

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, 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 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 I Hardiman, Councillor M Hart

191. **Apologies**

Cllr D Cox due to work commitments, Cllr B McFarland due to family commitments and West Mercia Police.

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

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

No Public Questions.

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

193. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 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.**

194. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated.

**WOLVERLEY**

Burglary - Evans Close, Wolverley -Police ref 00290\_I\_01022023 between 1200hrs and 1420hrs on 1st February, unknown persons have gained access to a property on Evans Close by smashing the back window and taken money from within.

Theft of Vehicle -Kinverdale, Wolverley -Police Ref 00105\_I\_22022023 Between 1700hrs on 20/02/2023 and 0915hrs on 21/02/2023, unknown persons have stolen a Vauxhall Astra without keys

Off road bike which was reported riding around the Wolverley area and Heathfield School has now been seized.

4 x manhole covers stolen from Shatterford lane 00280\_I\_06022023

**COOKLEY**

Car Key Burglary - Gaymore Road, Cookley- Police Ref: 00088\_I\_05022023 - At approximately 04:00hrs on 05/02/2023 a Blue Audi A3 S Line registration similar to YR\*\* \*\*U has been stolen from the driveway of a property in Gaymore Road. The vehicle was left locked and secure. Unknown offenders have gained entry to the property and stolen the keys from within. Offenders have also taken the keys to a Black MG that was also parked on the driveway of the property but have not taken this vehicle. 2x unknown offenders described as both male with English Accent. one was wearing a balaclava and carrying a torch. One of the offenders left in the M2 and the other in a dark coloured vehicle no further details known.

We encourage residents to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters due to the increased up rise of car key burglaries within wyre forest targeting high end vehicles. We have noticed that there were still a lot of residents leaving their houses in darkness.

In addition to the incidents above we have done another very successful Bike Marking event on the car park of the Lock PH

Following letter received 19<sup>th</sup> February, circulated to all, regarding West Mercia Police Local Policing Community Charter it was agreed nominated contacts to remain as Chairman and Clerk. Frequency of meetings attended, every quarter was agreed subject to written reports continuing to be sent monthly and Policing Priorities for April – June to be as follows;

Speeding Franche Road, Wolverley  
Parking outside schools  
Antisocial behaviour

The Community Speed Watch scheme has only attracted one volunteer so will not proceed.

Mini Policemen, a selected number have been offered by the Police Crime Commissioner – Chairman will try to get some for both villages.

195. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

**County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report; Written Report Circulated.**

Wolverley Memorial Hall Defibrillator: I am very pleased that the Defibrillator has now been installed at the Memorial Hall, following agreement to help funding for its purchase: along with £250.00 provided by the Parish Council, I have contributed £800.00 from my County Councillor's Divisional Fund. This Defibrillator is an important investment for the local community.

Wolverley Village, Pavement Resurfacing: Worcestershire County Highways staff have been busy upgrading, widening and resurfacing the pavements near to the Primary School and around the corner of the Blakeshall Lane junction. I am pleased that attention has been given to these important pavement routes which are regularly used by children especially.

Wolverley, School Warning Signage: I have been pursuing this Safety Need on behalf of Parish Council Chairman Robin Drew who is concerned for the safety of children on their way to and from school; traffic needs to be kept at a safe speed especially at school start and finish times. I have received encouraging news from the Highways Engineer indicating a willingness to improve safety here by reminding drivers of the large numbers of children walking through the village. Hopefully, flashing signage will part of the safety improvements.

Wolverley, Inconsiderate Parking by Parents: When collecting their children from school, some parents and carers are unfortunately creating difficulties for local property owners and other drivers. I have been assured that District Council Enforcement officers are now attending the known locations to speak to people as necessary. Additionally, I am pursuing with County Highways the fact that because there is no actual No Parking signage to accompany the yellow lines at the Bus Stop by the Primary School, District Council officers cannot enforce here.

Brown Westhead Football Parking on Sundays: I have been assured that the District Council will hopefully create some additional parking spaces within the sports field curtilage. However it has been observed that on Sunday mornings, some footballers or supporters prefer not to drive into the site but park in the Road in preference; then sometimes others will park opposite them so that only one vehicle width is passable for local residents. Should emergency vehicles be required, they may not get through here. Therefore, I have asked County Highways to install a single yellow line along the road (on the side where properties are) which would create for specified times NO Parking which would be enforceable by the Council. I am now awaiting an update.

Lea Lane Landslip Continued Frustration: Unfortunately, I have still yet to receive any encouraging news regarding the commencement of the necessary repairs and restoration to allow re-opening of the lane to traffic.

Cookley, Castle Road Pedestrian Crossing: Unfortunately, whilst the County Council are in principal supportive of the installation of an additional crossing half way up Castle Road, there are insufficient funds available presently. I have however, approached the District Council Planning Officers requesting they try to obtain S106 monies from Developers locally to support this important facility which would increase safety for children especially walking to and from school in the village.

Cookley, Frequent Flooding on the Bridge at the bottom of the village: Following help from Parish Chairman Robin Drew, I have brought this issue to the attention of the County Highways Engineer who believes there may be an option to install an additional gully at this point. We are awaiting hopeful confirmation on this.

A449 / Pedestrian Difficulties / Safety Concerns: I have again reminded the Highways Engineer that we are still awaiting a response to the helpful and reasonable request by the Parish Council that a 30-mph limit be installed until the Re-configuration works are completed.

Drains by Hardwicks / Road Flooding: I have again been chasing attention to the recurring problem outside Hardwicks. The issue is complicated as Severn Trent Water AND the Environment Agency are involved in the maintenance of these Gullies/Drainage.

Cllr D Jones thanked Cllr Hardiman for his efforts in pursuing a 30mph limit on the A449 until junction improvements have been completed.

**District Councillors Report; Written report circulated.**

Wyre Forest Issues:

There continue to be a number of planning applications received regarding parcels of land allocated in the adopted local plan.

The budget was approved by 19 votes to 13 at Full Council on 22nd February. The Conservative Group did not support the budget as it did not go far enough in supporting Parish and Town Councils nor in investing additional resources for litter picking and bin emptying and also not investing in sufficient additional front-line officers to tackle fly-tipping, dog fouling and inconsiderate parking, We proposed an additional 2 environmental protection officers, and 2 civil enforcement officers; initially the Progressive Alliance proposed none but were forced to reconsider their proposals and put in just 2 additional posts. The Labour/Independent/Green led Council were supported by the 3 Liberal Democrat Councillors.

Council tax was increased by the maximum 3% which is £6.88 per annum or 13p per week. This will mean an increase from £229.34 to £236.22 for a Band D property. WFDC is circa 12% of the overall bill.

The Community Leadership fund of £1,000 per councillor, which is used for the ward councillor to support good causes/projects in their ward has been reinstated. It was £500 for 2022-3023 and they were phasing it out but we opposed this and forced a change of heart.

The Council continues to try and divest its assets, trying to dispose of Stourport Sports Club and Bewdley Museum. It has just transferred 3 parks in Kidderminster to the Town Council.; St Georges, Baxter Gardens and Broadwaters. It is also trying to dispose of Habberley Playing Fields, Brown Westhead Park and Bewdley Leisure Centre.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project for Brinton Park has still yet to begin.

Work on the £20m Future High Streets Fund for Worcester Street has still to begin on the ground but the planning application to demolish certain buildings in Worcester Street was approved in February. Work to develop the former Crown House site has still yet to begin.

We are pressing for this work to commence and for the redevelopment and regeneration of Kidderminster town centre to commence, including the former Glades site.

The levelling up fund work has commenced as the staff at Kidderminster Town Hall have now vacated as the work to refurbish this building takes place over the next 2 years, thanks to the successful bid from the Government's levelling up fund.

Work on Bewdley's £6.7million flood defences has begun following the approval of planning permission at WFDC's February planning committee meeting.

There will be all out elections for all 33 seats on WFDC on 4th May, including 3 seats in the Wyre Forest Rural Ward. Cllr Lisa Jones is stepping down after 4 years.

There will also be elections for all Town and Parish Councils, apart from Kidderminster.

You will need photo ID to vote for the first time this May and if you don't have a form of ID you can apply for a free official voter ID document.

Cllr Nicholls queried how well advertised the voter id requirement has been circulated and the free official voter id document. Cllr Hardiman advised that there has been a TV and Radio campaign, newsletters have been distributed and WFDC are widely advertising.

Cllr Nicholls also complained that the WFDC hub telephone number 01562 732928 gives a list of options and then you are referred to a voicemail and receive no reply. Cllr Hardiman suggested using 01562 732528 which goes directly through to the office. Cllr M Hart advised that the progressive alliance do not want any customer interface and it needs a radical review. With regard to Voter Id, National Campaigns are now running and WFDC are promoting on website and on Wyredin, Political parties are also putting in their in leaflets,

Cllr D Jones questioned that the alcohol licence for the former Post Office was subject to a bin being sited outside, which there is not. The District Councillors will take this matter up and also report on progress with enforcement action.

196. **Financial Matters:**

a)	<b>Unanimously approved the schedule of cheques to be signed.</b>	
91	Mrs B J Drew (Salary February 2023)	1190.60
92	Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman)	184.80
93	Mr R Atkin (Caunsall Book Exchange Damp Proof Paint)	31.99
94	Mrs B J Drew (Stationery)	9.99
95	Worcestershire County Council (Replacement column 116 Gaymore Road)	1,546.42

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| 96 | TG Hardwicks<br>(Grit)                          | 71.16  |
| 97 | Leedan Packaging Ltd<br>(5 x boxes Black Sacks) | 106.44 |
- b) **Progress with On-Line Banking.**  
Completion of application in progress.

197. **Unsafe Walking Routes – Wolverley CE Secondary School**

The Chairman reported on response received from Paul Smith, WCC stating that the unsafe walking routes have been highlighted as urgent and as soon as the initial findings from the feasibility study are available then they will provide an update. Bryn Thomas, Headmaster, Wolverley CE Secondary school has welcomed the Parish Council input and suggested a meeting to work together to try and improve the situation. Cllr I Hardiman has invited Paul Smith, Director of Highways to meet on site.

Cllr R Drew is chasing up a response regarding school signage.

198. **WFDC Health and Wellbeing SPD Consultation**

This consultation has been circulated, please provide any comments to Chairman by 15<sup>th</sup> March.

199. **King Charles 111 Coronation**

After much discussion it was agreed that any celebrations for King Charles 111 Coronation weekend should be community led.

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

PC No	WFDC No/Details
3659	22/1028/HOU: Two storey side extension at 1 Wolverley Cottages, Wolverley Village, Recommend Approval subject to no objections from Conservation Officer.
3660	23/0081/HOU: Extension to rear patio at Hildor, Castle Hill, Wolverley, Recommend Approval.
3661	23/0103/FUL: Proposed conversion and extension works to existing building to create two, 4 bedroomed dwelling houses at former Red Lion, 70 Castle Road, Cookley, Recommend Approval.
3662	23/0114/CR: Discharge of conditions 2 and 9 of Planning Permission 22/0169 Ful at Orchard Cottage, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley, Recommend Approval
3663	23/0127/HOU: Double storey side extension, new porch to front and replacement of outbuilding and garage with new double garage with accommodation over at 63 Causall Road, Causall. Recommend Refusal - Overdevelopment of site.

**Planning Decisions:**

22/0577 HOU	Approval - The Cedars, Axborough Lane
22/0944 FUL	Approval - By a Brook, Kingsford Lane
22/0958 FUL	Refusal - Land at Shatterford Lane, Wolverley
22/0967 HOU	Approval - 41 Franche Road, Wolverley
22/0988 PNR	Approval - Land off The Shortyard, Wolverley
22/1005 HOU	Approval - 11 Orchard Grove, Causall
23/0015 HOU	Approval - 18 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley

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

201. Quarry Appeal Inquiry. (RD) The Chairman thanked Parish Councillor Simon Sherrey, District Councillor Marcus Hart and MP, Mark Garnier who all spoke against the Quarry at the Appeal Inquiry. He also thanked all Parish Councillors who attended the Quarry Appeal Inquiry and was delighted there was Parish Councillor presence on every day. Cllr Drew also congratulated Adrian Carlross, Chairman of the Stop the Quarry Group for his presentation and excellent organisation of the group and to the many residents for attending and speaking.
- Cllr A Carlross endorsed comments from the Chair and stated that the support from the Parish Council had meant a lot to the committee. There had been a slight miscalculation in fund raising, resulting in a shortfall but this was promptly raised from the community who have all pulled together. Cllr Carlross advised that he will not be standing in the forthcoming Parish Council Elections.
202. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Bus Shelter, Joint Parish Forum/Area Calc, PCC Newsletter, Funding Opportunities, Road Closures. Cllr John Wood updated that the posters done by Cookley School will be put on the noticeboards, not street lighting columns.
203. Bin – Highfield Road. (JW) – Cllr John Wood advised that alternative locations are being considered.
204. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) – The Lengthsman has filled up all Parish Grit Bins.
205. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) None declared.

206. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (also Annual Parish Meeting).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Chairman - Cllr R Drew