

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th June 2024, 7.00pm,
Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PC Ryan Bridgewood
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, M J Hart.

27. **Apologies**

Cllrs J Hart, W Southam, A Webber and County Councillor I Hardiman.

28. **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 D Cox, D Jones and J Wood declared an ORI in Planning Application 24/0274 as known to applicant.
Cllr R Drew declared an NRI in Item 33 as a Potential Risk of Bias as former Tennis Club member and friends with several current members of the Tennis Club.
Cllr C Sherrey declared an NRI in Item 33 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 33 as an employee of Solicitors firm who acted on Licence to Assign and indicated that if there was any discussion or debate about the actual propriety or integrity of the actual legal advice that the Parish Council received he would reclude himself and leave the room otherwise he had no interest and would take part in the debate as previously.

Cllrs R Drew, M Hart and C Sherrey will leave the room when Item 33 is discussed.

Public Question Time:

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

Lyndon Darkes on behalf of Wolverley Tennis Club addressed the Parish Council to ask again if they were aware that they were removing the rights of the Tennis Club and other parties from the lease when they signed the Licence to Assign.

Linda Blakemore asked if the Parish Council would consider planting trees / wildflowers and putting up no parking signs on the green area at The Crescent as they have lost green space due to the new housing development.

Tim Price asked why Cllr M Hart had advised the Tennis Club to seek advice from Wyre Forest District Council. Cllr M Hart advised that at no stage has he given any advice to any third party to the Tennis Club or told them to seek advice from WFDC.

The meeting was reconvened.

29. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 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.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

30. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated;

Speeding / ASB / School parking remain as Parish Council Priorities.

COOKLEY

TESCO/STEEL WHEELS - 00532_I_14052024 - Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Cookley whereby three male teenagers are reported as causing a nuisance to businesses in the area. This was not reported by either business though, just a passer by who saw the teenagers being a nuisance!

00331_I_23052024 - criminal damage to a car on Kimberlee Avenue, Cookley. Between 1200-1530hrs on 23rd May, unknown persons have caused damage to the rear window of the vehicle.

WOLVERLEY

Hardwicks have been broken into over the past few days , the yard has been entered and wheelbarrows and diesel stolen. The offender has then returned two days later and tried to get into the building. CCTV shows one male, slim build wearing dark clothing, black cap, hoody and a covid mask covering his face. He is accessing Hardwicks from the public footpath as the side of the yard, but has use of a silver audi estate which he has parked outside the entrance and in front of Wolverley Primary gates.

00120_i_31052024 Drakelow Lane - an outbuilding has had the lock damaged to gain entry. Nothing stolen from inside but believe the interest may have been a VW Golf parked on the driveway.

18/05/24 - Speed enforcement took place on Franche Road, Wolverley - no tickets issued on this occasion

Letter sent to schools reminding parents of parking and enforcement we will take.

AOB

We are still seizing e-scooters where seen, and have more speed enforcement planned. Across Wyre Forest we are still experiencing Op Prospero situations (where thieves prey on victims pretending to be police to get their personal and bank details. We continue to have car key burglaries where properties are being broken into in order to obtain keys for vehicles on driveways etc. These are usually for the more high end cars, such as BMW, Mercedes, Range Rover and Sports versions of other makes. We suggest removing all valuable items from vehicles, and using steering locks and fitting devices such as "ghost" where possible.

Cllr Drew reported bollards by Wolverley High School keep getting knocked down.

Cllr Wood reported an incident at Cookley Village Hall carpark. He was advised to email West Mercia Police or Operation Snap.

31. **County / District Councillor Reports.**
County Councillor Report;

Damaged Bollards opposite Secondary School Exit:

Further to the vandalization of four of the recently installed bollards outside the Secondary School, I am pleased that County Highways have acted swiftly in replacing these in the interests of safety.

Brown Westhead Sunday Football Parking Issue:

I am pleased that the District Council's officers had now installed the agreed blue signs encouraging visitors to park their vehicles on one side of the road only, to avoid double-parking.

A449 Pavement overgrowth: Opposite The Crescent

I have been urging Highways to attend to this safety matter as a priority.

Highlow Bank Mud affecting pavement:

Further to my previous report, I have been informed by the Planning Manager that enforcement cannot be applied regarding the inappropriate use by the farmer of the pavement where no dropped kerb is present; this is because this practice has been allowed to occur for several years without challenge!

Caunsall.Kinver Lane pavement:

I am still awaiting further clarification as to the precise details and location of this issue.

General:

I am awaiting Feedback Ref. Flooding by Hardwicks / Safer Routes to School / Double Yellow Lines by High School / Sladd Lane Gullies / Gully Clearance Castle Rd / Austcliffe Rd / Tree maintenance Castle Rd Verge.

Cllr Jones re-iterated his concern over the overgrown pavement on the A449 and queried whether this could be cut when the road is closed on 12th/13th June. Cllr M Hart advised that section of road is not closed, it is closed in South Staffordshire area.

District Councillors Report;

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.

WFDC enforcement officers have again been active outside Wolverley Sebright School, educating and moving on vehicles parked either inconsiderately or illegally.

A new enforcement notice has been served on the land at Sion Hill Court. The land is being used to keep two horses, along with two old cars which are used as storage containers. A shipping container has also been positioned along the wall for further storage. A 14-day notice has been served and passed; this is now with our legal team to pursue.

Wyre Forest Issues

WFDC met on 15th May for annual council. Cllr. John Byng has been elected as Chairman of WFC and Cllr. Paul Harrison Vice-chairman of WFDC for 24-25.

Work is well under way with the Connectivity project in Worcester Street, Kidderminster where 4 large redundant retail units have been demolished to open this area of town. We have just let the contract to the construction contractor McPhillips and work should complete by the end of the year on the construction of the urban park.

There will be much more gradual steps to what are currently there now called the 'Step Entry' and a gradual path down, with benches and a park/public open space. 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.

Work is also well under way at the former Magistrates' Court, 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.

We have commissioned a feasibility study for Worcester Street, Market Street, the former Crown House site and Lionfields (former *Glades* site) and this will report later in the year. We are keen to see more residential development in the town centre.

32. **Financial Matters.**

a) Purchase of battery charger.

Cllr Drew advised he has contacted Westcotec as it appears it is not the battery but the charger that is at fault. Westcotec will send an engineer to check and repair.

b) Agreed the following schedule of accounts be paid.

12	B J Drew - Salary May 24	£1255.02
13	B J Drew - Ink/Paper/Wooden Stakes	£38.00
14	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman May 24	£293.25
15	Mr Keith Basketfield - 3rd Grass Cut	£794.64
16	Mr Allen Hughes - Internal Audit	£200.00
17	Norton Anti-Virus	£20.00
18	Stall Fee	£20.00
19	Zurich Municipal	£210.87

Cllr Sherrey reported that change to bank signatories is in progress.

c) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/2024.

i) To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Drew and unanimously agreed to approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024.

ii) To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2023/2024

It was proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr M Hart and unanimously agreed to approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2023/2024.

33. **The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust / Wolverley Tennis Club.**

Cllr B Brookes took the Chair.

Cllr Jones discussed the ongoing dispute between the two parties and stated that this needs to be resolved. Cllr Jones stated that he believes the Parish Council were mis advised by the solicitor acting for them and did not understand that clause 13.1 in the Licence to Assign document signed 26th June 2020 removed rights that existed in the 1961 and 2019 lease for the Wolverley Tennis Club and other parties.

Cllr Hart indicated part way through the debate that given what had been said there may be a motion in respect of the actual integrity or propriety of the legal advice and therefore as a precaution at this point he would recluse himself and leave the room.

Cllr Jones proposed that clause 13.1 be removed from the Licence to Assign, Cllr Cox seconded this and it was agreed unanimously that this clause be removed. The Clerk advised that legal advice would need to be sought to determine if it is lawful to do this. The Clerk will pursue this and report back.

34. **To discuss Street Lighting Columns in the Parish.**

Cllr Sherrey proposed the Parish Council replace 60 street lighting columns in the Parish this financial year, rather than the 30 budgeted for. This was seconded by Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed. Worcestershire County Council to select the columns to be changed.

Cllr Cox provided the Clerk with an update on Cookley Columns, 82 are still outstanding to be done.

35. **Proposed Variation of Highway at Wyre Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Wolverley.**

Noted, no objection.

36. **Promoting the Parish Council.**

Cllr Drew advised that a budget of £750 had been agreed for promoting the Parish Council and requested up to £500 be spent on a gazebo, sails and promotional material to be used at Wolverley Carnival and future Cookley events. This was seconded by Cllr M Hart and agreed.

37. **To discuss correspondence received regarding The Crescent, Cookley.**

Clerk had circulated correspondence from a parishioner requesting tree planting / wildflower planting and no parking signs at the green space at The Crescent, Cookley.

Cllr Brookes advised that Wyre Forest District Council would be happy to supply trees and Cllr Drew has asked County Councillor Ian Hardiman to get Highways permission to plant. Signs will not be supplied but trees can be planted to prevent parking.

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

WFDC No/Details

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,

Case Officer awaiting further revised plans and once received will re-consult Parish Council again.

24/0274/HOU Erection of rear extensions at 158 Castle Road, Cookley,
Recommend Approval.

24/0287/TPO Fell various trees at Wolverley High School, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval.

24/0325/HOU Replacement rear Conservatory at April Cottage, Sladd Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval.

24/0328/HOU Proposed porch canopy at 64 Sebright Road, Wolverley.
Recommend Approval.

Planning Decision Notices:

23/0859/PNR Land at Os 384162 278701 Wolverley Road, Wolverley - Prior Approval Given

23/0928/OUT Land at Os 381880 279160 Lowe Lane, Wolverley - Refusal

24/0030/HOU Hope Cottage, New Road, Caunsall - Permission

24/0122/FUL Arthede Revived, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley - Refusal

24/0208/AG The Granary, Hillfields Farm, Shatterford Lane - Permission

24/0216/PIP Land at Os 381890 279050 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley - Refusal

Planning Appeals;

23/0657/FUL

Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane, Wolverley

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

39. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Clerk clarified CPFVHA Representative is Cllr D Jones.
40. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
41. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
42. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd July 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed by Chairman - 2024