

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, 7.00pm,**  
**Cookley School, Cookley**

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PC Ryan Bridgewood and PCSO Alice Owen-Jones  
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman  
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew, I Hardiman and M J Hart.

43. **Apologies**

Cllrs V Bordewich and C Sherrey.

44. **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 50 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 50 as Parish Council representative to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

Cllr M Hart declared an ORI in Item 50 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.

Public Question Time:

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

Mr Ian Mobley, Chairman of Wolverley Sports & Social Club questioned how the letter sent to the Parish Council on 13<sup>th</sup> June appeared to have been shared with other parties within hours of being received. The Clerk confirmed that it was not sent to Parish Councillors until 27<sup>th</sup> June with all their meeting papers.

45. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 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.

46. Matters for Discussion / Decision:

Police Report.

Written Report circulated;

Please find the police report for June below. PCSO Alice Owen-Jones is on duty tomorrow and hopes to be able to attend the meeting depending on operational commitments.

Wolverley

440\_I\_03062024 - HARDWICKS - The burglary took place on the 3rd June at 19:30hrs. The offender(s) have gained entry via a fence and proceeded to remove fuel from a vehicle on site, a male was seen exiting on foot, however it is believed he arrived in a Silver AUDI.

107\_I\_12062024 - We are investigating an attempted car key burglary in Attwood Close, Wolverley and we want to reassure residents we are doing everything we can to trace those responsible. Between 2330hrs on 11th June and 0840hrs on 12th June, unknown persons have attempted to break the lock on a rear door to the property. No entry was gained.

Cookley

Police Ref 00050\_I\_08062024 - We are investigating a report of an attempt car key burglary on Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle Estate, Kidderminster. Between 2 - 2.30am on 8th June 3 males were seen ripping off cables for lights to a residential property. The residents were alerted and the males got into a waiting car, which was black in colour, and had a noisy exhaust. There were three vehicles of interest on the driveway and we believe that they intended to target one of them.

\_I\_12062024 - We are investigating a reported car key burglary on Caunsall Road and we want to reassure residents we are doing everything we can to trace those responsible. Between 2300hrs on 11th June and 0800hrs on 12th June, unknown persons have gained entry to a property by smashing the lock on a rear door, taking car keys from the property. They have then stolen a blue Mercedes from the driveway. Vehicle has now been found.

374\_I\_13062024 - We are investigating a reported attempt theft of a Mercedes car from Westhead Road, Cookley. Two males were seen between 1.09am - 1.11am on Thursday 13th June, dressed all in black with their faces covered. The males have gone down the side of a property with a view to gain entry. They were unsuccessful.

194\_I\_26062024 ELM CLOSE, COOKLEY - We are investigating the theft of a vehicle which occurred on from ELM CLOSE, COOKLEY. A Grey Vauxhall Grandland X sport with a black roof was stolen without keys between 05:30hrs on the 11th June and 09:30hrs on 25th June 2024.

094\_I\_30062024 - Brampton Close, Cookley - Burglary - Between Sunday 23rd June and Sunday 30th June, unknown persons have gained entry to a property by forcing open a window. They have then stolen a number of items from within including cash and jewellery.

0289\_I\_25062024 - Bridge Road, COOKLEY - Between Sunday 23rd and Monday 24th June, unknown persons have gained entry to an outbuilding and stolen items from within.

Priorities

The priorities are now due for the next quarter July - September 2024. Please can you discuss these at the next meeting and let the team know. The team have continued to conduct speed checks along Franche Road, Wolverley when duties allow and have also continued to conduct targeted patrols in key areas to try and deter any ASB.

Cllr Cox advised of an incident at the rear of the Farmers Den with items being stolen, also from the rear of the Eagle pub and off the roof.

Cllr Webber asked if the burglaries are a local hotspot. PC Bridgewood advised it is occurring across the whole of Wyre Forest but more in rural areas. There are action plans for night patrols to go to certain areas.

Cllr Jones enquired if there is communication between forces as Kinver are experiencing the same issues, PCSO Owen-Jones confirmed there is communication.

The Police priorities were agreed as Burglaries, ASB and Speeding.

47. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

**County Councillor Report;**

Caunsall Lane Voids:

Investigations by County Officers have found that Badgers appear to be responsible for the voids created at various points along this lane. However, I am awaiting officers response on how this issue will be dealt with.

Caunsall, Kinver Lane Pavement overgrowth:

I am still awaiting precise location details to allow further investigation.

Axborough Lane Cracking/ damaged verges:

I am assured that these works will commence in September.

Cookley Gullies (various):

Having reported these, I am as yet unaware whether attention has been given; the Highways Engineer has been away on holiday for two weeks but is due back this week, when I shall consult with her on this.

Austcliffe Lane Gullies:

Officers inspected but reported that the gullies are in fact, whilst covered with grass cuttings, working efficiently.

Cllr Jones will send photographs to Cllr Hardiman.

Sladd Lane Gullies:

County Highways asked me to impress on the District Council Team that regular sand/silt removal is required here to prevent gully blocking. I have done so.

Lea Lane Landslip Repairs:

I have been informed that County Officers believe the land owner of the bank between the highway and the canal, is indicating a willingness to engage in discussion about allowing the County Council to proceed with this necessary works which will entail the construction of a wall on his land.

A449 overgrowth opposite the crescent, highways consider attention is not required, Ian has shown them 3 areas that are a safety risk and is pursuing this with highways engineer

GENERAL:

I am still awaiting Feedback ref. Flooding by Hardwicks / Safer Routes to school /Double Yellow Lines by High School / Tree Maintenance Castle Rd verge

Cllr Jones again raised the overgrowth on the footpath by the A449 from The Crescent to the Island Pool. He will forward photographs to Cllr Hardiman.

## District Councillors Report:

### Local Issues:

Last month I reported on unlawful activity at Sion Hill Court, notices have now been issued to give the landowner 21 days to clear the site. Further along Sion Hill a static caravan has been sited, this is now under investigation by our enforcement team.

Drakelow Lane - received further information from parishioner tonight.

We have no further Local Issues to report presently.

### Wyre Forest Issues:

WFDC will be offering Planning training to all Parish & Town Councillors on Tuesday 24th September at 6pm in Wyre Forest House. The training session will cover Permitted Development Right changes and Biodiversity Net Gain.

WFDC has invited Wolverley Councillors to a meeting on Monday 8th July to discuss an Asset Transfer of land at Lowe Lane.

The Connectivity Project for Worcester Street and Bromsgrove Street in Kidderminster is continuing to progress.

The former Magistrates Court, to be known as the 'Creative Hub' is also progressing well. This will include office spaces and flexible lets and venue space also.

The Piano Building Project is now underway, Food and Beverage will be based on the ground floor with the upper floors providing high quality office space.

Kidderminster Town Centre Feasibility Study: this is to be carried out for Lionfields / Bromsgrove Street, Worcester Street, The former Crown House site and Market Street.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

Phase 1: These are now being installed from 1st July in Green Street, car park, Vale Road Stourport, Green Street Depot, Raven Street Stourport.

In September, Phase 2: Dog Lane & Load Street Bewdley, Market Street & Batemans Yard will commence.

In October: Phase 3: Comberton Place, Brinton Park, Bromsgrove Street in Kidderminster and Gardners Meadow Bewdley.

In December, Phase 4: Pike Mills, St Mary's Church, Wyre Forest House in Kidderminster and Severn Meadows 1 Stourport.

### 48. Financial Matters. Agree the following accounts be paid.

20	B J Drew - Salary June 24	£1254.82
21	HMRC - Tax and NI April - June 24	£530.75
22	Mrs B J Drew	
	Leedan Packaging Ltd - Black Sacks	£111.24
	Amazon - Gazebo	£179.99
	Amazon - Pens	£59.99
23	Revive Exterior Maintenance - Gateway Cleaning	£510.00

24	Mr Keith Basketfield - 4th Grass Cut	£794.64
25	Surf Works Limited - Parish Council Sails	£295.20
26	Rain-or-Shine - Planters	£1710.00
27	Smith of Derby - Clock Repairs	£210.00
28	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman	£340.00

49. **To discuss letter received from Wolverley Sports & Social Club.**

Letter received from Wolverley Sports and Social Club had been forwarded to all Parish Councillors. Cllr M Hart proposed the Clerk reply to the author thanking them and noting the contents therein and advising that all matters will be considered and investigated by a solicitor who the Parish Council will instruct to act on their behalf. This was seconded by Cllr J Hart and unanimously agreed.

50. **To discuss obtaining Legal Advice regarding the Licence to Assign.**

Cllr Drew left the room, Cllr Brookes took the Chair.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (WCALC) to obtain Legal Advice. They referred the matter to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), and they responded they could not give advice as it would be based on unknowns and assumptions. The Clerk therefore contacted 3 local solicitors, MFG, Thursfields and Painters. Justin Parker at MFG who is based locally in Kidderminster was prepared to take on the work, also Katharine Hall at Thursfields in Worcester but Painters were not. The Clerk advised that they could not give an estimate of costs until they had seen the documents and assessed the amount of work involved.

Cllr M Hart thanked the Clerk and proposed the Parish Council instruct Mr Justin Parker at MFG Kidderminster to act on their behalf. The Parish Council have previously used Thursfields and were underwhelmed due to the time it took for them to deal with the matter. All documentation should be sent to MFG, and the Clerk liaise with Mr Parker. He suggested the Parish Council will have to agree a financial envelope that the Parish Council will allocate in this matter. Cllr Webber seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously agreed.

51. **Housing Needs Survey for Wolverley and Cookley.**

Noted - awaiting further information.

52. **Planning Decision Notices: -**

24/0185/FUL: Change of use of land to residential curtilage and the erection of timber framed clad garage at Ismere View, Axborough Lane - Permit

24/0287/TCA: Various Tree Works at Wolverley High School, Wolverley - Permit

23/0895/FUL: Change of use of agricultural buildings and associated land to one holiday let at land at The Shortyard - Permit with conditions

24/0328/HOU: Proposed porch canopy at 64 Sebright Road, Wolverley - Permit

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

53. Clerks Report. (Clerk)

Wolverley Carnival, Bin - Underhill Farm, Street Lights - hedge work, Planning Training

54. Lengthsman. (RD/WS)

55. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)

56. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th August 2024.

The Chairman wished Cookley in Bloom the best of luck on judging day.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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Signed by Chairman - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024