

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022, 7.00pm, Cookley School, Cookley**

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)  
Mr A Carloss  
Mr D Cox  
Mr J Hart  
Mr M Hart  
Mr B McFarland  
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 and I Hardiman.

119. **Apologies**

Cllr Mrs V Bordewich due to family commitment in London, Cllr D Jones due to family commitment and Cllr Mrs L Jones due to work commitments.

120. **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.
- 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.

Painting of the Cookley Millennium Clock - Clerk confirmed this has not been paid for as it is not yet finished.

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

121. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 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.**

122. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated.

Cookley

Distraction Burglary - Austcliffe Park - A female has approached a property asking for donations for a deaf charity. The resident has allowed her to use the toilet and offered her a drink, and whilst making her a cup of tea, the female has taken jewellery from the bedroom. The female has then left the property with the jewellery.

Wolverley

Theft - Gibberd Way - Police Ref 00301\_I\_12102022 - Sometime overnight 11th October and also on Saturday 8th October thieves have entered a garden in this location and stolen items including a step ladder, 3 heavy duty plant pots, a hanging basket and have attempted to steal a bird table. The property backs onto an alleyway and wire was found hanging over the fence attached to the bird table, possibly in a failed attempt to steal it.

Burglaries - The Lock - Smithy Tea Rooms & Fast Eddies Smoke House situated on the grounds of The Lock Public House Wolverley have been broken into. Untidy searches were made in both locations and stock and charity boxes have been stolen.

Attempted Burglary - Albrighton Drive, KIDDERMINSTER - Police ref - 00021\_I\_26102022 -- At approximately 00:50hrs on the 26th October occupants of the property were woken by two loud bangs, person(s) unknown had smashed the rear door of the property. It is believed this is was an attempted burglary, which the occupant has interrupted. A black Fiesta VRM LC\*\*\*FS is believed to be linked to the incident.

Burglary - Wolverley Village - Police Ref 00092\_I\_17102022 - A Quad bike that was locked securely in an alarmed shed has been stolen. The vehicle is a Red Honda, registration similar to DX5\* LXU. Offenders have got into the shed via the roof, and have used spray paint to cover CCTV cameras. The egress was through the shed doors causing damage to them in the process

Vehicle Crime - Sladd Lane - A motorhome has been stolen from an address in this location. However it has since been recovered by officers in the west midlands area

ASB/ Criminal Damage - Wolverley Church Hall - We have had reports of windows being broken, guttering pulled off the side of the building and foul and abusive language being used. These incidents are currently under investigation and we hope to have a further update relating to this in our next police report.

So in relation to your priorities our updates so far are that we have conducted speed enforcement checks along Franche Road, Wolverley (where no one actually was ticketed for speeding offences) and as mentioned above the ASB is a work in progress!

Cllr Cox reported of a few issues in Cookley over the weekend,

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

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

Lea Lane Landslip:

The new Cabinet Member for Highways visited my Division when I was able to show him the Landslip issue; he agreed to my request that he pursue this matter with senior officers to speed up progress .

Also

RE: A449 Crossroads/Traffic Lights/Park Gate Rd/ Developer 278 works:

I showed the Cabinet Member the safety concerns for children crossing this busy junction.

Also

Re: The Refurbished Caunsall/Austcliffe Foot Bridge:

I took the Cabinet Member to see the bridge where he was really impressed with the works carried out on this necessary project.

Also

Wolverley, Inefficient Gully outside Hardwicks which Severn Trent Water have a shared responsibility for maintenance: The Cabinet Member agreed to speak with senior Highways officers to urge a resolution for this issue.

The Crescent Agreed Removal of the small roundabout and junction reconfiguration:

These works have been completed satisfactorily; seeding is still to be done in the newly formed verge.

Wolverley Village Cutting, Gullies Vegetation Issue:

Whilst Highways have visited and carried out some clearance, I am unhappy with the incomplete result and have therefore complained to the Highways Engineer, asking for proper attention to this.

Pavement down to the Restored Bridge at Austcliffe/Caunsall:

I have been chasing a response on the pathway issue referred to the County Rights of Way Manager regarding surface improvements.

New Issues (which I have registered for attention): Roadway Flooding Drakelow Lane, Kingsford Lane, Sladd Lane, Lowe lane. / Sunday Morning Football vehicle parking congestion in Brown Westhead Park Rd./

Issues unresolved as reported last month: I am meeting with the Highways Engineer this week to try to gain progress.

Lea Castle Quarry Appeal - I have been informed an appeal has been registered but have no more details on this.

Cllr Nicholls queried why when Woodlands Road, Westhead Road and Westhead Road North are having pavements done, why is Woodlands road not being done, surely it would make sense to do all together. Cllr Hardiman will check with engineer,

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.

The Old Red Lion Public House, Cookley - The Planning Officer and Development Manager are meeting the agent on site later this week to finally try and get a solution to this.

We have been chasing the nameplate sign for Brown Westhead Park for some time, we are awaiting a date when this can be actioned.

We have been contacted by residents about signage on the Staffordshire/Kinver border along Kingsford Lane. Also, there are still issues with HGV's using Kingsford Lane.

## 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 are awaiting an update.

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.

## 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.

Green Street have launched a new "Thoughtless Dog Owners We are Watching You" dog fouling campaign across the district. We have forwarded the pack and poster to the Clerk and have asked for posters to be forwarded when they are available.

"A popular dog fouling campaign is coming to Wyre Forest this next week, aimed at those few dog walkers who don't scoop the poop. Wyre Forest District Council has joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy in a bid to reduce dog fouling in key problem across the district. The campaign sets its sights on irresponsible dog owners, with recent research showing that dog walkers are more responsible and pick up after their dogs, when they think that they are being watched. In 2014 Keep Britain Tidy conducted a campaign pilot, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), working with land managers across the country. This pilot saw an average reduction of 46% in the levels of dog fouling, with up to 90% reduction in some areas since.

Feedback suggests that dog fouling tends to occur at night time and during the months with shorter days, as some dog owners feel that they can't be seen 'under the cover of darkness'. Wyre Forest District Council has signed up to the edgy and uncompromising campaign to tackle dog fouling hotspots. The 'we're watching you' series of signs are visible after dark and use innovative cutting edge materials."

## 124. Financial Matters:

- a) On-Line Banking - No Progress
  - b) Financial Update - Cllr C Sherrey gave a very comprehensive report on the financial position of the Parish Council and was thanked for his work on this.
  - c) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.
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|----|--|---------|
| 51 | Mrs B J Drew<br>(Salary October 2022 inc Working from home allowance & backpay)  | 1293.19 |
| 52 | Worcestershire County Council<br>(Parish Initiative Q2)  | 3823.44 |
| 53 | DM Payroll Services Ltd<br>(Payroll 22/23 first half year)   | 90.00   |
| 54 | Bill White Nurseries<br>(Winter Plants inc additional gateways and village)<br>9 troughs, 4 island, 6 barrier baskets, 4 village | 855.42  |
| 55 | Smith of Derby<br>(Service Visit 19/10/22)   | 312.00  |
| 56 | Lorraine Neal<br>(Lengthsman)  | 215.60  |
| 57 | Wolverley Memorial Hall<br>(Annual Grant 22/23)  | 1559.65 |
| 58 | Cookley PFVHA<br>(Annual Grant 22/23)  | 1559.65 |
| 59 | Wolverley & Cookley Matters<br>(Annual Donation)   | 350.00  |
| 60 | The Poppy Appeal<br>(Donation re Wreaths)  | 150.00  |
| 61 | Cookley In Bloom<br>(Winter Plants - 4 troughs)  | 115.00  |

125. **New Gateways.**  
Unanimously agreed to order 2 additional gateways by Weavers Chase, Stourbridge Road which are budgeted for.
126. **Flower Baskets on new street lighting columns – Castle Road, Cookley.**  
Cllr W Southam enquired whether flower baskets could be out on the new street lighting columns in Castle Road.  
  
The Chairman advised that Worcestershire County Council are not in support of anything being attached to columns and do have a policy on this, Clerk to obtain.
127. **Cookley Christmas Tree Lights.**  
Cllr D Cox requested approval of £250.00 for new Christmas Lights for the Cookley tree, the lights will belong to the Parish Council and the electric is being provided by a local resident. Unanimously agreed.
128. **Remembrance Day Parades.**  
The Chairman advised that the local branch of Cookley and Wolverley Royal British Legion is being disbanded due to lack of support. There will still be church services but no parade.
129. **2023 Meeting Dates.**  
Clerk had circulated list of 2023 meeting dates. It was agreed to hold the January meeting in Wolverley again to ensure the Annual Parish Meeting in April will be in Cookley. The May meeting is the second Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May due to Election.
130. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**  
PC No    WFDC No/Details
- 3641    22/0713/HOU: Front single extension and three storey rear extension at 14 Gaymore Road, Cookley,  
Recommend Approval
- 3642    22/0803/HOU: Proposed side extension, including the raising of the existing low-level roof to form a new master bedroom at Rivermead, Birds Barn Lane, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval
- 3643    22/0841/HOU: Single storey rear/side extension at 58 Castle Road, Cookley.  
Recommend Approval

**Planning Decisions.**

- 22/0636/Ful    -            Permit (Heathfield School, Wolverley)  
22/0714/Hou    -            Permit (51 Castle Road, Cookley)

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

131. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Section 278 agreement Lea Castle, School responses on Parking, Litterbins following replacement of lighting columns, Consultations, Road Closure Notices, PCC Newsletter, CALC AGM 28th November.
132. Vehicle Activated Sign - Data/Additional Sign. (RD) Additional sign has been ordered.
133. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
134. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Contracts Lengthsman, Bin emptying, Grass cutting and Quarry appeal,
135. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th December 2022.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm

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Chairman - Cllr R Drew