

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PCSO Kate Easthope / PCSO Alice Owen-Jones
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, M J Hart.

120. **Apologies**

County Councillor I Hardiman.

121. **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 R Drew declared an NRI in Item 4 as a Potential Risk of Bias as former Tennis Club member and friends with several current members of the Tennis Club and a DPI in agenda item 7c) as married to Clerk.
Cllr J Hart declared an ORI in Item 4 as Parish Council representative to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.
Cllr C Sherrey declared an NRI in Item 4 as a Potential Risk of Bias as auditor for the accounts of the Tennis Club and friend of the Chairman and an ORI in agenda item 8 as a Sebright Governor.
Cllr V Bordewich, Cllr C Nicholls, Cllr B McFarland also declared an ORI in agenda item 8 as Sebright Governors.

Cllrs R Drew, J Hart and C Sherrey will leave the room when Item 4 is discussed.

Public Question Time:

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and asked for any speakers.

A parishioner, who has recently purchased a cottage in Wolverley Village spoke on continued unacceptable delays in getting a road closure permit to undertake necessary repairs to the roof. He applied on 7th July for a road closure permit for 10 days. Since then, the date has kept being put back and he has now been advised it will be February 2024. He urged the Parish Council to help with

this matter. Cllr John Hart advised that it is a matter for the County Councillor, but he will contact Cllr Hardiman and provide a response to the resident by return.

The meeting was reconvened.

122. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 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;

123. **To discuss correspondence received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust**

Cllr R Drew, J Hart and C Sherrey left the room.

Clerk had previously circulated letter received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

Cllr Jones stated that as the Tennis Courts are the only ones in the Parish and are used by both Wolverley and Cookley residents he feels that the Parish Council should do all they can to preserve them. He offered to be a liaison to mediate between the Tennis Club and The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust, together with Cllr J Hart as Parish Representative to the Hall to move this forward and avoid unnecessary legal costs.

It was proposed Cllr Jones be formally appointed as liaison from the Parish Council to mediate between both parties, this was seconded by Cllr M Hart and agreed.

Cllr R Drew, J Hart and C Sherrey returned to the meeting.

124. **Police Report**

Police report had been circulated;

Police ref 00106_I_05112023 - We are appealing for information after tools have been stolen from a van on CASTLE ROAD, COOKLEY. The theft occurred overnight between the 4th and 5th of November 2023 when access was forced to the van and the following items were stolen; a long reach hedge cutter, spinner, chainsaw, blower, drills, angle grinders and a 3-tier set of ladders whilst the vehicle was parked on CASTLE ROAD.

Police ref 00171_I_06112023 - We have received a number of reports this month regarding boilers being stolen from unoccupied properties on the Lea Castle site. These thefts have taken place overnight and offenders have gained entry by forcing the windows.

The team have also continued to conduct speed enforcement on Franche Road, Wolverley throughout November and are pleased to report that no tickets had to be issued.

We continue to patrol all our rural areas with a view of preventing burglaries, which are still occurring across wyre forest, and urge all residents to not leave valuables on display, and to leave a light timer switch on from about 4pm onwards with the darker nights.

PSCO Easthope went through the report and stressed the importance keeping lights switched on when you are out to try and prevent daytime burglaries.

Cllr R Drew thanked the Police for their continued speed enforcement on Franche Road, Wolverley which is showing a considerable reduction in speeds from the VAS data.

125. **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. We have also requested the road and footpath sweeper to attend on several occasions.

Ian and Robin attended a meeting with WFDC and WFA to discuss residents' complaints at Brown Westhead Park regarding double parking on the road. We are currently investigating several solutions.

Helen Hawkes has now confirmed Planning Training will be available on February 1st 2024 at 5.30pm in The Queens Head. In addition, Paul Allen "Tree and Biodiversity Officer" and Jamie Richards "Conservation Officer" will each do a presentation. Please put this date in your diary.

Wyre Forest Issues

Regarding the Lea Castle Quarry, the applicant appealed to the Secretary of State, the hearing was on 28th Sept and the appeal was accepted.

There is no update as yet as to when the second phase of 800 homes planned for Lea Castle will be determined by WFDC following the submission of the outline planning application some months ago. Likewise, the Woven Oaks application has yet to be determined.

Work is well underway with the Connectivity project in Worcester Street, Kidderminster where 4 large redundant units are being demolished to open up this area of town. We need to make this area of town attractive to urban living and link up the former Glades site which we want to see developed for residential, with the wider town centre. This will be the subject of formal planning application and we would not want to pre-judge this.

Work is also well underway at the former Magistrates' Court in Worcester Street, which is being branded as the 'Creative Hub'. This will be office spaces that can be permanently let and there will be flexible lets and venue space too.

There will be free parking in Bewdley for 1 hour Monday-Friday between 8 am-6pm till March 2025 in Gardners Meadow to encourage people to visit Bewdley due to the unprecedented disruption of the Bridge being only open one way whilst the flood defence work is undertaken by the E.A. You will need to display a ticket for this.

There will also be free parking this Christmas in all WFDC owned car parks (not Weavers Wharf) from 1st-29th December Mon-Fri between 3-6pm.

Cllr Jones asked if there is any update on the former Post Office, Cookley, Cllr Drew will report back next month.

County Councillor Report:

Written Report circulated;

Local Issues:

I am still awaiting updates/responses for the following:

(Unfortunately, The Highways Liaison Engineer is away on holiday but I will forward any forthcoming information when received.)

Lea Lane Landslip / Wolverley Pick Up Parking / Austcliffe Road Overgrowth.
Gullies-Drainage Maintenance by Hardwicks etc. / Pupils Safe Routes to Schools.

Sunday Parking Problems, Brown Westhead Football:

Cllr Robin Drew and I met with District Council Officers, the Chief Executive of Worcs. F.A. and WFDC Cabinet Member Tracey Onslow, to seek a way to resolve the parking congestion that occurs particularly on a Sunday morning each week during the football season.

The Worcs F.A. were asked to provide marshalling outside the football grounds in order to prevent football supporters double parking which causes congestion and access difficulties for local

residents. The F.A. Chief Executive declined this saying that they have tried marshalling of this kind at other grounds but found that often the operatives were abused, verbally and even physically! I explained that Worcs County Highways will not install Yellow Lines as to do so might push road parking onto the main Wolverley B4189 Highway.

The F.A. Chief executive challenged this and subsequently has written to County Highways requesting they do install Yellow Lines for specific time coverage as she is concerned that in the event of injured footballers, Emergency vehicles must be able to attend within the football curtilage when necessary.

I am awaiting advice from County Highways on their reaction to this.

126. **Financial Matters:**

a) Items Councillors wish to include in the Budget for 2024/2025

Cllr Sherrey reminded all Cllrs that any items they want included in the budget for 24/25 should be sent to him by 24th December.

b) Negotiation of contracts for Lengthsman, Grass Cutting and Bin Emptying

Cllr Sherrey advised that these will be undertaken in January/February by Cllr Sherrey, Cllr D Jones and Cllr J Hart.

c) Clerks Salary

Cllr M Hart proposed and Cllr. Nicholls seconded that the clerk's salary remain on its current scale but be increased in line with the national pay award between the employers and the unions and back dated to 1st April 2023. Cllr. Sherrey asked for the figure in order that he could inform payroll. A short debate ensued but the recommendation unanimously supported and approved.

d) Recommendations from Grants Committee

Cllr C Nicholls proposed an increase from £450 to £500 for both Cookley School and Wolverley Church Hall for the use of rooms for meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Drew and agreed.

e) To agree the accounts to be paid

54	B J Drew - Salary November 23	£1,190.58
55	B J Drew - Ink/Paper	£10.00
56	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman November 23	£137.70
57	The Poppy Appeal (Wreaths)	£150.00
58	Wolverley & Cookley Matters (Contribution to Magazine)	£350.00
59	Broxap (Litterbins)	£110.40
60	Additional Plants	£57.87
61	Cookley Christmas Tree	£500.00
62	Microsoft Office	£16.00
63	Worcestershire CALC (Training)	£36.00
64	Wolverley Parish Church	£500.00

127. **Appointment of Representative to Sebright's Educational Foundation.**
Following the recent sad passing of Simon Sherrey a new Wolverley representative needs to be appointed to the Sebright's Educational Foundation. Cllr C Sherrey proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr Drew and agreed.
128. **Street Lighting Column - Franche Road, Wolverley.**
Clerk advised that Column 249 Franche Road, Wolverley has been hit and cut down by Prysman, they will replace this as it was a knockdown but the residents have said they would like it moved slightly out of the way of their drive. This can be done but would mean a cost of approximately £150. After discussion it was agreed that if the resident wants it moved they should pay the costs. Cllr Webber to visit resident to discuss and check with neighbour they are happy for it to be moved.
129. **Date/Venue - January 2024 meeting.**
The scheduled meeting on 2nd January cannot be held at Cookley School as it is closed. It was therefore agreed the meeting be rescheduled to the 9th January. Clerk to advise school.
130. **Planning Applications for consideration:**
PC No WFDC No/Details
- 3696 22/0775/FUL: Subdivision of residential plot and erection of a detached dwellinghouse and garage together with a new access at The Dell, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley.
Recommend Refusal. This is inappropriate development in the Green Belt, in a flood plain and with unsafe access.
- 3697 23/0734/HOU: Construction of a first floor side and rear extension at 2 Beechcote House, Mill Lane, Wolverley.
Recommend Approval.
- 3698 23/0815/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Lawful development certificate for a proposed carport/outbuilding at Bay Cottage, New Road, Caunsall.
- 3699 23/0859/PNR: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling at land at Os 384162 278701, Wolverley Road, Wolverley.
- 3700 23/0864/TCA: Fell tree and replace with another tree at Wolverhill, Wolverley Village.
Recommend Approval subject to Arboricultural Officer report.
- 3701 23/0874/HOU: Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension and garden store and associated works at Church View, Lea Lane, Cookley.
Recommend Approval.
- Planning Decisions.
22/0899/OUT - Approved (25 conditions) - Land at Caunsall Road, Caunsall
23/0616/HOU - Approved - 47 Staite Drive, Cookley
23/0701/HOU - Approved - 2 Rock Cottages, Caunsall Road, Caunsall
- Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.**
131. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Cookley Allotments, WFDC Housing SPD, PCC Newsletter, Road Closures, Town & PC Survey Results. Noted.
132. Wolverley Village Flooding. (RD) Cllr R Drew reported on successful meeting with lead from WCC and funding has been earmarked for improvements. Mike Lord is happy for some work to be undertaken on his land. WCC have put cameras down all drains in village and they have all been cleared and they have spent 4 days in pumping station and done work in there.

133. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) RD reported he will be topping up grit bins.
134. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
135. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 9th January 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed by Chairman - 9th January 2024