

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th November 2024, 7.00pm,
Cookley School, Cookley

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr B Brookes
Mr D Cox
Mr J Hart
Mr M 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: PCSO Kate Easthope.
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman.
District Councillors: Councillors R M Drew, I Hardiman, M J Hart.

115. **Apologies**
No Apologies.

116. **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 C Sherrey in Notice of Appeal 24/O216/PIP as been consulted as a neighbouring property.

Public Question Time:

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

Numerous residents attended the meeting and spoke out vociferously on behalf of the trustees of The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust. They are angry and puzzled by the vote of no confidence taken by the Parish Council at the last meeting. The Chair and Trustees spend an enormous amount of time and effort at the Wolverley Memorial Hall, it is a fantastic venue which has been greatly improved over the last few years and is fully used by many groups and organisations. More recently the addition of the community café is a great asset and hosts regular events. They would like the vote of no confidence to be reversed, and an apology given. The Chair of the trustees thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their support and the support of the Wolverley Councillors.

Cllr Jones, who proposed the vote of no confidence, stated that he supports any club that wants to play tennis, and would like to see people work together to achieve this.

The secretary of Wolverley Tennis Club spoke on two procedural issues.

117. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October 2024 at 7.00pm**

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr John Hart and resolved to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting and these were signed by the Chairman.

118. **To fill vacancy by co-option for a Parish Councillor (Cookley Ward)**

The Chairman advised that two applications had been received however one withdrew just prior to the meeting. The Chair invited the remaining applicant, Maxine Huselbee to introduce herself and say why she would like to become a Parish Councillor. It was unanimously agreed Maxine Huselbee be co-opted as a Parish Councillor for the Cookley Ward. She duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

119. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated;

COOKLEY

Police Ref; 00453_I_02102024 - sometime overnight on 02/20/2024 an IFor Williams 510 has been stolen from a yard on Stourbridge Road, Ismere. It is dark red on the bottom half and grey/white on the top, registration ending in 801. Offenders have driven a 4x4 across three fields and broken-down fencing in order to access the trailer.

We are appealing for information after Dewalt Power tools, including drills, multitool and batteries were stolen from a van in Gaymore Road, Cookley.

The theft occurred at approximately 23.45pm last night 7th October when the items were stolen from the vehicle whilst it was parked on the driveway. .

WOLVERLEY

Nothing of note!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Speed enforcement has been carried out on Franche Road, Wolverley and Castle Road Cookley. One ticket was issued in Cookley to someone speeding at 40mph in a 30mph zone. PCSO Easthope advised that they are rolling out a "next generation" handheld camera that can read number plates from 750 metres away, day and night, the TruCam speed gun device. It can be used in more locations as cars do not need to be pulled in.

PCSO Easthope reported that 2 arrests have been made following a silver transit van in the Stone area lifting drain covers.

Cllr Bordewich advised of several robberies from mailboxes in the Drakelow Lane area, one where identifies had been stolen to obtain cards and loans. PCSO Easthope advised that Action Fraud are dealing with this.

120. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

County Councillor Report;

Cllr Hardiman reported;

Local Issues:

Cookley, A449 Overgrowth of Pavement: I have again visited this run of pavement and walked from opposite The Crescent to Island Pool and whilst some hedge trimming has taken place, there are still Brambles and Hawthorn branches hanging above the pavement at some points and these are a safety hazard for pedestrians. Added to this, the verge is overlapping the pavement for much of the pavement run, reducing the available walking width to typically 18inches only; this causes pedestrians to walk even closer to the road

traffic!

I am very concerned by the lack of completion and resolution of this issue and therefore requested a site meeting by the Highways Liaison Engineer as soon as possible so that he can actually see the degree of hazard present here. Fortunately, the Highways Liaison Engineer agreed to an immediate meeting today and agreed with my findings; he will make contact immediately with the relevant landowners to ensure the hedgerows and trees and bushes are cut back appropriately. The need for Siding -Out is clear but there is a backlog of locations already agreed for such works that for this location it will be in the next financial year.

The Crescent, Residents' concerns regarding the Road Surface and Speeding Vehicles along Lea Castle Drive: I have received communications from several residents expressing their dissatisfaction with the poor condition of the Lea Castle Drive, especially now that it is opened to the through traffic from the Lea Castle Development. The Developer has carried out several utilities works and repairs in the Crescent area adding to the very uneven road surface that exists here already.

I am informed that some of the vehicle owners now driving from and to the new Development are driving inconsiderately and measures are needed to ensure lower speeds in the interests of safety. I therefore requested a site visit by the Highways Liaison Engineer who fortunately agreed to meet today to discuss all issues raised here... In response he confirmed that he will immediately arrange for swift attention to the several potholes and ridges present in the road surface here and will check to establish whether the Developer is required to arrange resurfacing in the Crescent and if not, he will arrange for resurfacing by County Highways, albeit not until the new financial year!

Regarding Vehicle speeds he will arrange for "Speed Data" to be gathered by the County Council's surveillance team in order to identify whether actual speeding is occurring.

Meanwhile he will ask for advice on whether this location would benefit from engineering introductions such as Chicanes!

Wolverley Village, Gullies: I have asked County Highways to visit to ensure these Gullies are clear and ready for the bad weather conditions expected at this time of year: I also have asked for the District Council to attend regularly to remove the likely debris of leaves and branches which may cause gully blockages.

Wolverley , Damaged Bollards opposite the High School: Unfortunately, the newly installed bollards are being damaged/vandalised all too frequently

I have therefore requested sturdier bollards to be installed in replacement. I am awaiting a response from the Highways Liaison Engineer on this.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr Drew gave the 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.

In respect of the refusal of planning consent for three (23/0928) and six (24/0216) affordable self-build plots at Lowe Lane the applicant has formally appealed.

WFDC enforcement officers have visited Wolverley Schools on two separate occasions in October, educating drivers and issuing tickets.

A public local inquiry will review the stopping up and diversion of a length of footpath 635 in Wolverley. The inquiry will be held at Brockencote Hotel, commencing at 10.00am on Tuesday 26th November 2024.

Wyre Forest Issues

Work to commence on our ECV points in our pay and display car parks, by the contractor Flowbird should be over the next few weeks. There will be a mixture of speed types. There has been a slight delay, but we are hopeful work will start soon.

WFDC handed over the Piano Building on 27th August to our contractor Speller Metcalfe (who are doing the Town Hall work too) and they are starting on internal work and work that doesn't require planning permission. The planning application was approved at the September meeting.

WFDC have let the contract for the next phase of the Connectivity Project and work has commenced on the construction of the urban park. The contractors are Shropshire based building and civil engineering contractors McPhillips (Wellington) Limited and as of 21st August they were mobilising. The main body of the work should be done by the end of the year and the Green Space by Spring 2025.

Work on the Creative Hub (The Old Court) as it will be named and so you will see the name start to be used by WFDC and their marketing agents. The building is being marketed now. The building should be handed back to WFDC in December and we hope to hit the ground running with tenants to provide a revenue income. The cabinet had a visit last week and the building is looking fabulous inside,

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has been slightly delayed due to badgers but we are hopeful it will commence very soon!

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

There will be free car parking between 2nd - 24th December between 3-6pm Monday to Friday in all WFDC own car parks. Remember, Weavers Wharf is not a WFDC car park.

121. Financial Matters.

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

42	B J Drew - Salary October 24	£1255.02
43	The Poppy Appeal	£150.00
44	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman October 24	£272.00
45	Worcestershire County Council - Parish Lighting Q2	£3482.46
46	Rain-or-Shine Garden & Grounds Services	£1590.00

122. Community Governance Review - Kidderminster Foreign.

The Chairman explained that Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council are requesting the review to put the new development at Habberley into the Franche and Habberley North area. It was unanimously agreed to support this. Clerk to write to Ian Miller.

123. **Housing Needs Survey Letter.**

Cllr Sherrey expressed disappointment that the letter sent out to residents stated WFDC were carrying out a survey "in partnership" with Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council where in fact there had been no partnership, the Parish Council were just informed it was being done.

If there had of been communication the Parish Council would have advised that the original information session coincided with the start of the Quarry Enquiry. Furthermore, when the letter was sent out with the amended information sessions, it was dated 16th October but not received by households until 23rd October and two of the sessions had already past.

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Bordewich and unanimously agreed Clerk write expressing concerns.

124. **Notice of Appeal 23/0928/OUT - Outline application for the construction of three self-build dwellings at land at Lowe Lane, Wolverley.**

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had originally recommended refusal. There were no further comments.

125. **Notice of Appeal 24/0216/PIP - Permission in principle for the construction of six self-build dwellings and associated works at land at Fairfield Lane, Wolverley.**

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had originally recommended refusal. There were no further comments.

126. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

WFDC No/Details

24/0676/TCA: Works to a tree in a conservation area, Norway Spruce - Fell, Cherry Tree - Fell at 3 Upper Lea Cottages, Lea Lane, Cookley.

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

24/0702/FUL: Conversion of former garage and workshop to one self-build dwelling at Lower Kingsford Farm, Castle Hill, Wolverley.

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

Planning Decision Notices:

24/0570/TCA Permit - Various tree works at The Old Vicarage, Wolverley Village

24/0518/ADV Consent for internally illuminated fascia sign and non-illuminated window signs at former Cookley Post Office, 2 Bridge Road, Cookley.

Appeal Decision Notices:

APP/R1845/W/24/3338779 - Appeal Dismissed, Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane, Wolverley
Erection of a local affordable self-build house.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

127. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Letter received from The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust, NALC Pay Agreement.
128. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
129. Remembrance Sunday. (RD) The Chair advised that in Wolverley Cllrs are to meet for a short service at The Memorial Hall at 10am which will be followed by a parade to the Church, the service, then a parade into the village. Cookley Service is 6.00pm.
130. Planting of Trees in The Crescent, Cookley. The Chair advised that landowner's permission is needed to plant trees in The Crescent. The Clerk will advise Mrs Linda Blakemore.
131. Planting of Trees in Hayes Road, Wolverley. (RD) The Chair advised that trees have been delivered. He has arranged for planting 15th/16th November. The Lengthsman will assist.

132. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
133. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.56pm

Signed by Chairman - 3rd December 2024