

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st April 2025, 7.00pm.
Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

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

189. **Apologies**

Cllr Cox due to work commitments, Cllr C Nicholls due to health issues and West Mercia Police.

190. **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.

Public Question Time:

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and asked for any speakers. There were no speakers.

191. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2025 at 7.00pm**

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr C Sherrey, seconded Cllr J Hart 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;

192. **Police Report.**

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY - Priorities April - June 25- Speeding / ASB / Burglaries

00121_I_06032025 -

Beechtree lane, Ismere - theft of a Coachman Acadia 660 Caravan. Stolen between the 5th and 6th March, from behind locked gates.

00201_I_15032025 - Gaymore Road - Attempt break into detached garage - Between 13/03/2025 20.00hrs and 15/03/2025 09.00hrs unknown persons have entered rear garden possibly via an unlocked gate and used an unknown tool to attempt to gain entry to a free-standing garage in the rear garden of the property. At 03:40hours on 14/03/2025 victim has been woken by a noise and seen two figures on his neighbour's drive get into a white hatchback.

131_I_16032025 Castle Road, Cookley - At 3.50hrs cameras activated on a property and a male was seen approaching a front door. He was dressed all in black with a hood up. We believe the male was disturbed by the camera alarm sounding and he ran off. Neighbours report seeing another male as a look out.

00293_I_16032025 - Vehicle Crime - Grey Subaru was stolen without keys from a layby on Caunsall Road between 1515hrs on Saturday 15th March and 1515hrs on Sunday 16th March.

Anti-Social Behaviour - Cookley Playing Fields - We have received reports from local residents and members of the parish council relating to youths on electric bikes riding across the playing fields and acting in an anti-social manner towards locals who challenge their behaviour. We continue to patrol and have engaged with some cars that we have found on the car park. On one occasion we did see youths on electric bikes, but on seeing police they sped off across the field.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On 18th and 19th March we have been out enforcing at various locations within our beat areas, including Castle Road, Cookley, Habberley Lane, and Stone Hill to name but a few. This will continue to be done across all areas.

193. County / District Councillor Reports.

County Councillor Report:

Cllr Hardiman reported.

A449 Pavement Overgrowth between Castle Rd and Island Pool:

In response to Cllr David Jones request for further investigation into the standard of pavement clearance/hedge trimming, I took the WCC Highways Liaison Engineer to see this location. In response, Mr Barry Barnes agrees that these works have not been completed to an acceptable standard and he will arrange for further attention a.s.a.p.

Lea Castle S278/A449 Crossroads & A449 The Crescent Junction Works:

I have been informed that WFDC Planners have clearly placed the onus on County Highways officers to move these works forward with the Developer. I have asked for an urgent response from County Highways but at the time of writing, I have still not received details of when the works will commence.

Cookley Village Damaged Pavement by Kerb:

I have prompted the Highways Liaison Engineer that attention has not yet been given to this safety issue.

Wolverley, Sladd Lane Gullies:

I took the Highways Liaison Engineer to inspect the gullies and he agreed to arrange necessary jetting to ensure efficient water drainage here.

Cookley, Park Gate Road Pavement Overgrowth:

I have chased this unattended issue with the Highways Liaison Engineer.

Caunsall, Former Pub Car Park:

The Highways Liaison Engineer has offered to meet with residents to show them that indeed the outer margin of this plot is in County Council's ownership.

The Crescent, Tree Planting: Unfortunately, it has been established by a land registry search that the Green(s) are in the ownership of some residences here and therefore, WCC will not /cannot provide permission for tree planting here; and will not pursue this subject further.

Lea Lane Wall Down: The Highways Liaison Engineer has written to the landowner asking for this wall to be made safe and the debris to be cleared.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Hardiman for his work as County Councillor over the last eight years.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr Drew 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 received further complaints from residents of Brown Westhead Park regarding parking issues during the weekends caused by overspill parking for people attending the football pitches. The signs we had Wyre Forest District Council install requesting parking being restricted to the one side of the road appear to be being tampered with and turned around. We have requested Wyre Forest District Council to find a more secure solution to fixing them.

The enforcement action taken on land at Drakelow Lane has now resulted in an appeal which will be held on 15th April, 10.00am at the Rock and Kidderminster Room, Wyre Forest House, Kidderminster DY11 7WF.

Wyre Forest Issues

Hurcott Pools and Wood nature reserve was closed to the public in December 2024 after severe damage from Storm Darragh.

Our rangers and contractor have been working hard over the last few months to make the site safe again. Dangerous and leaning trees have now been cleared from the paths and the reserve will reopen this week on Friday 28 March.

Following a feasibility study conducted by WSP and Hemingway Design a proposal will be going to Wyre Forest District Councils Cabinet to create 148 new homes on the former Glades Leisure site. The development will also improve connectivity by enhancing pedestrian and cycle routes, reducing reliance on cars, and promoting sustainable living.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will discuss the study at its meeting on Thursday 3 April. Any recommendations from that meeting will then be considered at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 8 April. Both meetings will be available to view online on the Council's website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/streaming.

Wyre Forest District Council has pledged additional support for Bewdley Town Centre with plans for a new commercial space and wine bar at Bewdley Museum.

The exciting plans, aimed at enhancing the vitality of the town, include a new commercial space and wine bar at the front of the heritage Museum building. The idea is to attract more people to visit and stay in town during the daytime and into the evening when they can also visit the existing eateries and pubs.

The project will be funded through a £190,567 grant allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This is in addition to the £167,049 of UKSPF grant funding in the 2022-2025 round for the renovation of part of the exterior stonework of St Anne's Church and for the completion of an outline design to transform the interior into a Community Hub, which brings the total funding for Bewdley to £357,616.

194. **Financial Matters.**

The following accounts had been agreed to be paid by scheme of delegation to ensure payment before 31st March 25.

82	B J Drew - Salary March 2025	£1291.82
83	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman March 2025	£408.00

84	Mrs B J Drew Paper/Ink March 2025	£10.00
85	WCC Parish Street Lighting Quarter 4	£3482.46
86	Inland Revenue Tax and NI January - March 25	£802.04
87	Mrs B J Drew Expenses - 1st October 24 - 31st March 25	£117.94
1	Leedan Packaging Limited Black Sacks	£111.24

195. **Community Governance Review**

Cllr M Hart commented that the Parish Council set aside a budget for the Community Governance Review to communicate with residents and talked about a flyer going to all households setting out the facts. Cllr M Hart proposed that the Parish Council produce a flyer to include information for residents on the Community Governance Review and Local Advisory Poll where they will be asked if they would like separate Parish Councils. Presently Wolverley & Cookley is represented by 14 councillors (7 for Wolverley and 7 for Cookley - including Lea Castle). If there were 3 parish councils, Wolverley would have 7 councillors, Cookley 7 and Lea Castle 8, giving a much greater local representation. The District Council will make a decision following the Local Advisory Poll at their meeting in July 2025.

Cllr M Hart suggests delegation be given to the Chair / Vice Chair to produce the flyer. This was seconded by Cllr Webber and approved with 10 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr Huselbee advised that at a recent CALC meeting comments had been made that parish councils should merge to increase standing. Cllr M Hart stated that very small parish councils may wish to cluster but we are so large with over 4,000 electors that it would be better to separate as we have distinct communities.

In the event of a split, ownership of council owned assets within the parishes would be discussed with the Chief Executive.

Cllr Drew asked for approval for the cost of printing the flyer, Cllr Sherrey is happy this is covered in the budget and all agreed to the payment.

196. **Damaged Street Lighting Column - Caunsall**

The Clerk advised that Column 245 in Caunsall that was knocked down by a tree in Storm Darragh is not covered by Insurance as it was an "act of god". The Council streetlights are covered for Fire, Malicious Damage, and Impact.

The Chair asked if the Parish Council want to replace the column and it was proposed Cllr Sherrey, Cllr Webber and agreed that it should be replaced.

Cllr J Hart felt strongly that we should replace the column but should challenge the Insurance Company. Cllr Huselbee who deals with Insurance advised that no company would cover acts of God. Cllr Hicks echoed this.

It was agreed the Risk Committee should look at the policy in more detail before the next renewal. Cllr M Hart suggested asking CALC if they are aware of any insurers that would cover this.

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

25/0147/PNH FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Single storey rear extension at 3 Blakeshall Cottages, Gipsy Lane, Blakeshall, Wolverley.

25/0170/TPO - Crown lift and removal of lower branches of Old English Yew at the Old Post Office, Wolverley Village. Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr Bordewich and agreed.

25/0232/S73 - Variation of condition 2 (materials) and condition 14 (approved plans) attached to Planning Approval 24/0171/FUL at Townsend House, The Shortyard, Wolverley. Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr J Hart, seconded Cllr Webber and agreed.

25/0230/HOU - Two storey side extension at Honey Top Farm, Bridgnorth Road. Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr Bordewich and agreed.

25/0248/FUL - Demolition and re-provision of the changing rooms pavilion at land at Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle. Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Jones and agreed.

Planning Decision Notices.

25/0027/HOU	Arthede Revived, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley - Refusal
25/0081/HOU	Sebright Cottage, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley - Permit
25/0121/AG	Land at Causall Road, Causall - Permit

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

198. Clerks Report. Nothing to report.
199. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
200. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
201. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th May 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed by Chairman - 6th May 2025