

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th August 2024, 7.00pm,
Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr A Webber

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

57. **Apologies**

The Clerk advised of email received from Barry McFarland resigning from Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council with immediate effect. Barry thanked the Clerk for her work over all the years and wished Councillors well in the future.

Cllrs B Brookes, J Hicks and J Wood due to holiday, Cllr D Cox due to work commitments and Cllr D Jones due to another commitment.

58. **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 Sherrey declared an ORI in Planning Application 24/0477 as previously used to act for the applicant.

Public Question Time:

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

A parishioner reported several areas on the A449 from The Crescent to the Island Pool where overgrowth is making it extremely dangerous to walk. They reported it on the WCC portal and received a reply it is the landowners' responsibility. Cllr Hardiman confirmed they have written to the three landowners and advised they must cut back within two weeks otherwise County Highways will send a team to cut and charge them.

59. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 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;

60. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated;

Priorities July - Sept 24- Speeding / ASB / Burglaries

Wolverley

A van was stolen without keys from Gibberd Way, sometime between 22.45pm and 2am on 3rd July. Four males were seen getting out of a red van and a black car. They entered the van from the rear and drove away with it using a keyless device. Police Ref 00517_I_03072024

A 12ft Ifor Williams trailer was stolen yesterday Sunday 28th July, sometime between 5pm - 10pm from a farmers field at highlow bank, Franche Road, Wolverley . The trailer is silver with a white roof, which has a dent in the top. There was also a chain on the axle which was taken at the time.

Cookley

Suspicious males - a group of males were seen on Lea Castle Drive, Cookley and surrounding roads, showing interest in vehicles and properties. Our information states that these males have been kerb crawling, slowly, in an unknown vehicle and that this has happened previously on other dates, although not reported to police at the time.

AOB members of the team attended Wolverley Carnival and Cookley School Summer Fete. We have also agreed to attend Wolverley Football Club for their fun day on 31st August.

Cllr M Hart reported to PC Guest a resident in Fairfield Lane has concerns about motorbikes causing antisocial behaviour and excessive noise in Fairfield Lane and Hayes Road, 9.30pm/10.00pm. PC Guest advised trying to get a video and registration numbers and reporting to Operation Snap.

Cllr W Southam enquired whether the police could do anything about the excessive speed on Castle Road after 9.30pm. PC Guest advised it is difficult to enforce, the SNT finish shifts at 10pm and camera vans will not be out at that time, but he suggested trying to get registration numbers and the police could have an informal chat.

61. County / District Councillor Reports.

County Councillor Report;

Local Issues:

Lea Lane Landslip:

Together with Cllr Marcus Hart, I again met with County Council management and the relevant Cabinet Member and reminded them of their commitment to gaining access to the margin of land between the roadway and the canal where a support wall must be constructed.

As we had not yet received confirmation that talks with the landowner were actually taking place, we asked for assurance that if necessary Compulsory Purchase of this land would be engaged. Assurance of this was given.

B4189 Wolverley Road, Flooding by Hardwicks:

I have been chasing the Highways Engineer, as I have not received clear confirmation of when the EA./ Severn Trent/ and Highways will return to properly carry out remedial works to prevent the recurring surface flooding each time heavy rainfall occurs. Their previous attempt proved unsuccessful.

A449, Wolverhampton Road, Pavement overgrowth between the Crescent and Island Pool: The County Council have now written to the landowners here instructing them to cut back the overgrowing hedgerows and brambles which are a hazard to pedestrians.

Caunsall, Highway Voids: I have been chasing clarification on how the works team intend resolving the Badgers problem where they are creating setts under the Caunsall Road.

Safer Routes to School: Since some pavement routes to schools in Wolverley have been considered unsafe owing to their very narrow width, the County Council have been providing additional bus services for pupils as a safe alternative in the short/medium term. However,

this is a costly undertaking and must be considered against the possible cost option of improving the pavement widths where necessary. Cllr Marcus Hart and I met last week with County Management, urging them to clarify their intentions and resultantly we have been invited to meet again but in Wolverley to examine the pros and cons of this issue.

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.

We have a number of updates on enforcement issues across the Parish as follows:-

1. Caravan on Sion Hill (The Cottage) - **Closed no breach evident**. A follow up site visit has been conducted following review of planning contravention notice. The caravan is sited within the residential curtilage of 'The Cottage', the occupants are elderly relatives of the main family receiving end of life care, with several functions carried out in the main house. The use is deemed incidental to the main dwelling house and as such no breach of planning has been found. It has been explained to the owners that the caravan should be in no way severed from the main house by way of physical boundary features or renting it out etc.
2. Field on Sion Hill / Badland Avenue - **Enforcement Notice to be drafted**. Follow up visits have determined the owner has not fully complied with requests to clear the land and remove the container. Enforcement notice instructions will be drafted, and we will look to send to legal next week. I will email you all separately to request consent to serve.
3. Land at Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane, Wolverley - **Enforcement notice served 1/8/24**. Legal have now finalised the notice papers and it has been posted today. The notice is effective as of the 5th of September with a three-month compliance period. Notice requires removal of storage containers, caravans, building materials and all other non-agricultural materials.
4. The wall at The Cedars, Axborough Lane is still ongoing and there is liaison with WCC as the wall has actually been built on highway verge. The is complicated as the owner is claiming the wall has been incorrectly constructed and is going through his insurers and the WCC legal team have given some time for this to try to be resolved.

We met with residents at Austcliffe Lane caravan park, together with Mark Garnier as they have a number issues, which ultimately are not on the face of it matters for WFDC.

We have been tackling illegal parking at school times and the WFDC CEO's have been present outside Wolverley High School warning and advising drivers and issuing PCN's.

Wyre Forest Issues

Work is well under way with the Connectivity project in Worcester Street, Kidderminster where 4 large redundant retail units have been demolished to open up this area of town. The contract to the construction contractor has now been let and work should commence later this month and complete by the end of the year.

There will be much more gradual steps to what are currently there now called the 'Step Entry' and also 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. Planning consent has now been granted for this project.

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. The building works should be completed in December and the building handed back to WFDC. Agents have been appointed to market the space.

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 this autumn. We are keen to see more residential development in the town centre.

We have assisted and support the Parish Council in their quest for a Community Governance Review (CGR), the formal process having commenced on 1st August.

The £2.4m Heritage Lottery funded work for Brinton Park should start later this year, subject to planning permission being granted in September. As we report this, the tenders are being evaluated in the hope to let the contract very soon. Delays have occurred due to the rising costs of construction and

The piano building is also being marketed by agents and should be completed by spring 2025. This will be retail/food and beverage/leisure and office space. Planning permission is being sought as this is a grade II listed building and should go to planning committee in September. Enabling works are commencing now but the main works cannot start until planning permission is granted.

The temporary accommodation for Castle Road is progressing well and is on time and budget.

We await with interest as to what the new Government's housing targets and changed NPPF will mean for us and our local plan in Wyre Forest especially for our rural areas and Wolverley and Cookley. A high level analysis suggests our 267 dwellings pa in the current adopted local plan would have to increase to a staggering 617, something as a District Council team we have grave concerns about.

62. **Financial Matters.** Proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Webber and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid.

27	B J Drew – Salary July 24	£1255.02
28	Mr Keith Basketfield – 5 th Grass Cut	£794.64
29	Worcestershire County Council (Parish Lighting Quarter 1)	£3508.10
30	Mrs B J Drew The Best Copy Shop – Leaflets	£34.99
	Various – Promotional Material - receipts provided	£93.44
31	Mr Jason Hull – Lengthsman July 24	£386.75

63. **Lengthsman Review.**

Cllr Sherrey advised that it was agreed at the Contract meeting a review meeting would be held in July 24. Cllrs C Sherrey and J Hart met with Jason Hull (Lengthsman) and both parties are happy. Mr Hull was reminded that if invoices are not submitted on time he will be paid late.

64. **Report on Bin Emptying Meeting.**

Cllrs C Sherrey, J Hart and D Jones met with Tim Dale following a report from Wyre Forest District Council that items were being put in the two 1100litre bins that should not be. Mr Dale confirmed that, on occasion, some items that should not have been put in have been, but this has been when small items of rubbish are left by the side of bins. Cllr Sherrey said technically this is fly tipping, but it does seem silly to get a team from the District Council to come and collect this. Mr Dale has been told to only put black sacks collected from Parish litterbins in the two bins at the farm.

A concrete base for the bins was discussed. Mr Dale will get a quote for the cost of the concrete and Cllr J Hart will look at this. Mr Dale would provide the labour.

65. **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy for Worcestershire Consultation.**
Cllr R Drew will complete.
66. **Cookley Christmas Lights.**
Defer to next meeting.
67. **Cookley Allotments.**
Cllr Southam reported that Cookley Allotments are part of an association with Franche and Habberley. Franche and Habberley have established that Kidderminster Town Council are responsible for their allotments. The contract is due for renewal in March 2025.
Cllr M Hart suggested it might be useful to know if the current association want to remain the three or if Cookley want to separate and have an agreement with the Parish Council.
It was agreed this be a future agenda item.
68. **Funding – Wolverley & Cookley Matters.**
Item withdrawn.
69. **To discuss progress regarding tree planting, The Crescent, Cookley.**
Cllr Drew advised that Worcestershire County Council have given permission for the land to be used and Wyre Forest District Council will plant in the Autumn.
70. **To discuss representative to Worcestershire CALC Executive Committee.**
Cllr Drew advised he has resigned as representative to Worcestershire CALC Executive Committee. There was no replacement forthcoming.
71. Planning Applications for Consideration: -
WFDC No/Details
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 24/0448/PNH: | For Information Only
Single storey rear extension at 81 Castle Road, Cookley |
| 24/0477/HOU: | Proposed single storey ground floor extension and proposed first floor extension above existing bedroom at Coach House, Wolverley Court, Wolverley
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr J Hart, AIF. |
| 24/0482/HOU: | Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 27 Gaymore Road, Cookley
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Nicholls, AIF |
| 24/0499/TCA | For Information Only
T1 Willow remove to a 2m pole, T3 Willow reduce tree by approx 4m at Queens Head Stores, Wolverley Village |
- Planning Decision Notices:**
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 24/0274/HOU | 158 Castle Road, Cookley - Refusal |
| 24/0325/HOU | April Cottage, Sladd Lane, Wolverley - Permit |
- Planning Appeals:**
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 23/0874/HOU | Church View, Lea Lane, Cookley - Appeal Allowed |
| 24/0077/HOU | 17 Westhead Road North, Cookley - Appeal Allowed |

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required.

72. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Local Government Boundary Commission Report.
73. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
74. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Cllr Nicholls - August Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Drew - Steel from Austcliffe Bridge. Cllr Drew advised that NRS have revised the plans for the Quarry and

urged Cllrs to look at these prior to the next meeting as it will be on the agenda. They are also doing a presentation in Wolverley Memorial Hall 1pm - 7pm tomorrow.

75. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Signed by Chairman - 3rd September 2024