

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th September 2023, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PC2619 Jamie Guest
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, I Hardiman and M J Hart

76. **Apologies**
No Apologies

77. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded to complete and need to regularly update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Cllr M Hart agenda item 7 Cookley Allotments as works with Solicitor representing Parish Council and agenda item 8 Hereford & Worcester Fire Service as member of authority. Cllr W Southam agenda item 7 Cookley Allotments as he has a plot.

Public Question Time

Mr Carlross thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to pay up to £1500 on production of legal Invoices. The High Court hearing is on 28th September 2023 in Cardiff. It is a public event but there is no requirement to attend. If NRS are unsuccessful they can appeal to the Court of appeal.

Karin Bareford advised of a problem with bins being overflowing with dog mess and litter, also black sacks full of this being dumped on the A449, possibly from an illegal puppy farm. The Police advised they are not aware of this. Cllr M Hart advised that Wyre Forest District Council do have 2 Environmental Health Protection Officers, this would be considered as fly tipping and he will ask for covert cameras to go somewhere in the location and for the area to be monitored. Clerk to put on next agenda. Cllr S Sherrey suggested reporting to RSPCA.

Tim Price raised the issue again of parking around Wolverley High School and why double yellow lines have been put in Mill Lane but nothing by the High School. He also commented on a resident that emailed Cllr Hardiman in May and had no response.

Cllr Hardiman advised that he has given responses to the resident in question and Worcestershire County Council are currently looking at whether double yellow lines can be put in that area. Cllr Drew advised that the Parish Council are trying to get double yellow lines and more bollards and signs.

Tim Price also questioned the blocked access through the churchyard to the woods, Cllr C Sherrey explained this is private land owned by Sebright's Educational Foundation.

78. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st August 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;

79. **Police Report**

Police report had been circulated; Jamie commented;

Wolverley

Police ref 00552_I_01082023 - Anti-social behaviour - Sebright Road, Wolverley. Following reports of 4 motorbikes being ridden in an anti-social manner up and down this road we are asking for your help so we can take action against these offenders. If you know who these are or what house they are coming from, please let us know.

Police Ref - 387_i_17082023 - We are appealing to the community for information following a burglary at a home on Lowe Lane, Wolverley. The burglary happened between 08:00 hours on 16/08/2023 and 18:25 hours on 17/08/2023. The offender/s have attended the location and broken a light at the rear of the property. They have then smashed a rear window to gain access. Once inside the property the offenders have stolen various items of jewellery worth a substantial amount.

Police ref 00009_I_24082023. At approx. 0015hrs on 24th August, unknown persons have been seen attempting to steal a vehicle from Wolverley Village. The unknown males have been disturbed and left the area in a medium sized 4x4 vehicle.

Cookley

00596_I_12082023 - Theft - The Crescent, Cookley - Between 1830 and 2030hrs on 12th August unknown persons have gained access to an insecure outbuilding and taken a number of power tools from within.

Police Ref - 172_I_13082023 - Although not Cookley/ Wolverley but to note Franche Village club was broken into and all safes accessed, tills emptied and money taken. Reminder to premises owners/ managers/ staff to ensure cash is properly cashed up and not left in tills overnight and safes are properly secured/ locked.

Please remain vigilant and continue to report any suspicious activity to us.

The team have also continued to carry out speed enforcement on Franche Road, Wolverley and Kinver Lane, Caunsall throughout the month. 2 tickets were issued for excess speed on Franche Road, Wolverley.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It's that time again, where we will need your priorities for the next quarter OCT - DEC inclusive. You currently have Speeding and Anti-Social Behaviour. Can I suggest that with the dark nights approaching you have Burglaries (light up campaign) as one going forward. We would also suggest a PUSH towards locals signing up to Neighbourhood Matters, so that we can keep them abreast of goings on in the area.

We are renewing our parish council contracts and need to check we have the current up to date details for Chair, Clerk and Councillors. If you could send these to us please on Kidderminster.north@westmercia.police.uk thank you by end of September latest.

Cllr D Cox reported that the situation with e scooters is getting worse and it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. PC Guest commented that it is a difficult one, as when approached they are so fast to get away. They have tried to have some educational chats with parents and will seize if they continue to be used.

PC Guest confirmed they did attend the fun day at Cookley which was a great event.

Speed Enforcement has been undertaken at Kinver Lane, Caunsall and Franche Road, Wolverley.

Cllr A Webber thanked the police for the comprehensive report and for the speed checks which does have a wide impact on lots of drivers, he also understands the difficulties faced with e scooters.

Cllr D Cox reported on opportunist thieves going round at moment with a WFDC trailer and wagon stolen from Elm Place, Cookley whilst workers were attending to work down the road.

PC Guest urged all to sign up to Neighbourhood matters and encourage residents to do so.

Priorities;

Agreed as Speeding, Antisocial Behaviour, Burglaries with 100% response as promised by the PCC. Clerk to advise Police.

80. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

District Councillor Report; Report previously 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.

The Inspectorate accepted an appeal and authorised the stopping up and diversion of a length of footpath C635 (part) at Wyre Mill Lane, Wolverley.

However, the Inspectorate rejected an appeal by K9 Pawfection and set a time for compliance on the enforcement notice to six months, 26th December 2023.

Cookley Post Office, we are still waiting for a hearing date.

Wyre Forest Issues

Regarding the Lea Castle Quarry appeal on 5th May whilst the planning inspector dismissed the appeal, the applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State and we await the outcome.

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. Likewise, the Woven Oaks application has yet to be determined.

Cllr R Drew advised of Planning Training which will be given by Helen Hawkes and Richard Jennings prior to the next meeting 3rd October, starting at 6.30pm.

Cllr D Jones requested additional signage for Woodlands Road/Westhead Road Cookley, Cllr Drew asked him to email exact locations where signs are required.

County Councillor Report:

Written Report circulated;

Local Issues:

Lea Lane Landslip: I have written to the Leader of the County Council, expressing my disappointment and the disappointment of local residents that this matter is not being resolved.

Cookley, Woodlands Road Sunken Roadway: The County Highways Liaison Engineer has confirmed the intention to attend to this issue and charge Severn Trent Water for such works.

Sunday Parking Brown Westhead: The Sunday morning football season has recommenced and already local residents are upset by the awkward parking and inaccessibility to their homes caused by inconsiderate visitors to the football fields.

Together with Cllrs Marcus Hart and Robin Drew, I am awaiting a meeting appointment with the District Council's officers and the Worcs Football Association when we will be asking for improved parking arrangements within the football field curtilage and supervision of drivers outside there.

Wolverley Village Cutting Vegetation: This longstanding issue could not be resolved by the Lengthsman recently so I have requested swift attention by the Highways Team to clear the vegetation which is causing rainwater to swell across the road rather than flow down the intended gullies.

Kingsford lane, County Boundary Signage: This has been ordered for delivery to the Highways Depot for collection by Cllr Drew for attaching to the new gateway intended for this location.

Wolverley No Parking Sign for Bus Stop opposite the Primary School: I have checked and found this sign has been ordered and should soon be installed; this will enable Enforcement Officers to prevent illegal parking at school pick up times.

Wolverley, Beechcote Avenue Obstructive Parking: I am pleased to report that Double yellow Lines have now been installed; these will be monitored by the Enforcement Officers for prevention of inconsiderate and unsafe parking by drivers especially at school pick up times.

Wolverley, Pavement kerb issues By Costcutters: I have been assured that this will be resolved as soon as possible during the present financial year.

Wolverley, Illegal and Unsafe Parking by Pupil's parents at school drop off and pick up times: This problem refers to vehicles being parked, causing obstruction between the Secondary School's lower gateway and Drakelow Lane; also into Drakelow Lane itself. I have requested Double Yellow Lines to be installed; whilst I believe the highways Officers will hopefully agree to this, I am chasing an actual response which was expected by now.

Cookley, A449 Pavement Overgrowth: I have again asked for attention to the hedgerow overgrowth between The Crescent and Axborough Lane which impedes pedestrians unreasonably.

Austcliffe Road, Overgrowth: I have again chased attention to this issue which is overdue for attention.

Kinver Lane Pole for VAS: I have chased the Highways Engineer with whom I have previously ordered a suitable pole and the identification of a suitable location for its installation.

Cllr C Sherrey thanked Cllr Hardiman for update on works outside Costcutters but queried why there is no mention in the report on the Safer Routes to School. Several routes were deemed unsafe by Worcestershire County Council, the Parish Council are concerned, parents are concerned yet this seems to have dropped off the radar. Cllr I Hardiman advised it has been referred to senior management but as yet there has been no response. Cllr C Sherrey urged for this to be followed up. Cllr M Hart advised there are additional buses, and these are free but this does not help a number of pupils and is not the long-term answer.

Cllr D Jones reported that following verge cutting on the A449 litter has been exposed and looks awful. Cllr I Hardiman advised he has written to cabinet member responsible to ask for change in practice so that litter is picked prior to verges being cut.

Cllr V Bordewich reported on the road closed signs which were up in the village for the recent Severn Trent works even though the road was not closed.

81. **Financial Matters:**

Cllr C Sherrey advised that he has asked the clerk to get a breakdown of costs for the WFDC Election Invoice as this has risen from £763.80 in 2019 to £1220.28 in 2023 and suggested this Invoice not be approved until this further information has been received.

It was agreed the following accounts be paid (with the exception of number 29)

27	B J Drew - Salary August 23	£1,190.58
28	Keith Basketfield - 5th Grass Cut August 23	£756.80
29	WFDC - Election Fees	£1220.28
30	B J Drew - Ink/Paper	£10.00
31	DM Payroll Services Ltd - Administration of Payroll Apr to Sept 23	£90.00
32	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman August 23	£396.90
33	B J Drew - Waterproof A4 Aluminium Frame (Swan)	£15.58
34	Leedan Packaging Ltd - Black Sacks	£108.00
35	Broxap - Litterbins	£600.00

82. **Cookley Allotments.**

The Clerk had circulated various documents relating to the allotments received from Mr Roger Hill, Solicitor representing the Parish Council.

Cllr W Southam did express one concern that Cookley Allotments were asked by WFDC to become part of an association otherwise rents would be increased. They signed a 15-year agreement on 31/3/2011 and how would this purchase affect the agreement.

Cllr M Hart advised that the decision required is to agree whether the Parish Council acquire the freehold title from WFDC and not about the individual allotment agreement. Cllr M Hart supports the transfer of the freehold title. The Parish Council have been discussing this for the last two years, it was, in fact the only asset the Parish Council wanted to take over from WFDC so they could preserve the allotments. By agreeing to the transfer for £1 we can secure and preserve the allotments in perpetuity. Also, with the Overage Deed Agreement for 25 years in any event as landlord we take on sitting tenant with existing agreements to they would have an automatic right to renew.

It was proposed Cllr C Sherrey, seconded Cllr J Wood and unanimously agreed Clerk instruct Solicitor to proceed.

83. **Hereford & Worcester Fire Service - Understanding of Risk Consultation.**

Cllr A Webber will complete by 20th September and forward to Clerk so any comments from Cllrs need to be with Cllr Webber before this date.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3689 23/0616/HOU: First floor side extension at 47 Staite Drive, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3690 23/0631/FUL: Retrospective erection of a single storey building (2.4m x 2.4m) and change of use to a mixed use comprising residential dwelling and café (Use Class E) with a seating area at River Bank House, Bridge Road, Cookley.

Cllr R Drew advised that the Planning Case Officer was minded to put conditions on this application to restrict permission to two year temporary and restrict operating hours from 10-4.

Cllr D Jones proposed approval, with a condition for a temporary 2-year approval but with no condition attached to opening hours, seconded Cllr C Nicholls. Cllr M Hart responded as his predisposed view and not predetermined and advised that several local residents had contacted the District Councillors with several concerns. He had advised them to come to the meeting tonight to make representation but obviously they hadn't. Cllr M Hart moved an amendment that the application be approved, with conditions of 2-year temporary consent, hours of operation restricted and that the building should not be converted to a residential dwelling. This was seconded by Cllr S Sherrey. With 7 in favour and 7 against the Chairman used casting vote against.

The substantive proposal that the application be approved with the condition of 2 year temporary. Consent was then voted on. With 7 in favour and 7 against the Chairman used casting vote in favour.

Planning Decisions;

23/0464/Ful: Permit - Proposed conversion of piggery to a single dwelling, Castle Hill, Wolverley

23/0469/HOU: Permit - Double storey side extension, new porch and replacement single garage , 63 Causall Road, Causall

23/0507/FUL: Permit - Extension of surgery, Wolverley Surgery

23/0509/CLP: Certificate of Lawfulness - Single storey rear extension 1 Westhead Road, Cookley

23/0547/PNH: Larger Home Extension Prior Approval Given - Single storey rear extension Old Rose Cottage, New Road, Causall

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

85. Clerks Report. (Clerk)
Footpath Diversion (Mill Lane), Road Closure (Wardle Way), Prohibition of Waiting (Mill Lane/Beechcote Avenue), Addition of correct route of footpath WC-620, Coronation Living Heritage Fund, Community AED Fund, Wolverley & Cookley Matters Article, PCC Newsletter, Severn Trent Letter, Training and additional Grass Cut.
Cllr J Wood confirmed the Cookley Village Hall and Sports Club were dealing with Severn Trent regarding the water leak. Keith Basketfield will do an additional Grass Cut; this has been budgeted for. Cllr A Webber has been booked on Training. Article for Wolverley and Cookley Matters - Cllr C Nicholls advised this is not distributed widely in Cookley. After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council need to communicate with the Parish - this to be put on next agenda.
86. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Cllrs reported that Jason Hull is settling in and working well.
87. Defibrillators. (AW/DC) Cllr A Webber - defer to next month.
88. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Meeting times.
89. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd October 2023. 6.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed by Chairman - 3rd October 2023