

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, 7.00pm, Cookley School, Cookley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Sergeant Andy Jones / PCSO Alice Owen-Jones.
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman.
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart and I Hardiman.

87. **Apologies**

Cllr C Nicholls due to family commitment, Cllr S Sherrey due to holiday and Cllr L Jones due to work commitments.

88. **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. On looking at the website it appears some do need updating. If you require a new form, please contact the Clerk.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Chairman R Drew in agenda item 8. d) Clerks Home Working Expenses as married to Clerk. Chairman will leave the room for this item.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr M Hart in planning application 22/0636/Ful as son attends Heathfield School.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

Overhanging tree obscuring streetlight by Cookley School reported - Cllr D Cox to check.

Cookley Biodiversity Enhancement Report was raised - Cllr David Jones is leading on this and suggestions from the report are being discussed and going forward actions will be taken which will be updated to the Parish Council

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

89. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd August 2022 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 by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision.

90. **Wolverley Village Residents issues:**

At the Parish Council meeting in Wolverley on 2nd August 2022 approximately 30 residents from Wolverley Village raised 4 issues that they wanted the Parish Council to look into.

They were -

1. Speeding
2. Parking
3. Vandalism & Antisocial behaviour
4. Overgrown trees

A group of Wolverley Parish Councillors discussed the issues at a meeting on 11th August and it was decided to have an informal meeting/discussion with residents on 18th August to offer advice and ideas.

Speeding & Parking:

A meeting has been arranged with Ian Hardiman (County Councillor) and Hayley Steele (Worcestershire County Council - Highways) on 7th September to discuss Speeding and Parking issues. On speeding we will discuss road markings, additional signs, traffic calming measures and the options on the 20mph speeding limit around school areas.

On parking we will discuss permit parking in two areas and any additional ideas or measures Hayley can suggest. We also intend to discuss the same issues we have on Franche Road with Ian and Hayley.

It was pointed out that when the VAS sign was put on Blakeshall Lane in the Village it only showed 2% of cars were speeding. It will be reinstated there when the schools are back and we will look at the results again. It should be noted that earlier on in the year WCC put wires down which also showed no speeding issues.

Any recommendations that are forthcoming from the above meeting will be reported to this Council and the Residents of Wolverley Village prior to any action being taken.

Vandalism;

It was stressed to the residents the importance of logging every event with the Police including the use of Operation Snap/CCTV footage and keeping a total village record including the costs caused by vandalism.

It was discussed with the residents about setting up of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and, also, adopting a Community Safety Charter. All the information is on the website and there is also supply some signage available. Please contact the clerk if you need the website address.

It was also suggested they write to the school governors to build better relationships with the school to tackle anti-social behaviour by pupils attending the school. Copies of these letters should also be sent to the Headmaster & the Police.

Trees;

We had a meeting with the property owner concerned. The matter was discussed at the residents meeting and it was left with the residents to talk to the owner directly. We are, however, aware that some work is planned and can now confirm there are no T.P.Os on any of the trees in question. In our view the issues on trees referred to do not fall into the remit of this Council nor WFDC & WCC.

Several residents attended the Police surgery on 24th August to discuss the same issues with the police directly.

Cllr McFarland commented the concerns raised are throughout the Parish, not just in Wolverley Village.

Cllr C Sherrey responded that actions taken had been as a result in a large number of residents attending previous meeting. Actions arising can be expanded on in due course.

91. **Speed and size of Lorries, Sladd Lane, Wolverley.**

Cllr V Bordewich expressed concerns raised by local residents on the speed and size of lorries going along Sladd Lane, Wolverley to the wine storage facility at Drakelow tunnels.

County Councillor I Hardiman advised this has been reported previously and there are planning conditions attached to restrict the number of HGVs to no more than three per day. Additional signage has previously been requested but the response was that there is no appropriate signage. Cllr J Hart advised that vehicle movements in and out of the site should be logged and suggested this could be checked to ensure there was no breach of planning conditions. Cllr I Hardiman will arrange this.

92. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated.

For the first time in a long time we have no incidents to report to you for Wolverley & Cookley of note. We have had alarm activations on the new builds on the old Lea Castle site, but these have not been reported to us as thefts taking place. This is usually the case with new builds where sites are targeted for fuel/ tools etc

We now have another PC to join our team, named Jamie Guest who you will hopefully meet in due course. He will be working alongside Matt, covering Kidderminster North and East

Cllr D Jones advised of round the wall race, Sunday 25th September, Police will attend if possible.

Police Priorities were agreed as Speeding, Parking and Antisocial Behaviour.

93. **County / District Councillor Reports. Reports circulated prior to the meeting.**

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report; Written Report circulated.

Lea Lane Landslip:

As no progress has been reported to me, concerning the commencement of the restoration works, I have written to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways asking him to meet me to discuss this issue; I am awaiting his response.

New Highways Liaison Engineer, Hayley Steele:

I have asked Hayley Steele for attention to the many outstanding Issues that I have presently within my Division of Cookley, Wolverley & Wribbenhall. I currently have a Highways workload of almost 60 Issues; some of these are many months old and I believe that they should be resolved at the earliest. Hayley has been away on holiday but I have an appointment to meet with her this week and hope we can focus on the longstanding items especially then.

Wolverley Village Residents' Concerns:

I have been kept informed by the Chairman, Robin Drew, of the several matters of concern held by village residents and responded where I can and agreed to progress several matters during this week when meeting with the Highways Liaison Engineer.

Cookley, Titan Wheels Concerns:

I have received a request from the Chief Executive of Titan Wheels to have investigated the issue of difficulty for his company's large lorries when driving down Bridge Road caused by the permitted vehicle parking proximity on both sides of the road where he believes the Double Yellow Lines on each side don't allow safe passage when there is traffic both ways. I have reported this and been assured that a Highways assessment will be carried out here.

District Councillors Report - Written 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.

Lisa has been liaising with Green Street Managers to ensure that the pavements outside the two primary schools are clean of Dog Mess and are cleansed before the children return to school.

Lisa had a meeting with the Head Teacher at Cookley Primary School and discussed how the Environmental Enforcement officers can work with the children on environmental initiatives such as littering, dog fouling and recycling including providing additional recycling bins for crisp packets etc from the children's lunches. Lisa is meeting with officers to organise these events.

Regarding the Red Lion Planning Application, Lisa has continued to liaise with the Planning Officer regarding this application. There are now two separate applications, one for Two Detached Houses in Lionfields Road with parking which will be determined through a revision of the original application, Lisa did discuss the need for bungalows instead of detached houses, but this was not deemed the correct location by officers. A second, which has not yet been registered by the council for the demolition of the existing Red Lion Application to construct two detached dwellings. We will update you in due course.

Regarding the Old Post Office Planning application, the Planning Officer is due to give a decision very shortly.

Enforcement Issues

The Old Post Office, Cookley - Lisa has continued to liaise with the Planning and Enforcement Officer regarding the existing on-going enforcement action. We cannot give any more information at present and will give an update as soon as we are able to.

Six Acres Castle Hill Lane Cookley- The Enforcement Officer has a deadline for the 01/12/2022, this will now be dealt with by the relevant agencies. This is still ongoing and no further information can be given at this time.

Caunsall Road - We have received reports from a resident regarding a possible static caravan, Officers have determined that this is a mobile home and as such is not enforceable.

Wyre Forest District Issues

Wyre Forest House is open to the public through the reception facility only, 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.

There is a Older Persons Showcase Event being held on Thursday 22 September from 10.am to 12Noon at Kidderminster Health Centre, Waterloo Street. This is a free event for residents who will be able to access advice on Healthy Living, Finances, Benefits and Local Services.

There will be at another jobs fair at Kidderminster Town Hall on Thursday 29 September.

This is a brief update on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

In total, Wyre Forest has received approximately 95 guests from Ukraine to date, who have been accommodated within 44 host families.

Private Sector Housing have carried out 49 property inspections to ensure the accommodation being offered is suitable for a guest to reside. Like many areas Officers are seeing some issues between hosts and guests and are working hard with the county and other districts to set up a rematching service where the offer of a home breaks down completely. An additional 6 properties have been inspected so they can be allocated a Rematch if required.

Cllr M Hart added that WFDC officers are minded to refuse Cookley Post Office application. The Post Office had one application refused which is subject to enforcement, the second application is pending (but will be refused) so then enforcement will be pursued. Any decision on an alcohol licence is subject to the Licensing Committee.

94. **Financial Matters:**

- a) External Audit Report. No matters raised, all signed off. Clerk to do Notice of Closure of Audit.
- b) Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. Unanimously agreed NOT to opt out and to remain part of the central scheme.
- c) On-Line Banking. In Progress.
- d) Clerks Home working expenses. The vice chairman Cllr. Dean Cox took the chair for this item.

Cllr. Marcus Hart presented this item and stated that he and Cllr. Nicholls had received a request from the clerk to review the position regarding the clerk working from home allowance and whether they would be minded to pay the annual tax free allowance of £312 (£26 per month).

Cllr. Marcus Hart advised that a number of other councils do this and that it was a very modest sum and that he had discussed the matter with Cllr. Chris Nicholls who sadly could not be present this evening but who was the other member of the staffing committee and who agreed it was entirely appropriate.

Cllr. Marcus Hart duly moved approval that we pay the annual sum of £312, that is backdated to 1st April 2022 and that Cllr. Charles Sherrey be delegated to make any necessary arrangements with the payroll provider. This was duly seconded by Cllr. John Hart and unanimously agreed.

- e) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

Cllr C Sherrey advised that cheques 35 & 36 have already been paid and a contribution of £694.20 has been received from Wolverley Carnival Committee.

35	Robot Cossey (Swan Carving)		950.00
36	G.M.K. Scaff-Form	300.00 plus 60.00 (VAT)	360.00
37	Mrs B J Drew (Salary August 2022)		1111.17
38	Keith Basketfield (Fifth Grass Cut)		688.00
39	The Street Nameplate Co Ltd (Gateway Signs)	569.90 plus 113.98 (VAT)	683.88
40	Lockfit (Kidderminster) Ltd (Attend and replace lock - Cookley Clock))		110.00
41	RXM (Cookley Clock Painting)		250.00
42	Mrs B J Drew Hammerite Paint Fixings Stationary	14.99 plus 3.00 (VAT) 30.45 plus 3.50 (VAT)	17.99) 33.95) some, but not all items had VAT 9.99
43	Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman)		308.00
44	PKF Littlejohn (External Audit)	300.00 plus 60.00 (VAT)	360.00

95. **To discuss the Civility and Respect Pledge.**

Chairman gave an update and advised Wyre Forest are currently reviewing a new Code of Conduct. It was agreed to defer until the new code has been received. Clerk to raise at Parish Forum to ascertain what other Parish Councils in Wyre Forest are doing.

96. **Kestrel Box - Wolverley Allotment Site.**

A request had been received from Wolverley Allotment Society to put up a Kestrel Box on the site. It was unanimously agreed this be approved. Cllr Bordewich confirmed there is nothing in the lease to prevent this.

97. **Litterbin - Highfield Road, Cookley.**

Cookley Councillors have visited the site and understand the nuisance. For the bin to be moved further along the road a new pole will have to be put in. Cllr J Wood will confirm location and send map to Clerk to forward to County Councillor I Hardiman.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3634 21/0845/FUL | Erection of new no. 2 dwelling houses with private parking and amenity space | Red Lion 70 Castle Road Cookley Kidderminster DY10 3TB.

The PC recommend approval in principle subject to satisfactory provision for parking for the 2 houses that would not affect future parking provision if a future application for development on this site is made.

3635 22/0636/FUL: Proposed single storey extension to existing dining hall at Heathfield School, Wolverley, Cllr M Hart left the room.

Recommend Approval

3636 22/0690/FUL: Change of Use of Ancillary Accommodation to form Holiday Let at Horsbrook Cottage, Lower Kingsford Lane, Wolverley.

Recommend Refusal due to inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In addition, the Parish Council agree with the concerns expressed by the Highways Authority regarding the proposed change of use would represent an intensification of use of the site with additional trips associated with the holiday let use on a narrow track. Please note the current plans do not show evidence of ancillary accommodation on the proposed site and there are no elevation drawings.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

99. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Consultation on Kinver's Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Forum Agenda, Diversion of Footpath at Wyre Mill Cottage, Clerks & Councils Direct.
100. Vehicle Activated Sign - Data/Additional Sign. (RD) Grant Application in Progress for additional sign.
101. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Cookley Work needed for next week.
102. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
103. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4th October 2022.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman - Cllr R Drew