

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 5th October 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
Mr C Nicholls
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

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

107. Apologies

Cllr. Mrs L Jones due to another meeting, Cllr. B McFarland due to transport issues and Cllr. C Sherrey and S Sherrey due to holiday.

108. 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. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

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

Cllr D Killingworth - Chairman of Wyre Forest County Association of Local Councils introduced himself and spoke to Councillors on the importance of attending regular training sessions. CALC provide numerous sessions which can be attended via Zoom, these are circulated by your Clerk. He also re-iterated the need for all Councillors to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Ethics and Standards Committee now have a new Chairman and will not tolerate any inappropriate behaviour. Cllr. R Drew (Vice Chairman) sits on this committee.

The Chairman introduced Lorraine Neal, our new Lengthsman and she was warmly welcomed by all and thanked for her work. The Clerk thanked her for timely submission of worksheets which are now circulated to all Councillors.

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

109. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th September 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:

110. Police Report

Report Circulated.

Clerk also advised of recent RTC on Shatterford Road by entrance to Wolverley Memorial Hall also reports of a male approaching people in Cookley asking for money.

111. To receive Councillors Reports:

District Councillor Report:

Report Circulated.

Local Issues

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

We continue to receive some communication from residents regarding the potential quarry at Lea Castle.

We have been advised by WFDC that they want to pursue their localism agenda with the Parish Council, regarding the transfer of some assets/land in the Parish. However, this has all gone very quiet and we have not been updated recently.

We do not support WFDC expecting the Parish Council to take on the litter picking and bin emptying duties without any grant, given that WFDC has a statutory duty to keep land free from litter.

We have been keeping a close eye on several planning issues in the Parish, in particular, the Old Post Office in Cookley village. Lisa has been leading on this but we have all been involved. The applicants were advised the application was not acceptable and given 14 days to resubmit revised plans. These are still not acceptable and at the time of writing have not been advised of further revised plans, today being the deadline. We should have a further oral update on the status of the application at the meeting.

We have approved the further naming of roads at the former Lea Castle Hospital site with the WFDC planning policy team. We would like to thank the PC for their suggestions but feel it is sensible to keep with the common theme of trees/bushes/plants, save for the Doctor's names.

A fly tipper was given a fixed penalty notice of £300 recently for dumping waste in Beech Tree Lane.

The depot have recently cut back the overgrowth around the alleyway near the bowling club and given it a good tidy up.

An additional street nameplate has been added at Hayes Road.

Wyre Forest Issues

In respect of the WFDC's draft Local Plan, the Cabinet are meeting on 13th October to approve a consultation from 14th October - 26th November. This will be on the 'main modifications'.

Look out for the consultation events and what the implications are when the details are released by WFDC.

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public and the Green Street Hub is not open as a walk in Hub, appointments must be pre-booked save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications and 'urgent' issues.

Full Council has now met back face to face in the Council Chamber for the first time in over 18 months.

The Progressive Alliance have made some constitutional amendments, reducing the time for notices of motions and debate.

Cllr. M Hart also added that the Planning Application at the former Post Office, Cookley has today been refused and enforcement action will be taken. Also Environmental Protection Officers at WFDC have been doing patrols and have caught and successfully fined two people recently for fly tipping. The Local Plan will go before the Scrutiny Committee and then Cabinet.

County Councillor Report:

Report Circulated.

Local Issues:

Wolverley Secondary School/Highway Safety for Pupils

In response to a request by Head teacher Bryn Thomas for Highway safety improvements to be made to ensure safe egress of pupils at school finish times, I engaged the Highways Liaison Engineer who has now utilised technical resources to finalise an engineering solution outside the school. Additional highway school warning signs and safety railings are to be installed; pupils will be contained and protected by the railings which will run from the school exit gateway along the pavement down to a crossing-point to solve the present uncontrolled dispersal onto the highway by pupils.

I had no hesitation in agreeing to proceed with such important safety measures and I have been able to use some of my Councillor's Divisional Funding to ensure the project's completion. The school will also be investing in new safety rail improvements around its gateway which will link to the County Council's system.

Lea Lane Landslip:

Unfortunately, the County Council are still unable to proceed with the necessary construction works to restore Lea Lane to full usage; agreement has still not been found with interested parties regarding responsibilities, permissions and costs. To enable progress, the County Council, Severn Trent Water, the Canals & Rivers Trust plus the private land owner must resolve ongoing disagreements.

Lea Castle Farm Quarry Application:

Still no date has been set for the Quarry Application to be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee whose responsibility it is to either approve or refuse mineral extraction applications.

Recurring Rainwater, Flooding Lowe Lane Field:

In response to concerns by the tenant whose horses are kept in the field at the lower end of Lowe Lane, Paul Green Highways Engineer accompanied me to investigate the highway Gullies' efficiency here. Subsequently, we have arranged to meet with the tenant to discuss how the natural contour of the field's edge has been altered by depositing of grass & vegetation waste causing interruption to the natural flow of the rainwater on its route to the drainage system.

Cllr. R Drew requested that WCC be asked to fill the Yellow County Grit Bins that were previously reported last year as empty.

112. **Financial Matters.**

- a) PKf Littlejohn - Section 3 - External Auditor Report & Certificate 2020/21.

The external auditor has completed the report and certificate for 20/21 and has one advisory that Unpaid Standing Orders as at the year end have been incorrectly included as items of expenditure and as reconciling items in the bank reconciliation. The figures in Section 2, Boxes 6,7 and 8 should read £51,575, £116,557 and £116,557 respectively. Clerk advised in consultation with Cllr. C Sherrey these figures will be corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next years AGAR.

- b) Pagoda Tower Baskets, Cookley - Purchase of Additional Tier. Unanimously Approved. Cllr. Southam advised Cookley in Bloom have recently won another Gold Award. They were congratulated by all.

- b) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed. Unanimously agreed the following accounts be paid:

34	Mrs B J Drew (Salary September 2021)	1067.71
35	Mr Keith Basketfield (6th Grass Cut - Extra)	688.00
36	Inland Revenue (Tax & NI July - September 2021)	415.80
37	PKF Littlejohn (External Audit Fee)	360.00
38	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Expenses)	150.99
39	Ms Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman - September 2021) (County Work - Reimbursed by Cllr. I Hardiman Fund)	165.00 180.00
40	Amberol (Island Quarto Planters x 4)	603.60
41	geViews (Pagoda Tower Baskets - 2 Small additional tiers)	192.00

113. **Consultation for Felling Licence Application 015/2478/2019 Kinver Edge - Blakeshall Common.**

The above consultation had been circulated to all Councillors and was noted. It was agreed to leave the decision on the proposal to the experts.

114. **To discuss The Queen's Green Canopy - Tree Planting.**

Clerk had circulated information received on the above and Cllr. R Drew gave a precis.

There was much discussion on this, and it was agreed all Councillors give thought to this and Clerk keep on the agenda for further discussion.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

- 3576 21/0772/HOU: Erection of single storey side and front extensions including new porch, following demolition of existing garage at 14 Westhead Road, Cookley,
Recommend Approval
- 3577 21/0895/OUT: Residential development for 1 x 3-bedroom single storey bungalow at garages at land at Wardle Way, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval for bungalow but request that the trees are retained and managed with advice from the Arboricultural Officer
- 3578 21/0889/FUL: Car Park Improvements at Vales Rock Car Park, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval
- 3579 21/0909/HOU: Construction of a 20 x 40 m outdoor riding arena at Birds Barn Cottage, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval
- 3580 21/0923/HOU: Glass link from house to the existing garage. Single storey extension to the garage to create extra living space at Sebright Cottage, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley.
Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

116. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Overgrowth around alleyways, Wolverley Memorial Hall - WFDC have done as a one off, but Wolverley Memorial Hall Committee are discussing and will be responsible for this going forward. Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2021 - more details to follow, Planning Decision Notices, CALC Employment Kite Mark Scheme. Road Closure Notices.
117. WFDC Localism Agenda. (RD/MH) Cllr R Drew gave an update on recent meetings attended. Still no formal proposals have been received from WFDC. Several neighbouring Councils have agreed they will not take over grass cutting/bin emptying services but they are much smaller Councils than Wolverley & Cookley. The Executive Officer at CALC has written to Ian Miller regarding this and together with Cllr. Killingworth has a meeting to discuss. All Parish and Town Councils have agreed to stand firm together on this. Clerk to put on main body of next agenda.
118. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Lorraine was thanked for her work.
119. Site Meeting re Street Lighting Column, Gaymore Road, Cookley. (DC) Cllr D Cox, Clerk, Mr Talbot, Prysman and WCC Street Lighting attended on site. It was agreed the column does need fully replacing. Prysman will liaise with Mr Talbot when undertaking the work which should be before Christmas.
120. Winter Basket Planting. (RD/WS) Wolverley will be planted this week, Cookley is in hand.
121. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) LED updates, Localism Agenda, Green Canopy Tree Planting, Remembrance Day.
- 122..Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.