

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st October 2024, 7.00pm,
Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PC Jamie Guest, PCSO Kate Easthope.
County Councillor: Apologies.
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew.

97. **Apologies**

Cllr B Brookes and M J Hart at a conference and Cllr I Hardiman due to illness.

98. **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 Agenda Item 8 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 Agenda Item 8 as Parish Council representative to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

Cllr C Sherrey declared an ORI in Agenda Item 8 as was previously accountant for the Tennis Club.

Cllr Drew proposed Cllr Cox Chair item 8 in the absence of himself and the Vice Chairman.

Public Question Time:


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

Mr McDonald reported on an excellent meeting held at Heathfield School regarding the proposed Quarry and thanks Cllr Sherrey for speaking. He also advised just under £500 had been raised from donations into a bucket.

Mr Palmer, Wolverley Tennis reminded Councillors that it is nearly 12 months since issues were raised and the Memorial Hall was originally meant for people in the Parish to use the facilities.

99. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2024 at 7.00pm**

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr C Nicholls, seconded Cllr V Bordewich, and 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;

100. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated;
WOLVERLEY

119_I_14092024 - We are appealing to the Wolverley community for information following a burglary at a home on Drakelow Lane. The burglary took place between 11th September at 16:00hrs 14th September 04:00hrs. Entry has been forced to an annex at the property, where offender(s) have stolen 2 e-bikes and 4 mountain bikes.

COOKLEY

00030_I_20092024 We are appealing to the community for information following a burglary at a home on Elm Place, Cookley

The burglary took place between 02:00- 02:15 hours on 20/09/2024.

Offender/s gained entry to the property by removing the lock to front door. The only item taken were a set of car keys to a VW Polo. Offender was seen leaving on an electric bike.

114_I_20092024 We are appealing to the community for information following an attempt burglary at a home on Lea Castle Drive.

The attempt burglary took place between 19:10 and 01:30hours on 20/09/2024.

2 unknown males on an electric bike have tried to gain access to the property and appear to have been disturbed. No entry was gained to the property and nothing was stolen. However, damage was caused to a lock. It is thought the offenders may have been looking for keys to a BMW.

Criminal Damage - WOODLANDS ROAD, COOKLEY - damage to a padlock on the rear gate of a property that backs onto the woodlands. No entry gained but possible attempt to gain entry.

PCSO Kate Easthope reported the biggest problem at the moment is car key burglaries in Wyre Forest. She also advised plans for further speed enforcement checks are imminent. Information will be put on Neighbourhood Matters regarding winter safety, eg not leaving car engines running unattended, dark nights leave lights on etc.

PC Jamie Guest urged people to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters.

101. **Housing Needs Survey**

Sally Horne, Senior Planning Policy Officer had been asked to attend the meeting by the Housing Team to explain there is a legal duty to undertake a Housing Needs Survey every five years and the last one in Wolverley and Cookley was done in 2018.

The survey is running from 14th October - 29th November. A letter will be sent to residents in the Parish, and they will be encouraged to complete the survey online. There are four information sessions planned.

Cllr Sherrey commented that two of the planned information sessions were when the Quarry Inquiry is being held and asked if these could be changed. Sally confirmed she will get these changed.

Cllr Webber commented on the large development at Lea Castle and Sally explained that this is seen as addressing the wider needs of the District. This survey is to identify local needs of the people from Wolverley and Cookley, looking at specific sites within the Parish.

Cllr Jones stated what people want is houses that their children can afford. Sally explained that 25% is aimed for affordable housing but this percentage can vary due to viabilities.

102. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

County Councillor Report;

Cllr R Drew gave the report in Cllr Hardiman's absence.

Local Issues:



Cookley, Lea Lane Football Parking obstruction outside Cookley Club on Saturdays:

I have received local residents' concerns regarding the overspill football parking. Some vehicles are randomly parking on the verge of this very narrow lane but creating difficulties for passing traffic; some vehicles are parking on the Double Yellow Lines which is illegal.

I have asked WFDC Enforcement officers to attend to the Yellow Line parking and also have written to the Social Club Chairman asking for consideration on how increased parking to accommodate all of the football traffic might be achieved on-site.

Wolverley, Safer Routes to School:

Further to my report last month, I am very pleased to report that at the County Council's Cabinet Meeting this week, Full financial approval was granted in respect of the proposed Franche Road (Highlow Bank) area pavement widening scheme together with the provision of a Pelican Crossing across the B4189 by Hardwicks premises. (The pavement improvements from Brown Westhead Park to Lea Lane would, as reported previously, be a future consideration for the following financial year.) I understand these works should be carried out during the present financial year but dependent upon successful land acquisition as required.

As explained previously, whilst there will be a considerable capital cost to these works, this will enable the County Council to reduce Pupil Bus Service provision and the Revenue funding.

LEA LANE Landslip:

Also, I am pleased to report that at the same Cabinet Meeting, agreement was formed to ensure that the costs involved with the restoration of the canal bank and the highway together with any add-on costs such as land acquisition can proceed at the earliest.

Cookley, A449 Overgrowth of Pavement:

Unfortunately, not all of the relevant landowners involved with this boundary hedge have attended to the safety risk caused to pedestrians here. I have, again contacted the Highways Department stating my dissatisfaction that this long-standing issue is still unresolved. Unfortunately, our Highways Liaison Engineer, Hayley Steele has left the Council's employ, but I am chasing the officer appointed temporarily as replacement.

Cllr Wood as Chairperson, Cookley Village Hall and Playing Fields advised they are aware of parking issues. He will assess the situation and respond to Cllr Hardiman.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr Drew gave the report.

Local Issues:

Residents reported unusual activity on land along Drakelow Lane. This site has been visited by WFDC Enforcement officers and a PCN notice placed on the site entrance to ascertain ownership details.

Cllr Drew updated the owners are now known and a full enforcement notice will be served.

On 24th September 46 Parish and Town councillors attend a Planning Training meeting at WFH. Enforcement, Permitted Development and BNG topics were discussed, finishing with a Q&A.

We have no further Local Issues to report presently.

Wyre Forest Issues:



There continues to be good progress with our major capital schemes. The Castle Road temporary accommodation building remains on budget and in line with programme.

Brinton Park HLF project received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Tender for the works has been awarded to McPhillips. Planning Committee have approved the works which should be completed in 12 months.

The Planning committee also approved works to The Piano building. Main works will start on 4th November, with completion in July 2025.

Work on the Connectivity Project has now started.

The former magistrates court / creative hub project has now been named "The Old Court" with a completion date of December 2024.

Electric vehicle charge points in our car parks have been delayed by issues at the contractor's end. Installation work will now start in Kidderminster in October, with Bewdley and Stourport following.

Feasibility studies on future development sites in Kidderminster including the Lionfields site are due to be completed by January 2025.

Cllr Cox enquired whether there would be free parking again in WFDC car parks during the festive period. Cllr Drew confirmed that yes there will be.

102. **Street Lighting Column Replacements**

Cllr Sherrey reported that in June 24 the Parish Council agreed to replace 60 columns instead of the usual 30. 59 have been completed with 1 outstanding in Fairfield Lane, Wolverley.

103. **Financial Matters.**

Proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr John Hart and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid.

37	B J Drew - Salary September 24	£1,255.02
38	HMRC - Tax and NI July 24 - September 24	£530.75
39	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman September 24	£314.50
40	Worcestershire County Council - 59 Streetlight Replacements	£74,726.23
41	Mrs B J Drew - Expenses 1st April 24 - 30th September 24	£118.20

104. **To discuss letter received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust - Licence to Assign.**

Cllr R Drew, Cllr J Hart and Cllr C Sherrey left the room. Cllr D Cox took the Chair.

The Clerk had circulated the letter dated 13th September 2024 received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

Cllr Jones had read the letter, expressed disappointment, and stated that the Parish Council should have a vote of no confidence in The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust Trustees.

Cllr Webber stated that the Parish Council sought Legal Advice, this was received and stated that neither the lease nor the licence can be changed without the signed approval of the landlord, Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council and The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust. Any unilateral action by the Council to do so would not be lawful. He also commented that the Chairman of the Tennis Club was one of the signatories to the Licence to Assign on behalf of the Wolverley Memorial Hall Charity and The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust. Cllr Webber also highlighted that the

reply received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust makes it clear their aim is and always has been to ensure that tennis is available on the Memorial Hall site.

Cllr Bordewich emphasised the dedicated great work of the Trustees who have achieved an awful lot and continue to do so and they have stated they will allow Wolverley Tennis to arrange for its members to use the tennis courts.

Cllr Jones made a proposal that the Parish Council have a vote of no confidence in The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust trustees, this was seconded by Councillor C Nicholls and carried with 5 in favour and 3 against.

Clerk to write to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

105. **To discuss Remembrance Sunday and correspondence received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.**

A letter had been received from the Chair of Trustees asking if it would be possible to re-instate pre-covid arrangements for Remembrance Sunday with wreath laying and playing of the last post at the hall before beginning the parade from the Memorial Hall car park to the Church.

Cllr Drew is happy to organise road closures, and the Chair of Trustees is happy to liaise with the Vicar and various organisations. It was proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr Webber, and agreed to proceed.

Cookley Councillors have no update on arrangements in Cookley.

106. **To discuss Quarry Public Inquiry Hearing - 5th November 24.**

Cllr Sherrey attended the meeting at Heathfield Knoll School and read out the Parish Council's objections. They were very grateful for the support from the Parish Council and for the donation. They are very optimistic they will get to the £12,000 that is needed for the barrister. Cllr Sherrey stated that one of the big impacts at the original inquiry was the turnout of people and he urged Cllrs to get as many people as possible to attend on 5th November and following days. It is at Stourport Manor, NOT Stone Manor.

107. **Cookley Christmas Lights.**

Cllr Jones advised that the Cookley Sports and Social Club have agreed to head up the project. This addresses the concerns raised regarding the Parish Council giving the £1500 contribution which was agreed at the meeting 6th February 24 to be taken from the Cookley Village Improvement Budget. Councillor Sherrey was happy with this.

It was proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Nicholls, and agreed £1500 be given too Cookley Sports and Social Club towards the Cookley Christmas Lights upon receipt of appropriate documentation.

108. **To discuss request for bin in Austcliffe Road, Cookley.**

A request had been received for an additional bin in Austcliffe Road, Cookley.

Cllr Drew advised that the Parish Council cannot add to the work of the Contractor without consultation, and this could set a precedent for further requests. It may however be possible to liaise with the Contractor to see if there is an under used bin that could be re-located. Cookley Councillor will look into this and advise.

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

WFDC No/Details

24/0567/PNR: Conversion of existing agricultural barn to form 5 dwellings at building at Os 383464 279339, Brown Westhead Park, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval - Proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr J Hart and agreed.

24/0564/FUL: Erection of 1 four-bedroom dwelling to replace existing agricultural building with permission for conversion under 23/0859/PNR at land at Os 384162 278701, Wolverley Road, Wolverley.

Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council Recommend Refusal. The fact that this new build turns the existing agricultural building around by 90 degrees totally transforms its impact on the landscape and street view. The new design cannot be considered a "betterment". The new build is clearly a modern building with floor to ceiling glass windows and does not represent a converted agricultural building.

The Parish Council request that this application is considered by the Full Planning Committee. This was proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr J Hart and agreed.

24/0518/ADV: Retrospective advertisement consent for internally illuminated fascia sign and non-illuminated window signs at Cookley Post Office, 2 Bridge Road, Cookley.

Recommend Approval - Proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Cox and agreed.

24/0570/TCA: Various tree works at The Old Vicarage, Wolverley Village.

Recommend Approval subject to Arboricultural Officer - Proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr J Hart and agreed.

24/0614/HOU: Resubmission of previously approved scheme 24/0030/HOU (Demolition and replacement of extensions and associated works) with minor alterations to rear extension footprint and fenestration including Juliet balcony window to rear at Hope Cottage, New Road, Causall.

Recommend Approval - Proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Southam and agreed.

22/0404/OUT: Revised Application

Detailed approval is sought for the six means of access, with all other matters reserved for future determination at Land at Os 386487 279040, Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle.

Cllr Drew advised that the description was incorrect, and that approval is sought for four means of access, two vehicular accesses from Wolverhampton Road, one vehicular access from Stourbridge Road, one vehicular access from Lea Castle Drive.

Cllr Drew advised that the speed limit on the A449 will be reduced to 30mph, and a puffin crossing put in. Highways are now happy with this.

Recommend Approval - Proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Jones and agreed.

Planning Decision Notices;

24/0482/TCA 27 Gaymore Road, Cookley, Permit - Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

110. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Nothing to report.
111. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Cllr Drew / Cllr Southam reported he is doing an excellent job.
112. Parish Council Vacancy - Clerk has received applications; co-option will take place next meeting.
113. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
114. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th November 2024.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Southam and Cookley in Bloom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.11pm

Signed by Chairman - 5th November 2024