

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley**

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PCSO Kate Easthope  
County Councillor: Apologies  
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart

136. **Apologies**

Cllr D Cox as working, Cllr Mrs L Jones due to another meeting, Cllr Mr C Nicholls as unwell, Cllr Mr W Southam due to family commitments and County Councillor I Hardiman due to another meeting.

137 **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. 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. Councillors A Carloss, D Jones, J Wood in the Quarry Appeal. Councillor B McFarland can stay in the meeting but not speak or vote. Cllr R Drew in budget (Clerks Salary).
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr R Drew in Planning Application 22/0879/Out as known to applicant.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

A parishioner enquired whether there had been any response following issues raised about dangerous parking in Drakelow Lane at school drop off and pick up for Wolverley CE Secondary School. The Chairman advised of the response from the headmaster and confirmed that the Parish Council have requested enforcement officers to visit the site.

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

138. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 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.**

139. **Lea Castle Quarry Appeal**

Cllrs with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests left the room.

The Clerk advised of notification of an appeal for the application for a proposed sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle.

Councillor S Sherrey advised that the two previous refusals submitted by the Parish Council will go forward to the inquiry.

Councillor R Drew has reviewed all the additional documentation submitted by the applicant and has drafted additional comments that are relevant to submit. All councillors were encouraged to forward any comments they have to the Clerk by tomorrow. Councillor S Sherrey advised that the housing developments have moved on considerably over the last few months with many more properties occupied and with children. He commented on the death of Ella in London, where pollution was given as the cause of death and emphasised this cannot happen again.

It was unanimously agreed to give delegated power to the Chairman and Cllr. S Sherrey to do a response for the Clerk to submit by the deadline of 12th December. Clerk to also apply under Rule 6 status for the Parish Council to speak at the inquiry.

140. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated.

Burglary - Castle Road, Cookley - Police ref 166\_I\_13112022

Between 12th November and 13th November, unknown persons have gained entry to a property by forcing a downstairs window. They have then conducted an untidy search and stolen jewellery from within.

Burglary - Gipsy Lane, Blakeshall - Police Ref 569\_I\_12112022

Between 0800hrs and 1800hrs on 12th November, unknown persons have gained entry to a property by forcing a downstairs window. An untidy search was made and Jewellery stolen from within.

Vehicle Crime - Gipsy Lane, Blakeshall - Police ref 181\_I\_12112022

Between 1600hrs on 11th November and 0845hrs on 12th November, unknown persons have stolen a Land Rover Discovery, VRM similar to VE65 \*\*N without keys.

Theft - Sion Hill Court - police ref 593\_I\_15112022

Between 1945hrs and 2020hrs on 15th November, unknown persons have removed two keypads off a wall.

Burglary - Clover Avenue, Lea Castle - Police ref 00092\_I\_22112022

Between 1600hrs on 21st November and 0830hrs on 22nd November, unknown persons have gained entry to a property via a rear window and taken tools from within.

You may recall that we had an incident at Wolverley memorial hall relating to ASB and criminal damage. Offenders have been identified and appropriate action taken.

Last month saw OP sceptre which is linked to knife crime. SNT worked with our dog team and gave a half day input with a display to pupils at Wolverley secondary school.

Kate urged everyone to make sure they leave lights on if they are out as most burglaries and crime occur where the house is in darkness. Mainly burglaries occur at the rear of properties,

Trouble with kids from school, church hall windows smashed and men's toilets, some children have been interviewed and did admit to crimes, There has also been abuse to the cleaner of hall and church,

Cllr McFarland queried any update following vandalism in Cookley, Kate advised nothing had been reported.

#### 141. County / District Councillor Reports.

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

##### **Local issues:**

Sunday Morning Football, Brown Westhead Rd: In response to Residents' concerns regarding vehicle congestion problems occurring on Sunday Mornings, I met with the WFDC Enforcement Manager to investigate whether there are any options to increase the parking capacity within the Football Fields' curtilage so as to prevent the large quantity of vehicle parking on the highway which causes much concern by residents. I am awaiting feedback on his thoughts that some reconfiguration may be possible to resolve the issue.

Wolverley Village Cutting, Gullies Issue: I have again chased the Highways Engineer as these works have still not yet been completed properly.

Roadway Flooding Issues: Chairman Robin Drew and I inspected the various sites identified as needing attention to Gullies and it is hoped that rather than wait for highways to respond, the lengthsman may possibly be asked to resolve these on a regular basis.

County Boundary Sign, Kingsford: Local residents have requested that a County Sign be installed in Kingsford Lane to identify the county boundary which joins Staffordshire. I have liaised with the Staffordshire County Councillor proposing that we jointly install new signage for both Counties; helpfully, this will be possible although the costs will have to be borne by accessing our individual Funding Allowances. I understand that The Parish Council is considering installing a gateway on the boundary and therefore it may be possible to integrate the county signage with this.

Snake Lane Pooling: I have again chased the Highways Engineer regarding the need for attention to the soakaway and drainage here.

Cookley, Titan Wheels suggestion for Reconfiguration of the yellow lines in Bridge Road: This is still being considered and I have again chased early attention to this matter

Cookley, Pedestrian Crossing: Whilst the County Council has no present funding available for such as this subject, I am making enquiries with the District Council's Planning Manager on whether any S106 monies may be accessible.

##### **Strategic Issues:**

Ukrainian Resettlement: There are about 500 households in Worcestershire who are hosting over 1,000 Ukrainians.

The Government have increased the amount we can put up the County's Council Tax next year from 3% to 5%. An additional 1% is worth circa £2.8 million.

District. Councillors Report - Written 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.

Regarding the K9 Pawfection business in Drakelow Lane, the applicants as you may be aware have appealed the enforcement notice and there has still be no decision from the planning inspector to date.

Regarding Six Ashes, Castle Hill, we have been liaising with officers regarding this enforcement issue and the residents have been given until 1st December to vacate the land. We are at present, chasing an update as this date has now passed!

We are liaising with WFDC planning officers regarding continued HGV use on Kingsford Lane going to the Drakelow tunnels site instead of using Sladd Lane which is the official route. Ian has been taking this issue up too as County Councillor.

We have been looking at street nameplate issues in the Kingsford Lane area and are liaising with the PC about potential new gateways.

There is no update as yet as to when the 800 homes planned for Lea Castle will be determined by WFDC following the submission of the planning application some months ago.

Enforcement Officers have investigated both fields at Lowe Lane and are happy sufficient wood has now been removed and that the bricks in the other field opposite do not merit enforcement action.

#### **Wyre Forest Issues**

A number of larger planning applications are still flooding in for determination on land which has been removed from the green belt now that the WFDC local plan has been approved.

Work has commenced in Worcester Street and the Kidderminster Town Hall following the successful grant of Government monies from the Future High Streets Fund and the Levelling up Fund.

WFDC currently has its free Christmas car parking offer on running from 19th November 2022 to 2nd January 2023 from 3pm in all WFDC owned car parks.

#### 142. **Recommendations from Grants Committee.**

Unanimously agreed;

Wolverley Church Hall - donation in lieu of rent	£450.00
Cookley Sebright School - rent to hire room	£450.00
Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust - Grant towards Defribillator	£250.00

#### 143. **Financial Matters:**

a) On-Line Banking.

Cllr C Sherrey reported;

The Parish Council currently use cheques to pay the bills and, as said previously need to explore the possibility of internet banking. Section 6.4 of the Parish Council Financial Regulations 2020 which are a sub-section of our standing orders states that "Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to council shall be signed by two members of Council in accordance with a resolution instructing that payment". The Clerk has contacted CALC to see if they had enough information at this stage to be able to offer advice. They have not, as yet, received sufficient information. Under the HSBC rules the Parish Council would have to have a Primary user who would set up the payments on the system. This is similar to writing cheques. The Primary user also appoints the Secondary users who one would hope would be Parish Councillors. Therefore imagine a theoretical situation where the Parish Council called Fraud PC asks the clerk to become the Primary user so that they can enter all the payments on the system for the Secondary users to sign off. Unbeknown to Council the clerk enters a payment for £50,000 to an overseas bank account and appoints their friend as a Secondary user. They sign off the payment and we never see them again! Cradley & Storrige PC when sorting out their banking arrangements said "Our current supplier, HSBC, does not provide a product that meets our requirements". There are some PCs in our area who are staying with HSBC but a Parish Councillor is entering all the payments. Grimley Parish Council is happy with Lloyds Bank.

The Parish Council are now looking at Lloyds Bank and following the lead of Broome Parish Council who have the same clerk as us. Broome are in the early stages of using Lloyds Bank and they have a Primary user (The Clerk) who can enter payments, view bank statements, print bank statements but cannot authorise payments or appoint Secondary users. Secondary users have to authorise the payments and they are appointed by the completion of a paper form that has been approved by the Parish Council and submitted to the bank.

The Clerk is currently setting up a bank account with Lloyds and if this Council is happy to proceed then it needs to agree that the clerk is the Primary User and the four Secondary users suggested are Myself, Cllr Bordewich, Cllr D Cox and Cllr D Jones. The Parish Council also need to give authority to pay by cheque the sum of £50 to open the account. No further funds will be transferred to Lloyds Bank until an up to date briefing is given to the January Parish Council meeting which is approved and clearance is given by the Risk Committee.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed on the basis outlined above,

b) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.  
The following payments were unanimously approved.

63	Worcestershire County Council (Column 112 Gaymore Road)	1377.86
64	Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman)	385.00
65	Mrs B J Drew (Litterbin Clips / Microsoft Office / Ink / Paper)	52.15
66	B & Q (Lengthsman High Vis Trousers and Jacket)	45.00
67	Wolverley Church Hall (Donation for room for meetings)	450.00
68	Cookley School (Hire of room for meetings)	450.00
69	Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust (Defibrillator Grant)	250.00
70	Mr David Waterworth (Cookley Christmas Lights)	227.69
71	Nathan Turvey (Cookley Christmas Tree)	480.00
72	Simon J Shuck (Re-issue of cheque for Clock Painting)	260.50

c) Budget / Precept 23/24.

Cllr C Sherrey advised that the Budget / Precept will be presented at the January meeting. If any Councillor has anything they wish to include in the budget please advise the Clerk prior to Christmas.

Clerks Remuneration;  
Clerk and Chairman left the room.

Cllr. Dave Jones took the chair for this item. Cllr. Marcus Hart set out that the Local Government Association have now come to an agreement on the new pay scales for 2022-2023, therefore with effect from 1st April 2022.

Cllr. Marcus Hart advised that our clerk was on SCP 24 with an hourly rate of £15.16. The new rate was an increase of £16.16, therefore an increase of £1 per hour, which on 18 ½ hours per week equated to an increase of £962 per annum. This represented an increase in the hourly rate of circa 6.6%. Cllr. Marcus Hart advised it was good practice to do this now that we had the rates.

Cllr. Marcus Hart confirmed that he had spoken with Cllr. Charles Sherrey who confirmed that we could afford this and Cllr. Hart proposed, that further to our previous wholesale review of the clerk's salary and terms we had previously agreed that we would simply uplift her salary in accordance with the nationally agreed rates. Cllr. Hart therefore proposed that we increase the hourly rate in line with the new SCP 24 rate and back date to 1st April 2022 and request Cllr. Charles Sherrey notify the payroll operator accordingly. Cllr. Simon Sherrey seconded this and it was unanimously agreed.

144. **Contracts:**

All three current contracts (Lengthsman / Grass Cutting / Bin Emptying) end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Cllr C Sherrey suggested that meetings should be held in January 2023 to discuss and agree in principle the terms of new 12 month contracts for all contractors and suggested as previously three Councillors attending each meeting (In 2022 this was Cllr C Sherrey / S Sherrey and D Jones).

This was unanimously agreed with the Cllrs to remain as previously. Clerk to arrange meetings.  
It is anticipated new draft contracts will be discussed and finalised at the February 2023 Council meeting.

145. **To discuss Cookley Allotment Lease.**

The Parish Council need to appoint a solicitor to represent us for the above, Cllr M Hart will approach his colleague.

146. **To discuss Community Speed Watch.**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council have been approached by PCSO Andy Stevens regarding setting up Community Speedwatch in Wolverley and Cookley.

He has advised the Parish Council would need to identify a specific road or roads and then identify 6 or more people in each village who are willing to undertake the Speedwatch. Their names and addresses would then be provided to Andy who would visit them and get them to complete a form and provide appropriate id. Once vetted and approved they would receive appropriate training.

The Police would provide all the necessary training and equipment. 3 people at a time would need undertake the speedwatch and I understand it could be done on days / times to suit.

This was discussed and it was agreed to defer until the next meeting in January 2023 to enable Councillors to consult with Parishioners.

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

**PC No WFDC No/Details**

3644 22/0879/OUT: Outline application for erection of one local affordable dwelling with all matters reserved at land at Os 382777 278875, Mill Lane, Wolverley,  
Recommend Refusal as per North Worcestershire Water Management comments insufficient information regarding flood risk, also Arboricultural report is needed.

3645 22/0893/HOU: Proposed single storey rear and side extension at 51 Castle Road, Cookley,  
Recommend Approval

3646 22/0912/573: Minor material amendment to 22/0576/RES (Residential development for a three-bed single storey bungalow) to vary condition 1 in order to make changes to layout and removal of condition 3 at land at Os 381904 279513, Wardle Way, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval

3647 22/0919/HOU: Replacement of existing full height kerbs for reduced height kerbs and re-instate drop kerb and make good path at 1 Caunsall Road, Caunsall,  
Recommend Approval

3648 22/0944/FULL: Change of use of part of residential dwelling, Byabrook to form Holiday Let (Retrospective) at Byabrook, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval. The Parish Council are happy that a holiday let is appropriate but do not want it increased.

3649 22/0946/HOU: Rear single storey extension at 9 Shrubbery Hill, Cookley,  
Recommend Approval

3650 22/0967/HOU: Proposed single storey rear extension with raised decking to access rear amenity at 41 Franche Road, Wolverley,  
Recommend Approval

3651 22/0968/HOU: Proposed entrance porch on the front of the dwelling at Tregarron, Lowe Lane, Wolverley.  
Recommend Approval

**Planning Decisions.**

22/0546/PNR: Barn at Castle Hill, Permit

22/0713/HOU: 14 Gaymore Road, Permit

22/0803/HOU: Rivermead, Birds Barn Lane, Permit

22/000032/REG3: Wolverley CE Secondary School, Permit

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

148. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Noted.

149. Vehicle Activated Sign. (RD) The Cookley VAS is being delivered next week.

150. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Noted.

151. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Budget / Precept 23/24.

152. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm