

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 6th July 2021, 7.00pm, Cookley School, Cookley

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
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

West Mercia Police: PCSO Nicky Thomas / Becky Ruston
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart and Mrs L Jones

49. Apologies

Cllr V Bordewich and D Jones due to holiday, Cllr J Wood due to self-isolation and County Councillor I Hardiman.

50. 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. Cllr R Drew - Clerks Review.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

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

A Parishioner updated on experiencing continuing problems with ongoing works to the former Post Office, Cookley. The Police are aware of one of the issues.

The Clerk read e mail from parishioner regarding Footpath - Brown Westhead Park.

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

51. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st June 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 were signed as such by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision:

52. Police Report

Circulated.

Police Ref; 482_I_12032021 Caunsall Road, Theft - At approximately 15:30hrs on 12/06/2021 3 dogs have got out onto Caunsall Road. 2 of the dogs have been picked up by a member of the public and handed back to the owner. The 3rd dog however has been picked up by an unknown male in a black BMW who has then driven off. The dog is a 19-week-old German Shephard and is micro chipped. The dog has now been found.

Police ref 00173_I_15062021 - Suspicious Circumstances - Castle Barns, Cookley - At approx. 0600hrs on 15th June an unknown male was seen acting suspiciously looking at vehicles on a driveway. The male was then seen to leave the area in a vehicle, possibly a White Mercedes.

Police ref 00038_I_18062021 - Vehicle crime - Church Bank, Wolverley

At approx. 0140hrs on 18th June, 4 unknown males were seen tampering with a motor home. They have then been disturbed by residents and left the area in the direction of Blakeshall Lane. They were in a White vehicle, possibly a Seat Ibiza or Leon

Police ref 00138_I_24062021 - Burglary - Park Gate Road - Between 1800hrs on 21st June and 0630hrs on 22nd June, unknown persons have cut open a metal container taking a boiler, taps and electrical cabling from within.

This week West Mercia Police have launched our new community messaging service called Neighbourhood Matters.

Through Neighbourhood Matters you can sign up for local police alerts; receive information about crime in your area, find out about drop-in sessions, answer surveys, and more. You can choose exactly what type of alert you want to receive and how you receive them, whether it be via text, email or phone call.

Please could we ask that you encourage local residents to sign up to this service using the link below.

<https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Cllr. Cox reported on smoking of illegal substances in the village - Police are aware.

53. **To receive Councillors Reports:**

District Councillor Report:

Report Circulated.

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.

We have been in contact with Royal Mail regarding replacing the post box in the centre of Cookley along with Mark Garnier and his office. We are very pleased to inform you that we have received confirmation from Royal Mail that a replacement post box will be installed around the corner of Austcliffe Road by the telephone pole, this will be installed within the next 12-16 weeks. We also asked Royal Mail about the stolen post box in The Crescent and again we are very pleased to say that this will also be replaced but do not have a timescale as yet, we are hoping these will be installed at the same time.

Enforcement Issues :-

Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane - The Planning Department have requested that an application is submitted by the 23 July.

Motor Cross - There are no updates, The officers believe that there may be a weekend event coming up soon but it will be within their yearly quota.

Moto Cross - Lea Castle site, The Officers have spoken to the land owner about the jumps and he has agreed to remove them, this is something he will be doing over a period of time as he will be doing the work himself, he said that ramps were only used by him and a friend but he no longer rides and they haven't been used for some time now, they will not be used again and he will remove them. The officers will continue to monitor the progress.

The Stables, Cookley - The deadline for the applications to be submitted was 30th June, however, the officers are working with the applicants to enable them to submit an acceptable application. There has been an extension of time on one application due to a personal issue.

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

Castle Barns, Cookley - The Caravan and Speed Boat have now been removed.

Camping Site, Cookley - The Officers have spoken to the landowner and he has confirmed that he will be following the temporary use of land regulations and the camping will only be for 56 days this year.

The Old Post Office, - An application has been submitted but is currently invalid. The applicant has until 19th July to submit the outstanding elements of the application or the officers will offer them a refund and issue an enforcement notice. We are continuing to work alongside the officers and will do so when a valid application is submitted to ensure the correct design is incorporated for the building and its location.

The public consultation for the next stage of the Lea Castle Residential and Mixed-Use Development is underway and ends at 11.59pm on 11 July 2021. Residents can submit a response by visiting www.leacastlevillage.com or telephone 0800 4480416. Lisa has some leaflets for residents if councillors require any. Lisa has distributed leaflets and spoken to residents in The Crescent who are the closest to the development.

As your district councillors we attended a zoom briefing meeting with Homes England, Wood Plc who are the consultation consultants and the Architect regarding the proposed scheme.

Lisa is attending the Calc Executive Committee meeting on 7 July which is a fantastic opportunity to meet other Parish and Town Councils within Worcestershire and discuss new initiatives and schemes.

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.

We are extremely pleased that the Environmental Enforcement Team have a new Crime Not to Care Fly Tipping campaign which is to assist residents avoid accidentally passing their waste to rogue traders and contributing to fly tipping. We hope that this campaign will educate residents and ensure that checks are made to ensure rubbish is disposed of legally.

We recommend that residents sign up to West Mercia Police's Neighbourhood Matters for neighbourhood watch and local police alerts. The link to register is www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk. It is very quick and easy and has a huge amount of information.

Could we please remind residents not to put their recycling into plastic bags in the bin or include loose plastic bags, these cannot be recycled. Residents can take their plastic bags for recycling at their local supermarket.

There is a new scheme from our local libraries to tackle loneliness which include, Library Service at Home where books are picked and delivered to residents at their home, Connect Bubbles which are small chat groups using zoom and Reading Friends which are one to one calls for residents who would prefer to chat over the telephone. Residents can sign up to this fantastic service by emailing ReadingFriends@worcestershires.gov.uk or visiting www.worcestershires.gov.uk/ReadingFriends or by telephoning 01905 822722.

County Councillor Report:

Clerk advised no further updates from County Councillor on Lea Lane or Quarry Application. Paul Green, Highways Liaison Engineer is currently self-isolating.

54. Financial Matters:

Unanimously agreed the schedule of cheques to be signed.

15	Mrs B J Drew (Salary June 2021)	1067.71
16	HMRC (Tax and NI April - June 2021)	415.80
17	Mr Allen J Hughes (Internal Audit)	200.00
18	Mr Keith Basketfield (3rd Grass Cutting)	688.00
19	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Zoom/Stamps)	40.58
20	Ms Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman - June 2021)	240.00
21	Mr R Drew (Wolverley Planters x 7 plus Strimmer)	172.22
22	Cookley In Bloom (Cookley Planters x 3)	45.00
23	T J Botterill (Wolverley Village Barrier Baskets x 6)	84.90

55. Preliminary consultation for proposals for residential and mixed-use development at Lea Castle Village.

The Vice Chairman gave an update on the preliminary consultation on the proposals for residential and mixed-use development at Lea Castle Village. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended a Microsoft Teams meeting with Homes England and their team who gave a very slick presentation on the proposals. Obviously plans are subject to approval of the local plan then if approved an outline application will be received and formally consulted on.

56. Clerks Annual Review.

Cllr. R Drew and Clerk left the room.

In the absence of a chairman or vice chairman for this agenda item, it was moved and seconded and unanimously resolved that Cllr. Marcus Hart take the chair for this item.

Cllr. Marcus Hart started by saying that the remuneration committee which consisted of himself and Cllr. Nicholls had met virtually on 29th June. Cllr. Marcus Hart set out the clerk's current remuneration and reminded councillors how it was arrived at this following the clerk's pay review in Autumn 2020. Cllr. Marcus Hart further reminded councillors that in the decision taken last October the clerk was placed on SCP 24, which we felt accurately reflected her duties, role and responsibilities. It was agreed at that time that there would not be an automatic right to a scale point increase, if the duties, role and responsibility had not changed. It was further agreed at that time that the clerk's salary would not simply be increased year on year but the increases would be entirely consistent with the national clerk's pay awards and made when they are done. Cllr.

Marcus Hart advised councillors that there had been no new rates this year. He further advised that the remuneration committee felt that there had not been any change in duties, role and responsibilities since last October's decision and that the clerk should remain on SCP 24.

Cllr. Nicholls spoke in support of this proposal.

There was a brief discussion and it was proposed by Cllr. Nicholls, seconded by Cllr. Simon Sherrey that we agree there is no change to the salary at this time and we would review the matter in 12 months time. This was unanimously resolved.

57. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

- | PC No | WFDC No/Details |
|-------|---|
| 3543 | 21/0451/FULL: Enclosure of external store to enable creation of additional SEN teaching spaces at Cookley Sebright Primary School.
Dealt with under delegated powers. |
| 3546 | 21/0493/FULL: Change of use of outbuilding to two bed dwelling house (Use Class C3), including new windows in existing openings and 3 roof lights at land to rear of 4 Bridge Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval. |
| 3547 | 21/0561/HOU: Erection of single storey front extension including new porch at 5 Beeston Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval. |
| 3548 | 21/0562/LBC: Proposed internal and external alterations to Grade II listed building, including removal of door openings/internal partitions, new doors and replacement windows, new skylight and electrical work at Rose Cottage, 3 Mill Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval. |
| 3549 | 21/0582/HOU: Proposed single storey rear extensions at Brookfield Cottage, Lowe Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval. |
| 3550 | 21/0575/HOU: Change of Use of agricultural land to be incorporated into domestic curtilage at Hillcrest, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley. Recommend Approval subject to condition land used only as ancillary to main house and garden. |
| 3551 | 21/0622/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY. Erection of new entrance porches to all existing doors and a two-storey extension off the original rear extension at Plassey, Gipsy Lane, Wolverley. |
| 3552 | 21/0642/HOU: Erection of single storey extensions, new dormer windows and chimney breasts and external alterations, following demolition of outbuilding and conservatory at The Oaks, Gipsy Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval. |

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

58. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Minerals Local Plan. Road Closure Notice. CALC Training.
59. Update on Cookley Playing Fields and Village Hall Association (JW) Clerk read report received from Cllr. J Wood who had attended meetings of the Cookley Village Hall and Playing Fields held on June 3rd and July 1st. Despite a number of requests, no accounts have yet been submitted to the Charity Commission for 17/18 and 18/19. It was suggested that Cllr. Wood should take legal advice if he is a trustee, as he must not be liable for these accounts being late.
60. Update on Lengthsman (RD/WS) The Lengthsman has undertaken various work in the Parish this month.
61. Update on Bulbs for Cookley Clock. (DJ) No update
62. Site Meeting re Street Lighting Column, Gaymore Road, Cookley. (DC) Awaiting return from holiday of Mr Dean Talbot.
63. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
64. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Queens Platinum Jubilee (LJ)
65. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd August 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm