

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Apologies  
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman  
District Councillors: Councillor I Hardiman and M Hart

66. **Apologies**

Cllr A Carlross and C Sherrey due to family commitments and Mrs L Jones due to holiday.

67. **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.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

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

Mrs Karin Bareford asked for an update on the Clock bulbs, Chairman advised quote now received from Smith of Derby which will be discussed under agenda item 11. Also, Cookley Playing Fields and Village Hall accounts update - Cllr J Wood advised this is being pursued by Chair of committee.

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

68. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 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:**

69. **Police Report**

Circulated.

Vehicle Theft - Ismere, Kidderminster - Police Ref 00062\_i\_09072021 - Overnight 8th-9th July persons unknown have gained access to land through secure gates stealing 3 Caravans. Several vehicles were seen during the incident, no details or descriptions were able to be obtained.

Wolverley Road - Wolverley- Police Ref 00349\_I\_05072021 Between 0930 x1400hrs unknown persons have gained entry to a stand-alone garage and stolen a mountain bike and power tools. At this time it is not known if anything else has been stolen.

Theft of Fuel - Police Ref 00099\_I\_16072021 - A local business has had entry gained to a yard possibly from a canal towpath and 6-8 drums of diesel stolen. This took place in the early hours of 16th July. A red Corsa was seen near to the location at the time

Theft - Shatterford Lane area - Police Ref 00613\_I\_23072021 - At 20.45hrs yesterday a business premises was entered and a reversible tan coloured tote bag, with a silver inside, containing make-up and other personal items has been stolen along with a black cotton handbag with the words in pink writing similar to "That Party Feeling" on the outside. A bright red car was seen reversing up to the premises, with at least two occupants in the vehicle. It then sped off at speed once the theft had happened.

Arson - Wolverley Village - Police Ref's 00143\_I\_010582021 and 00267\_I\_01082021 - At approx. 5am this morning fire brigade alerted police to an arson attack on a BMW Mini parked on a driveway in this location. It is believed that a back window was smashed and the vehicle set alight. A neighbouring wooden garage has also suffered extensive damage.

Officers have also done speed enforcement in various locations across all our beats over the past month. The below areas were included with other areas that were targeted, and the results are listed below of those issued Traffic Offence Reports (TOR) across the East & North areas

#### IN EXCESS OF SPEED LIMIT

Castle Road, Cookley - x 1  
A449 Wolverhampton Road - x 2  
A456 Birmingham Road - x 1  
A449 Chester Road South - x 1  
A456 Hodge Hill - x 2  
Stanklyn Lane - x 10  
Canterbury Road x 0  
Hoo Road x 3

Speed enforcement will continue to be on our agenda over the coming months.

Policing Priorities - Agreed to remain the same.

#### 70. **To receive Councillors Reports:**

##### **District Councillor Report:**

Report Circulated.

##### Local Issues:

We have been dealing with the usual varied issues presented to us and continue to progress these frequently.

##### Wyre Forest issues:

The District Council have launched a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation regarding Kidderminster Town Centre. This is in respect of drinking alcohol within the exclusion zone which covers the town centre. Please see the WFDC website for details.

Wyre Forest House is still largely closed to the public. The Progressive Alliance are still considering disposal of the site but are determining how much office space they will need post Covid with the new working arrangements.

Grass cutting is now a major issue in the District. Obviously in this parish the Parish Council look after this but we are not happy with the quality and quantity across much of the rest of the District.

We would like the regeneration of Kidderminster town centre to proceed at pace now we have the £20.5m from the Future High Streets Fund from the Government.

We would also like to see the land where Crown House was, regenerated as quickly as possible; this forms part of the regeneration scheme.

Taylor Wimpey have launched their consultation on their Masterplan for a proposed 1400 home to the East of Kidderminster on farmland at Offmore and the edge of Stone Parish, at what they are referring to as Woven Oaks. This is effectively a ribbon development between the A450 and A448. This land was proposed for housing in the Local Plan.

Likewise, Homes England have just consulted on the further 800 homes for Lea Castle Village, which was proposed for housing in the Local Plan.

We currently await the Planning Inspector's views further to the Examination in Public in January.

We understand there must be what is called a 'minor modifications' consultation and this will be in September but we have been given no further details as yet.

The Progressive Alliance continue to pursue the transfer of assets, land and parks to the various town councils. Bewdley Museum has recently been transferred to Bewdley Town Council and the Riverside park in Stourport to Stourport Town Council.

District Meetings are now back face to face.

Cllr Helen Dyke is now the Leader of the Council; Cllr Graham Ballinger is Deputy Leader. Cllr John Aston is the Chairman of the Council, with Cllr Peter Dyke as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Cox asked for any update on Cookley Post Office. Cllr M Hart advised planning application received today for shop front which will be on agenda next month.

##### **County Councillor Report:**

##### Wyre Forest Issues:

Undoubtedly, the major news received recently is the Government's agreement to provide £6.2million funding to support the Environment Agency's initiative for a Permanent Barrier System for the Beales Corner/Stourport Road area in Wribbenhall. Prime Minister Johnson has kept his word following his visit to Bewdley when he said "let's get it done." But importantly, MP Mark Garnier and County Council Leader Simon Geraghty have since then been constantly lobbying for the Government to prioritise sufficient funding to ensure that Mr Johnson's commitment comes to fruition as soon as possible.

The £6.2m from Government will of course be added to the County Council's allocation of £0.5m, plus £20,000 Local County Member's contribution which I have committed; equalling £6.720m in total. This will enable the Environment Agency to proceed with the construction of its intended wall system, similar to that installed in Upton on Severn.

Wribbenhall Beales Corner Temporary Barrier System, Post Incident Review Findings, EA Meeting:

The Environment Agency have called a meeting for representatives of the County, District and Town Councils, and local residents, to explain the assessment process and findings from their investigation into why the temporary barriers were breached during the recent flooding.

Casework Issues for Wolverley & Cookley: The Parish Clerk is aware of the considerable frustration caused by the slow resolution of many Highways Issues; I assure you that I am constantly reminding the Highways Engineer for Wyre Forest of the long-standing issues awaiting completion. However, I think I should explain that apparently, the reduced service we are experiencing is not peculiar to Wyre Forest but is quite general across the County and County Councillors are being asked to recognise that factors such as the Pandemic have created considerable difficulties, with staffing shortages frequently being experienced. Also, whilst there are 6 Highway Engineer positions for the County, for much of the last few months there have only been 4 Engineers in place!

I am due to meet with Paul Green, Highways Engineer, this week and will endeavour to progress as many of the issues presently outstanding as possible.

Lea lane Landslip: Unfortunately, I have still not been given a commencement date for the works owing to ongoing negotiations between the County Council and other parties involved.

Lea Castle Quarry: This has not yet been scheduled for a particular meeting of the County's Planning Committee.

Cllr. Nicholls queried further public consultation on the Quarry. This is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> August - 9<sup>th</sup> September.

71. **Financial Matters:**

Unanimously agreed the schedule of cheques to be signed.

24	Mrs B J Drew (Salary July 2021)	1067.71
25	Mr Keith Basketfield (4th Grass Cutting)	688.00
26	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Final Zoom)	24.38
27	Ms Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman - July 2021)	232.50
28	The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust (Final Sanitising Invoice)	320.00

72. **Street Naming and Numbering - Lea Castle Phase 2.**

Clerk had circulated Street Naming and Numbering Suggestions for Lea Castle Phase 2 received from Planning Policy. Ward Members have the final decision on these.

Cllr. J Wood asked if they would consider reflecting the foundation of the NHS in naming the remaining roads on the new housing development on the former Lea Castle Hospital Site.

After discussion it was agreed Councillors should put forward any proposals by e mail to ward councillors for consideration.

73. **Wolverley Village Flood Issues.**

Cllr. R Drew advised that following the recent flash flooding in Wolverley Village in June he had undertaken a full walk of all drains and was shocked to discover 33 that were either blocked or broken.

County Councillor I Hardiman is now fully aware and is doing everything in his power to get action on these. He is meeting with the Highways Engineer tomorrow.

Cllr. Cox advised there are still several blocked in Castle Road, Cookley.

74. **To discuss colour paint options for bridge, Causall.**

The Chairman expressed delight that the bridge works are going ahead. The Parish Council have been asked for their views on the paint colour for the bridge.

After much discussion it was agreed to keep the same colour, Cookley Green. This was proposed Cllr. M Hart, seconded Cllr. D Cox and agreed.

75. **To receive report on Cookley Playing Fields and Village Hall Association.**

Cllr. J Wood reported that the Chair to the above association will escalate to the Charities Commission if overdue accounts have not been received by Thursday.

Cllr. Nicholls queried the need for this to be on the agenda and Cllr. M Hart agreed that the Parish Council are ultimately freeholders of the land and appoint a trustee, the duties are vested with the trustees and not Parish Council.

76. **To consider quotes for LED Bulbs Cookley Clock and agree way forward.**

Cllr D Jones advised of quote received from Smith of Derby for £594 plus VAT.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed.

**77. To discuss former Cookley Caunsall Action Group Website.**

Cllr. D Jones suggested that it would be an asset for the village to have a website containing village information/events to promote the villages of Cookley and Caunsall. The existing Cookley and Caunsall Action Group website is an excellent site, set up by a local and would be re-named to provide the above. It would not be political and have no links to CCAg. The cost for 1 year is approx. £140.00 which could be funded from the Cookley Village Improvements fund and it could be reviewed after a year to decide if it was to be continued.

There was much discussion on this. Cllr M Hart expressed concerns over a third party running a website funded by the PC and the need for it when the PC already has a website which information can be put on. Cllr Drew mentioned security, the PC website is strictly governed by WCC, who would control the content and ensure the law is adhered to, eg cookie control, transparency etc. Cllr J Hart stated if someone in the village wants to set this up they should do so but not the PC.

Cllr McFarland said it will be good for the residents, is not controversial and is almost like a parish magazine.

Cllr D Jones proposed the Parish Council pay for this year and review thereafter. This was seconded by Cllr. McFarland and carried 6 votes for, 5 votes against.

**78. To consider producing a Leaflet for distribution to new housing developments.**

Cllr. R Drew discussed the three new developments in the Parish, Weavers Chase, Sion Hill and Lea Castle and suggested that the Parish Council should do a "Welcome" leaflet for distribution as they are not aware they are in this Parish. Cllr Drew will produce a draft and circulate. Distribution would be done by volunteers and it would only be for the new developments.

**79. To discuss Queens Platinum Jubilee Events.**

Defer.

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

PC No	WFDC No/Details
3553	20/0309/FUL: (Revised) Retrospective change of use from agricultural land to equestrian use at land at os 384896 280050, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,

Cllr. W Southam spoke on this application and advised that although WFDC are of the opinion this change of use regularises and controls what can be done on the land he is concerned it will be added to and become horsey fields and therefore recommends refusal.

Cllr M Hart stated that all 3 applications on the Wolverhampton Road site will be going to WFDC Planning Committee. Giving his predisposed view so as not to predetermine at WFDC Planning Committee he re-iterated the PC do not want areas that look like shanty towns and that is why officers gave a steer about openness of the greenbelt. They would be able to make conditions regarding positioning, shielding by hedgerow planting, stables to be screened to be acceptable in the greenbelt rather than them going on skids and there being no control. He also advised there are 2 further applications which will be submitted.

After further discussion Cllr, Southam recommend refusal, which was carried.

3554	21/0644/HOU: Construction of decking to rear of house to a maximum height of 0.45 metres above ground level at 1A Orchard Grove, Caunsall,
------	--

Recommend Approval

3555	21/0677/AG: FOR INFORMATION ONLY. A modern agricultural building for the storage of Hay and Machinery, clad on three sides with concrete panels and Yorkshire boarding at land at Os 380320 280188, Bridgnorth Road, Kidderminster,
------	---

3556	21/0680/HOU: Proposed 2 storey rear extension (renewal of previous planning approval 18/0475/HOU) at 1 South Lodge, Wolverley Road, Wolverley,
------	--

Recommend Approval

3557	21/0681/FUL: Change of use of Agricultural Land to mixed Equestrian and Agricultural Land, erection of stable building and retention of store/tack building and Alpaca shelter at land at os 384800 280058, Plot F, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,
------	--

Recommend Refusal

3558	21/0683/HOU: Proposed single storey rear extension at North Lodge, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,
3559	21/0685/LBC: Proposed single storey rear extension at North Lodge, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

- 3560 21/0705/FUL: Erection of dwelling house with associated parking at 14 Elan Close, Cookley,  
Recommend Approval
- 3561 21/0711/FUL: Retention of 2 field shelters and change of use to equestrian and land at os 384988 280010,  
Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,  
Recommend Refusal
- 3562 21/0721/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY. Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development for the siting of beehives  
(building or enclosure) for the keeping of bees, surrounded by a new fence of less than two metres high for domestic  
purposes incidental to the dwelling house and siting of a caravan at Wyre Mill Cottage, Wolverley,  
Cllr. M Hart has spoken briefly to the Solicitor and Case Officer on this. Ultimately it is up to the District Council to  
decide.  
Cllr. R Drew expressed serious concerns about this and any obstruction to the footpath as the proposed siting for  
bees is directly over the footpath, also the need for a caravan and where this will be sited as there is no plan  
showing this.
- 3563 21/0729/S73: Removal of condition 9 and variation to approved plans attached to 20/0029/FULL to authorise  
increase in overall height of bungalow and minor changes to elevations at Wyre Mill Cottage, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval
- 3564 21/0730/FUL: Change of use and conversion of existing cart shed/store into ancillary accommodation to serve  
Bodenham House at Bodenham House, Bodenham Lane, Hobro,  
Recommend Approval and request condition to serve the house only as ancillary accommodation
- 3565 21/0743/HOU: Proposed single storey extensions to existing bungalow at Robin Hill, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley.  
Recommend Approval

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

81. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Noted
82. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) The Lengthsman is doing a good job and working in both villages.
83. Site Meeting re Street Lighting Column, Gaymore Road, Cookley. (DC) Still to be arranged.
84. Wolverley Projects. (RD) Cllr R Drew gave update.
85. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Cllr D Jones advised agenda item to be removed until there is a further update.
86. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Queens Jubilee,
87. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 7th September 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm