

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th February 2025, 7.00pm.
Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr B Brookes
Mr D Cox
Mr M Hart
Ms J Hicks
Ms M Huselbee
Mr D Jones
Mr C Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr A Webber
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: PCSO Becky Ruston
County Councillor: Cllr I Hardiman.
District Councillors: Councillors R M Drew, I Hardiman and M J Hart.

The Chairman advised of an item of Urgent Business to be taken under agenda item 10 Planning Applications for Consideration - re-consultation on 24/0758/HOU, 50 Bridge Road, Cookley. This was agreed.

162. **Apologies**

Cllr J Hart due to holiday, Cllr C Nicholls due to health issues.

163. **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 Cox and Wood in Planning Application 24/0758 as applicant known to them.

Public Question Time:

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

Mr Paul Soden, the applicant, spoke on Planning Application 24/0758.

Mr Macdonald expressed thanks to the Parish Council for their ongoing support over the Quarry and is delighted that the appeal has been dismissed.

164. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2025 at 7.00pm**

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

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

165. **Police Report.**

Written Report had been circulated. PCSO Becky Ruston explained that the Police are now doing one report a month which covers all areas in their patch so that Parishes are aware of crimes in neighbouring villages.

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY

We are appealing for information after a Red Horse Trailer reg similar to VE*8 KVV was stolen from a field on Beechtree Lane at approximately 9.10am this morning. The trailer was believed to be being pulled by a Grey two tone Nissan Navara, registration similar to LN*6 YWG incident reference 00109_I_06012025

22/3217/25 - We are investigating a theft which occurred on Causall Road between Friday 10th January and Saturday 11th January.

Between these times unknown persons have broken into an outbuilding by breaking a padlock. They have then stolen a blue Honda QR50 kid's motorbike.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Just before Christmas (22/12/24) members the team took part in the forces annual drink drive campaign, along with other officers from within the force area. Within a 2.1/2 hour operation, 24 vehicles were stopped and drivers breathalysed, none were positive, which was good news! Multiple traffic offences were reported for speeding and no insurance. During this time our team attended an RTC which did result with an arrest for drug driving.

The new TruCam II speed enforcement device from manufacturer LaserTechUK has arrived on the North Worcestershire area for use by Safer Neighbourhood Teams across Wyre Forest, Redditch and Bromsgrove. There has been a recent increase in both Police Community Support Officers and Police Constables being trained in the use of the device. The TruCam II has a video recording capability and allows officers to capture speeding offences without the requirement for the vehicle to be stopped for processing. The evidence is then sent to the West Mercia Police Road Safety Team to evaluate the evidence and decide on the next course of action. On 26/1/2025 on A448 Chaddesley nr Rowberrys Nursery the TruCam was used and showed 13 offences in 20 minutes with the highest doing 63mph.

166. County / District Councillor Reports.

County Councillor Report:

Cllr Hardiman reported.

Local Issues:

Lea Lane Landslip:

I am pleased to report that County Highways Officers have informed that the landowner of the canal bank where the subsidence occurred has indicated a willingness to talk about allowing access in order to proceed with the construction of a supporting wall prior to restoring the Lane's highway surface. Hopefully we shall soon see works begin on this project to ensure re-opening of the lane to full vehicular access.

Bollards by Wolverley Secondary School:

As previously reported, there is the need to install sturdier replacement bollards that will be resistant to vandalism; the present bollards have been damaged several times. Unfortunately, I am having to chase confirmation that new bollards can be provided. I am meeting with the Highways Engineer this week when I shall urge a response on this safety issue.

Lea Castle/A449 Crossroads, Park Gate Road and A449 The Crescent junction S278 works:

Disappointingly, the Developer who has responsibility for the necessary improvement works, has still not commenced the projects. I have again asked for an update from officers as to when the works will commence.

Wolverley Village Surface Water Drainage:

In response to helpful prompting by local residents of the village, I have again reminded both County Highways and the District Council's Operational Services Management of the need to regularly maintain all of the Drainage channels and gullies, and to clear the frequent debris build up that occurs here.

Caunsall Road Voids:

Several areas of this Road have gaps beneath the highway with cracks in the tarmac visible. Local residents are concerned that there may be resultant subsidence which could cause a serious accident.

Highways Inspectors have explained that the issue is being caused by badgers; however, the road is considered safe presently but how to deal with the badgers' activities is not easy to resolve!

Wolverley Beehcote Avenue Pavement:

I am pleased that Pavement resurfacing has successfully been carried out recently, as had been agreed with County Highways Officers. I will continue to prioritise those pavements which are seriously deteriorating in the interests of safety.

A449 overgrowth on pavement - confirmation siding out will be done using a flail 6th February.

A449 road surface patching - repairs will be carried out 31st March then resurfacing during the summer.

Cllr Cox reported loose kerbstones outside Tesco Express, Cookley causing the pavement to crack, he will forward pictures. Cllr Cox also asked for clarification on who owns the land in Caunsall where the time capsule was buried. Cllr Hardiman will get a Land Registry search undertaken.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Hardiman for getting action on the A449 overgrowth on footpath and looks forward to an improvement.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr Hardiman reported.

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 and continue to monitor all enforcement issues.

We have reported three occurrences of fly-tipping; each time in the laybys in front of Wolverley Woods B4189. Each time WFDC have responded quickly and have conducted searches; looking for evidence which enables prosecution.

Sion Hill enforcement action was taken a month ago which resulted in a clear up of the site including removal of a shipping container. However, residents this week reported that the owners were removing historical iron works from the wall. Officers attended swiftly and placed a Stop Order on the owners and will continue investigations.

Enforcement action was taken to prevent a mobile home being sited on a field on Drakelow Lane (Green Belt); however the owner has now launched an appeal!

Wyre Forest Issues

Work to commence on our ECV points in our pay and display car parks, by the contractor Flowbird will now not take place. This is a major blow but their company has been taken over and the new company is reviewing all potential schemes. They had not signed a contract and their two previous funding partners had pulled out. This is very disappointing news but we are committed to going out to re-tender.

Work on the Creative Hub (The Old Court) Has been completed. The building is being marketed now. The building has been handed back to WFDC and we hope to hit the ground running with tenants to provide a revenue income with large parts of the building already now proposed to be let. The official opening was on 30th January.

Council tax is proposed to increase by 2.99% which is approximately £7 per year on a Band D property or 13 pence per week!

Full Council will make the final decision at its meeting on 26th February.

The Government's White Paper announced on 16th December clearly sets out that all remaining 21 two tier areas will have their council's abolished and a unitary authority must be formed during the lifetime of this Parliament. Whilst we are very disappointed that WFDC will be abolished we understand this clearly the policy of the new government and if we must have a unitary authority we believe that a Worcestershire Unitary Authority would be best, keeping the county together and not merging with anyone outside of Worcestershire. We await the Government's decision which we should know this week. If we are taken forward in the first tranche WFDC would cease to exist in May 2027. If we are not it will most likely be 2028.

167. **Financial Matters.**

a) To agree accounts to be paid. Cllr Sherrey advised that Nathan Turvey had omitted to charge VAT and will therefore send a revised Invoice. Cllr Sherrey proposed approval of all payments, this was seconded by Cllr Webber and unanimously agreed.

66	B J Drew - Salary January 25 plus backpay	£1622.81
67	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman January 25	£119.00
68	DM Payroll Services Ltd Administration of Payroll 1st October 2024 - 31st March 2025	£90.00
69	Worcestershire County Council Parish Streetlighting Quarter 3	£4178.95
70	Nathan Turvey Supply and erect Cookley Christmas Tree	£720.00
71	Garden 4 Less Bench	£399.00
72	TG Builders Merchants Parish Grit	£71.88
73	Cookley in Bloom Entry Fee/Planters/Elizabeth Bache Corner	£279.98
74	Mrs B J Drew Paper/Ink January 25	£10.00

b) Contract Negotiations.

Cllr Sherrey reported that he and Cllr J Hart had met with all three Contractors.

i) Bin Emptying

Mr Dale confirmed he was happy, in principle to renew the contract for the year to March 2026. A 2.5% increase was agreed. The new figure will be £568.61 per month plus VAT. Mr Dale is still to provide a quote for concrete for a base for the 1100litre bins. Mr Dale had expressed concerns over the deterioration of some bins, bins by the Canal and by the former

Cookley Post Office. Cllr Sherrey and J Hart will undertake a sample review of bins and report back to Full Council.

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Brookes and unanimously agreed to renew the bin emptying contract with Mr Dale on terms outlined above.

ii) Grass Cutting

Mr Basketfield confirmed he was happy, in principle to renew the contract for the year to March 2026. He advised that this will be his last year as he is retiring at the end of the season. A 2.5% increase was agreed. The new figure will be £814.50 per month. This equates to an annual figure of £4,072.50.

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed to renew the Grass cutting contract with Mr Basketfield on terms outlined above.

iii) Lengthsman

Mr Hull confirmed he was happy, in principle, to renew the contract for the year to March 2026. A 2.5% increase was agreed. The new figure will be £17.43 per hour. Mr Hull confirmed he had adequate PPE.

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed to renew the Lengthsman contract with Mr Hull on the terms outlined above.

c) Wolverley Planters - financial year 2025/2026.

Cllr Sherrey advised that two quotations have been received by the Clerk.

Rain-or-Shine garden and grounds services - £2992.50 plus VAT

Mr Jason Hull - £2280.00

Cllr Sherrey proposed the Parish Council offer planting of the 13 troughs and 6 baskets across various locations in Wolverley for the financial year 2025-2026 to Mr Jason Hull. This was seconded by Cllr Drew and unanimously agreed. Clerk to write to Mr Hull and to Rain-or-Shine.

168. **Scoping Consultation on the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document.**
Noted.

169. **Damaged Street Lighting Column - Caunsall.**
The Clerk advised that column 245 by the bridge in Caunsall had been knocked over by a tree during Storm Darragh. The Parish Council own the light and will need to have it replaced. The Clerk has notified the Insurance company however Cllr Sherrey advised that ownership of the land the tree was on is trying to be ascertained so the Insurance company can claim from them. Worcestershire County Council have agreed to undertake a Land Registry Search. Cllr Hardiman met Barry Barnes, Highways Engineer on site. He is reporting the damage to the bridge.

170. **Council Policy Review.**
A draft complaints policy and procedure had been circulated by the Clerk. It was proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr Brookes and unanimously agreed that this policy be adopted by Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council. Clerk to put on the website.

171. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**
WFDC No/Details

24/0758/HOU

Re-Consultation - Erection of a new steel access platform, bolted to the rear elevation of 50 Bridge Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Huselbee, seconded Cllr Jones and agreed. (Cllr Cox / Wood abstained)

25/0006/HOU Single storey side extension at 12 The Crescent, Cookley,

Recommend Refusal - Overdevelopment, negative impact on light and privacy to neighbour and breach of 45-degree rule with regard to neighbour's kitchen window, proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Jones and agreed. (Cllr Brookes, Drew and M Hart abstained).

25/0024/TCA Various tree works at Queen's Head, Wolverley Village,

Recommend Approval subject to Tree Officer comments, proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr Hicks and unanimously agreed.

25/0027/HOU Ground and first floor extension at Arthede Revived, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley

Recommend Refusal due to substantial overdevelopment in Green Belt, proposed Cllr Hicks, seconded Cllr Bordewich and unanimously agreed.

Planning Decision Notices.

19/000053/CM Proposed sand and gravel quarry, Lea Castle Farm - Appeal Dismissed.
Cllr Sherrey is delighted with the decision and pleased the Parish Council contributed financially.

24/0807/HOU Little Croft, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley - Permit.

24/0830/CLP Blakeshall Lodge, Solcum Lane, Blakeshall - Refusal of Certificate of Lawfulness.

24/0831/PNH Blakeshall Lodge, Solcum Lane, Blakeshall - Larger Home Extension Prior Approval Refused.

Appeal against a Planning Enforcement Notice

24/00169/ENFLand at Os 382780 279631, Drakelow Lane, Wolverley. Comments sent to Planning Inspectorate - Agree with actions taken by WFDC.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

172. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust are delighted to take possession of steel and will liaise regarding date for collection.
173. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Cllr Drew and Southam have given him lists of work.
174. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Lea Castle Village - concerns from residents.
175. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4th March 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.49pm

Signed by Chairman - 4th March 2025