lighted Sign on Wolverley Island, Update: The Chevron has been replaced, however the lighted sign/post are still to be attended; I am chasing Highways on this.

Strategic issues:

The County Council's Full Council AGM took place face to face at County Hall on Thursday 20th May, with social distancing measures in place.

As you will be aware, elections took place across Worcestershire on 6th May for all 57 Divisions. The new Council comprises 45 Conservatives, 3 Labour, 4 Liberal Democrats, 3 Greens, Independents 2.

The new Chairman of the Council is Cllr Steve Mackay, who represents St Peter's Division, Worcester; the Vice Chairman is Cllr Chris Rogers who represents Stourport.

Cllr Simon Geraghty has been re-elected as Leader of the County Council, with Cllr Adrian Hardman his deputy.

My colleague, Cllr Marcus Hart has been re-appointed as Cabinet Member for Education.

And I am personally proud and pleased to have been appointed Chairman of the County Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee.

Cllr. Mrs L Jones read the DC report updating on action on the former Post Office for the benefit of the resident that raised this in Public Question Time.

35. Financial Matters:

a) Unanimously agreed the schedule of cheques to be signed.

9	Mrs B J Drew (Salary May 2021)	1067.71
10	Mr Keith Basketfield (2nd Grass Cutting)	688.00
11	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Zoom/Stamps)	40.34
12	Revive Exterior Maintenance (Gateway Cleaning)	280.00
13	Ms Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman - May 2021)	240.00
14	Smith of Derby (Clock Service)	302.40

b) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/2021

Cllr. C Sherrey presented financial information relating to the AGAR form for the year ended 31st March 2021.

- i) To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 - Unanimously Agreed to approve.
- ii) To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020/2021 - Unanimously Agreed to approve.

36. To discuss support for a Wolverley Neighbourhood Plan including the area of Lea Castle.

Cllr. C Sherrey reported that Wolverley Councillors had considered this a few years ago and consulted with other local Parish Councils that had done a Neighbourhood Plan. This should be community led and if Wolverley residents want to do this it will be supported. The existing plan being worked on for Cookley & Caunsall cannot be amended to include the Wolverley area.

37. To discuss request for additional crossing on Castle Road, Cookley.

Cllr. D Cox to liaise with County Councillor.

38. To discuss works to former Post Office, Cookley Village.

Cllr. D Cox thanked the Clerk for prompt notification to WFDC Planning, Enforcement and the three District Councillors of concerns over works taking place at the former Post Office. As reported earlier these are now being closely monitored. The Post Box has been sealed off by the Post Office as it was deemed insecure and unsafe.

39. To discuss Parish Council Representative to Cookley Playing Fields & Village Hall Association Charity.

Cllr. D Jones stepped down as representative last month and Cllr. D Cox offered to take up this position. Following discussion with the Chairman of the association and advice from CALC regarding a possible conflict of interests it was proposed Cllr. D Cox resign and be replaced by Cllr. J Wood. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. D Cox expressed concern that accounts for club and charity are not accessible and asked the new representative to get hold of these at every meeting. Cllr. C Nicholls advised that both the Playing Fields and Club must be due an AGM and surely they should be available then. Cllr. J Wood to provide future updates.

40. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

PC No WFDC No/Details

3542 21/0432/AG: Erection of agricultural storage building at land at Os 380265 280203, Bridgnorth Road, Kidderminster. Recommend Approval.

3543 21/0451/FULL: Enclosure of external store to enable creation of additional SEN teaching spaces at Cookley Sebright Primary School. After discussion it was proposed Cllr. M Hart, seconded Cllr. J Hart and agreed with 2 Councillors abstaining to defer for one cycle and attend a site visit at the neighbouring property.

3544 21/0467/HOU: Erection of single and two storey rear extension and single storey side extension, following demolition of conservatory and rear chimney breast at Hope Cottage, New Road, Caunsall. Recommend Refusal - Overdevelopment.

3545 21/0500/HOU: Erection of a garden shed at Clangers, Wolverley Road, Wolverley. Recommend Approval.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

41. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Clerk highlighted Training Course on Planning.
42. Update on Wolverley Projects. (RD) Advised of meeting with Natural Networks, now awaiting report.
43. Update on bulbs for Cookley Clock. (DC) Cllr. D Jones will attend to this.
44. Update on Lengthsman Work. (RD/WS) 16 hours worked this month in Wolverley, met WS today and started work in Cookley. Paperwork completed.
45. Site Meeting re Street Lighting Column, Gaymore Road, Cookley. (DC) Clerk trying to arrange.
46. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
47. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) MH Clerks Annual Review.
48. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th July 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm