

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, 7.00pm,**  
**Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley**

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Apologies  
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman  
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, M J Hart, I Hardiman.

189. **Apologies**

West Mercia Police

190. **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.
- 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.

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.

Cllr M Hart declared an ORI in Item 4 as an employee of Solicitors firm who acted on Licence to Assign.

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. No members of the public wished to speak.

The meeting was reconvened.

191. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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.

192. **The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust / Wolverley Tennis Charitable Incorporated**

**Organisation.**

Clerk read correspondence received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust following request from Parish Council for copies of any minutes where the matter between the Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust and the Tennis Club were discussed. They do not feel it is appropriate to share the minutes of the Trustees' meetings but consider it more beneficial for the trustees to meet with the Parish Councillors to put the record straight on this matter and explain the steps they are taking to ensure that tennis is provided on the site in a way that is sustainable and accessible.

Clerk also advised of email correspondence received between the Tennis Club and Caroline Newlands, Solicitor, WFDC requesting details of the Solicitor who acted for the Parish Council in the Licence to Assign. The Clerk advised that this is detailed on Page 3 of the Licence to Assign, a copy of which was given to the Tennis Club on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Councillor Jones stated that he is appalled that they will not provide copies of the minutes and feels strongly that they should be shared. Councillor M Hart re-iterated that Charity Trustees minutes are private and are not shared and this is the case with all charities.

The Chairman said he is happy to meet with the trustees. Councillor M Hart suggested that in a serious attempt to progress this matter, as the Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust have indicated they would like a meeting with the Parish Council, the Council should take them up on this offer. Clerk to liaise with Graham Wallis, Chair of Trustees to confirm a date and time and notify Parish Councillors, then those who wish to attend can do so. This was proposed by Councillor M Hart, seconded by Councillor B Brookes, and agreed.

**Matters for Discussion / Decision:**

193. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated;

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY - Priorities Jan - Mar 24- Speeding / ASB / School parking**

00451\_I\_13032024 - Tesco Robbery - 3 arrested

00049\_I\_20032024 - We are appealing to the community for information following a burglary at a home on Lea Lane, Cookley. The burglary happened at approximately 0210hrs on Wednesday 20th March 2024. The offenders forced entry to the home via a side door and have taken car keys from the address. They have then stolen a Silver Mercedes from the driveway.

00024\_I\_20032024 - We are appealing to the community for information following an attempted burglary at a home on Albrighton Drive, Kidderminster. The attempted burglary happened at approximately 0130hrs on Wednesday 20th March 2024. The offenders have attempted to force entry to the home via a rear door however have not gained entry to the property. It is suspected that they may have been after car keys for a vehicle parked on the driveway.

00163\_I\_22032024 - Theft of motor bike from Castle Road, Cookley. At approximately 11:00hrs 4 unknown males on mopeds approached the location, took the motorbike, and made off with it pushing it along down the road.

00268\_I\_25032024 - We are investigating a theft of a motorbike which occurred on Sebright Green, Wolverley. The blue Yamaha motorbike was stolen between 1500hrs and 1550hrs on 25th March without keys.

We have continued to look at the priorities that have been set. Since monitoring the speed and the instalment of VAS boards speeding does appear to have reduced in this area. We also have dustbin stickers to distribute to local residents.

School patrols have been monitored and persons spoken to, around parking in the bus stop and suitable advice given.

ASB - Patrols have been conducted around the villages no ASB has been noted however youths have been engaged with when seen.

We have received an increase in concerns around the use of of E Scooters. In order to reduce these concerns, we have been working closely with our other Safer neighbourhood Teams. As a result, a number of E Scooters have been seized and Section 59 notices issued as well as parents spoken to of those that are underage. Schools have also been notified about these concerns and asked to distribute some advisory leaflets for children to take home to parents.

Councillor Cox advised of a van break in on Castle Road at 5.30pm this evening, tools have been stolen.

194. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

**District Councillor Report;**

**Local Issues:**

**Walkabout:**

Robin Joined the Community Housing Group officers' parish walkabout recently along with a police representative and was able to assist with queries raised.

**Highlow Bank Pavement Safety Concerns:**

Robin arranged for this stretch of pavement where especially school children walk daily, to be swept and cleared of debris which frequently gathers here.

**Scrambling Activity:**

Motorcycle events are taking place again in Wolverley causing considerable resident concerns; This is being monitored to ensure the number of events is limited during this year.

**Dog Training Events Drakelow Lane / Sladd Lane:**

Events previously being held on Drakelow Lane land are now occurring on land at the bottom of Sladd Lane; these are being monitored by WFDC Enforcement officers, as is the noise disturbance caused by frequent dog-barking during night time hours.

**Wyre Forest Issues:**

The District Council has recently undergone a Corporate Peer Challenge. A Team of experienced Officers and a Leader of another District Council visited and spent three days interviewing a selection of officers, councillors and external stakeholders. The Local Government Association provides this service which is designed to help local authorities to identify performance improvement opportunities. The Team will provide feedback as critical friends in the near future.

Councillor Webber thanked Ian Hardiman for the report and action on the mud on footpath at Highlow Bank but stressed this will need to be monitored, he also advised the drain further down the bank is blocked with mud so the water does not drain.

Councillor Sherrey commented on the noise from the recent motorbike scrambling events. The District Councillor are aware of concerns and the events are being monitored.

**County Councillor Report;**

**Wolverley, Recurring Highway Flooding by Hardwicks:**

Further to my Report last month, regrettably the works carried out by the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and County Highways have not resolved the highway flooding here.

The Highways Engineer has been informed and is arranging further investigation to establish precisely what is required to improve the drainage at this location.

**Safety Routes to School:**

Disappointingly, I still have not received necessary clarification from the County Highways Division, regarding improvements within the parish.

**Brown Westhead Sunday Football Parking:**

The District Council's officers have informed me that blue signage has now been installed along the lane to prompt drivers to avoid double parking, in the interests of safety and accessibility for residents here.

**Birch Tree Lane:** I have been informed that further road repairs and then resurfacing will be carried out during the summer months.

Councillor Jones asked for action to be taken on the treacherous footpath opposite The Crescent going down towards Island Pool. Councillor Hardiman will inspect.

195. **Financial Matters.**

a) To note accounts paid up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 24, approved under Finance Scheme of Delegation.

85	B J Drew - Salary March 24	£1248.46
86	HMRC - Tax and NI Jan - March 24	£550.43
87	B J Drew - Ink/Paper	£10.00
88	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman March 24	£328.05
89	Charles A Sherrey Disposal of 6 sacks of confidential waste via Datashred	£36.00
90	B J Drew - Expenses to 31st March 24	£102.00
91	Amazon - Hole Digger Tool for Lengthsman	£27.95
92	WCC - Parish Lighting Quarter 4	£3508.71

b) To approve any further accounts to be paid, unanimously approved.

1	Mr K Basketfield - First Grass Cut	£794.64
2.	Amazon - Flashing Light for Lengthsman safety	£29.80

2 To note 2023/2024 AGAR External Auditor Instructions.

Clerk advised deadline for receipt of 23/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return is Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The accounts will be approved at the June meeting.

196. **Community Governance Review (CGR) for the parish of Wolverley and Cookley.**

Councillor M Hart updated that Wyre Forest District Council agreed to the request for a Community Governance Review at their February Council meeting. A formal report will be presented at their meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May which will set out a timeline. The local advisory poll will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

197. **Draft Order - Proposed variation of highway at Wyre Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Wolverley.**  
Noted.

198. **To confirm re-appointment of representative to Sebright Educational Foundation - Cookley.**  
Unanimously agreed Councillor B McFarland be re-appointed.

199. **Contract Negotiations - Wolverley Planters.**

The Clerk has contacted 3 contractors regarding taking on the planting of Wolverley troughs/baskets and is awaiting replies.

200. **Cookley Christmas Lights.**

Councillor Jones reported that the lights cannot be attached to the Street Lighting columns so hopefully they will be attached to buildings of local businesses.

201. **To discuss Caunsall bridge ironworks.**

Councillor Drew enquired what was happening to the original ironworks given to Cookley following the rebuild of Austcliffe bridge in 2021. Worcestershire County Council had requested these be given to a museum if not used in Cookley. Councillor Southam advised that Cookley in Bloom would like some of the iron to make a feature when they do works at the South Staffs pumping station but this will not be until next year. Councillor Wood advised that 3 sites have been identified but these have not yet been progressed, the iron is safely stored in Cookley and will be used.

202. **To discuss Cookley / Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor Drew enquired what was happening with the Cookley & Caunsall Neighbourhood plan since it has been six and a half years since it was started.

Councillor Jones advised there is still a committee and they do have some funds, but the plan has been put on hold awaiting decision on the quarry application and the further 800 houses at Lea Castle.

Councillor M Hart stated that there is great benefit in having a Neighbourhood Plan and if Cookley had one, Wyre Forest District Council would have to consider this when looking at planning applications. There are lots of rural areas in Cookley and by having a plan it could enable Cookley Parish Councillors to shape what happens in the areas that are not Lea Castle village.

203. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

**PC No**

**WFDC No/Details**

3703

Re-Consultation on 23/0895/FUL: Change of use of Class Q dwelling to holiday let, to include external alterations and increase in curtilage, conversion of building for ancillary use, and construction of bird hides and fishing pegs at land as Os 383575 280035, The Shortyard, Wolverley,  
Dealt with under delegated powers due to timescale for response.  
Recommend Approval subject to conditions on the application to ensure it remains a holiday let and does not become a permanent residential dwelling.

3714

24/0116/S73: Variation of condition 9 (approved plans) attached to Planning Permission 23/0464/FUL to alter the roof pitch to enable for the property to meet modern efficiency standards for insulation and building regulations at land at Os 381984 282020, Castle Hill, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3715

24/0135/FUL: Construction of 2 agricultural buildings at land at Os 385545 281186, Caunsall Road, Caunsall,

The Parish Council recommends that this application be deferred on the grounds that insufficient information has been provided to ensure safe and suitable access for all users therefore more information is needed by the Highway Authority and further ecological information is required by the Tree & Biodiversity Officer.

3716

24/0171/FUL: Construction of a single detached 'eco-dwelling' and associated works at Townsend House, The Shortyard, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

**Decision Notices:**

24/0073/HOU

65 Caunsall Road, Caunsall

Permit

24/0077/HOU

17 Westhead Road North, Cookley

Refuse

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

204. Clerks Report. (Clerk) PCC Newsletter, We Can Funding, Notices of Elections.
205. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Councillor Drew mentioned the Facebook post the Lengthsman had done which had received lots of positive comments.
206. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Grass Cutting
207. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Annual Council Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.47 pm

---

Signed by Chairman - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024