

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th May 2025, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PCSO Alice Owen-Jones
County Councillor: Councillor Jenny Shaw
District Councillors: Councillors Robin Drew, Ian Hardiman and Marcus Hart.

Cllr Robin Drew thanked all Councillors for their hard work and support during his year as Chairman. He reported that at the Local Advisory Poll held last week Wolverley, Cookley and Lea Castle overwhelmingly voted in support of having separate Parish Councils. Residents in Weavers Chase and on the Sion hill school development voted overwhelmingly to remain in the Parish of Wolverley and Cookley.

1. Election of Chairman

Proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr J Hart and RESOLVED that Councillor Ben Brookes be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year with 9 for and 3 abstentions.

2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Duly completed.

The Chairman advised of an item of Urgent Business regarding a Freedom of Information request received from Wolverley Tennis Club. It was unanimously agreed this be discussed at agenda item 7.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Proposed Cllr M Hart, seconded Cllr J Hart and RESOLVED that Councillor Robin Drew be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year with 10 for and 2 abstentions.

4. Apologies

Cllr A Webber due to holiday. It was proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed to consent to the absence of Cllr C Nicholls due to continuing ill health.

5. 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. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Bordewich 25/0237/TCA as next to her property. Correspondence from Wolverley Tennis - Cllr J Hart as Parish Council representative to The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust, Cllr M Hart declared an ORI as an employee of the solicitors firm who acted on the licence to assign and will leave the room if the urgent business is relating to the integrity of legal advice received otherwise he has no interest and will take part in the debate.

Public Question Time

A question was asked by a resident what will happen with the election of Parish Councillors after the split. Cllr M Hart advised that elections for Wolverley, Cookley and Lea Castle would take place in May 2027.

A resident expressed concern regarding the proposed National Trust works at Kinver Edge and Blakeshall Common and feels that the felling of conifer woodland should not take place.

6. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st April 2025 at 7.00pm

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr J Hart and unanimously 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:

7. Urgent Business - Freedom of Information Request

The Clerk advised that a Freedom of Information Request had been received from Wolverley Tennis Club on 2nd May 2025. As a response is required within 20 working days this will need to be dealt with before the next Parish Council Meeting. It was proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr Brookes and unanimously agreed that the response be agreed by the Urgent Business Committee under the Scheme of Delegation.

8. **To receive Councillors Reports:**

County Councillor Report:

Councillor Jenny Shaw thanked all Councillors for welcoming her. As she was only elected four days ago, she has no report tonight but is happy to take on any issues. Cllr Drew asked Cllr Shaw if she could provide an update at the next meeting on the opening of Lea Lane and on the safer routes to school.

Cllr Cox commented that Cllr Hardiman had done some great work, and he hoped we can have the same dialogue with Cllr Shaw. Cllr Cox also stressed that Lea Lane needs opening.

District Councillor Report: Report previously circulated.

We have been dealing with the usual casework, planning issues, planning enforcement issues and reporting litter on the main A roads.

Development at Lea Castle is well under way and the majority of the 600 homes are built, we are in regular liaison with the residents' association on a number of issues and Robin and Marcus attended their last residents meeting held in April. We are tackling Bovis Homes on a number of issues.

The application for the additional 800 houses for land released from the Green Belt has still to be determined by the WFDC planning committee. There are considerable pre-application discussions ongoing regarding the various matters, highways, s.106 contributions, viability etc...

You will be aware that WFDC undertook a community governance review and the local advisory poll was held on 1st May, last Thursday on the day of the WCC elections to consult the whole parish on the future make up of the parish council(s). We are pleased that the results show a clear mandate and will by all residents to have their own parish councils in their respective areas and that the proposal to move parts of the parish of Wolverley into the town of Kidderminster will also be strongly rejected. The final decision will be made by WFDC at its July full council meeting.

Full Council meets on 14th May to elect the new Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Council and all of the chairman and vice-chairman of the committees and appoint councillors to various outside bodies and set the municipal calendar for 25-26.

Local Government Reorganisation continues, and we await the response from Government to Worcestershire's proposals.

9. **Police Report**

Written report circulated:

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

COOKLEY

In Cookley we have had reports of youths on e-bikes and scooters, going along Lea Lane and riding onto the playing fields causing damage to the grass. These are reported to be in groups of up to 20, mostly male but some females with them. One male has blonde curly hair with a little scar on his face. If you know who any of this group may be you can call crime stoppers on 0800 555 111 where your call will be anonymous, or you can email Kidderminster North Safer Neighbourhood Team at kidderminsternorth.snt@westmercia.police.uk please quote incident reference 00462_I_16042025

There has also been reports from The Crescent, Cookley where a quad bike and e-scooters are being ridden anti socially reference 00356_I_16042025 relates.

TO NOTE: Electrical scooters (e-scooters) come under the category of "powered transporters". This covers a range of personal transport devices that are powered by a motor. E-Scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988, meaning that the rules that apply to motor vehicles also apply to e-scooters, including the need to have a licence and insurance. It is not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, meaning it is illegal to use them on a road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements and shopping centres. If you are caught using an e-scooter that is privately owned in public you risk the vehicle being seized under section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance

We are appealing for information after tools were stolen from a boot of a car yesterday evening between 19.00 - 19.30pm

The theft occurred on Castle Road, Cookley. A VW Passatt silver or grey in colour and with dark alloys was seen pulling up alongside the car. The thieves entered the boot without causing damage and stole a number of Dewalt, Snap on, Mac, Knipex and Whitworth tools.

We are keen to hear from anyone who may have any information relating to the theft of these items or that may have been in the area around the time of the incident and heard or seen anything suspicious.

WOLVERLEY

We are appealing to Wolverley community for information following a burglary at a home in the Kingsford / Sheepwash Lane area. The burglary took place between 11pm on Friday 25th April 2025 and 8am Saturday 26th April.

Offenders have effected entry to a stable block and garage, searching the buildings. Fortunately nothing appears to have been stolen at this time. Did you see anything suspicious or have any information that might help enquiries?

Please get in touch with us by calling 101 and quoting investigation number 22/36871/25.

Further to the above we have had more reports made to us 22/36956/25, 22/37033/25, 22/37428/25 and 00146_I_30042025 - these relate to incidents where outbuildings, sheds and vehicles have been entered in and around the rural Wolverley area.

Cllr Jones commented on the youths on scooters and e bikes and has made reports to 101. Cllr Jones was interested in the comments that e scooters need to have a licence and insurance and stressed the need for police presence and for bikes to be taken off the youths. Cllr Southam enquired whether the TruCam device can be used at night as there are some excessive speeds in Castle Road between 9.45 and 10pm. Cllr Drew asked why the theft of two electric bikes in Wolverley Village was not on the report. PCSO Owen-Jones will look into this. Cllr Bordewich asked why residents who had burglaries from sheds behind Wolverley House and valuable equipment was taken, they provided CCTV to the Police and have now been informed cases have been dropped. PCSO Owen-Jones advised they make a complaint.

Cllr Brookes thanked the Police for their continued support in our Parish.

10. Appointment of Statutory/Standing Committees.

It was proposed Cllr Brookes, seconded Cllr M Hart and unanimously agreed the following representatives be approved.

(a)	Grants	-	Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr C Nicholls, Mr A Webber
(b)	Risk Management	-	Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr J Hart, Mr C Nicholls
(c)	Staffing	-	Mr M Hart, Mr C Nicholls
(d)	Parish Forum / Wyre Forest Area CALC Meetings	-	Chairman, Vice Chairman
(e)	Cookley Playing Fields Association	-	Mr D Jones
(f)	Wolverley Memorial Hall	-	Mr J Hart
(g)	Wolverley Charities	-	Mr C Nicholls (Cookley)
(h)	Community Emergency Committee	-	Mr C Sherrey (Wolverley), Mr D Jones (Cookley)
(i)	Liaison link with Lengthsman	-	Mr R Drew (Wolverley), Mr W Southam (Cookley)
(j)	Allotments	-	Mrs V Bordewich
(k)	Parish Council Police Liaison	-	Mr R Drew

Cllr Brookes asked if any Cookley Ward Councillor would like to replace Cllr Nicholls on his committees whilst he is unable to attend. Cllr Cox is happy to do this and this was unanimously agreed.

11. To discuss and agree approval of Annual Subscriptions.

The Clerk advised the Insurance Renewal has not yet been received and will be advised in due course. It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Drew and unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Subscriptions.

- a) Worcestershire - CALC £1510.05
- b) Insurance - £
- c) ICO - £47.00

11. Financial Matters:

- a) To approve accounts for payment.

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed to approve the accounts for payment.

2	Outpost Custom (Already Approved)	366.00
3	B J Drew - Salary April 2025	£1291.82
4	Mr Jason Hull - Lengthsman April 2025	£244.04
5	Mr Jason Hull - Materials	£10.95
6	Mrs B J Drew Paper/Ink April 2025	£10.00
7	Worcestershire CALC Annual Subscription	£1510.15
8	Mr Keith Basketfield	£814.50
9	Mrs B J Drew Stamps - CGR leaflets £87.00 Envelopes / Rubber Bands - CGR leaflets £14.98	£101.98
10	Wolverley Carnival Field Stall Application	£25.00

b) To approve amendment to Standing Order for Bin Emptying

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Bordewich and unanimously agreed to approve the amendment of Standing Order to T & A Dale to £682.33 per month (as per agreed 2.5% increase)

c) Parish Council Accounts 2024/2025

These have been drafted and are being delivered to the Internal Auditor on 8th May. Allen Hughes has advised he will be retiring after this year.

12. **To note Standing Orders.** Noted

13. **To note Financial Regulations.** Noted.

The Clerk advised that new model Financial Regulations have just been issued. Clerk and Cllr Sherrey will review and circulate.

14. **To note agreed Code of Conduct.** Noted, new LGA code has been adopted.

15. **To note Scheme of Delegation - Planning / Finance / Urgent Business.**

It was proposed Cllr Brookes, seconded Cllr Sherrey and unanimously agreed the following be approved.

Finance - Cllrs J Hart, V Bordewich, D Jones, W Southam

Urgent Business - Chair, Vice Chair, Cllrs M Hart, J Wood

Planning - Clerk following majority decision after consultation and comments from Councillors.

16. **To note arrangements in place for Risk Management and Chairman to sign Risk Review Log for the year ended 31st March 2025.** (Risk Log circulated prior to meeting).

Noted - Chairman signed the Risk Review Log.

17. **To discuss Contracts.**

a) Lengthsman

b) Bin Emptying/Litter Picking

c) Grass Cutting

Cllr Sherrey reported all contracts for 2025/2026 have been signed.

18. **Consultation - National Trust Application to the Forestry Commission for Kinver Edge Heathland Restoration.**

Cllr Drew is happy to respond to the consultation in support of the application to fell an area of conifer woodland whilst retaining tree cover to restore a mosaic of predominantly open lowland heath with patchy tree and shrub cover at Kinver Edge and Blakeshall Common. Cllr Huselbee stated that some people in Cookley do have concerns about this. Cllr Cox asked that in light of the comment in Public Question Time and concerns expressed by some Cookley residents could the response reflect the concerns. Cllr Drew was happy with this. Cllr Huselbee will supply the concerns and Cllr Drew will factor these in. This was proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr J Hart and agreed.

19. **Stop the Quarry final AGM.**

Cllr Sherrey reported that he and Cllr Bordewich had attended the AGM and Cllr Sherrey spoke on behalf of the Parish Council to thank residents and campaigners. Cllr Sherrey advised that the committee thanked the Parish Council for the monies given and for the support at every stage of the campaign.

20. **To discuss drone flying at events in the Parish.**

Cllr Huselbee stated that she does not want to stop drone flying but some people who have organised events in Cookley have expressed concerns raised about drone flights during events when the organiser has specifically advised that they have no liability insurance for 'overflights'. The advice is to ask for copy of insurance and drone identifier number and Cllr Huselbee asked if the Parish Council should be asking for this and sending letters to people having events and offering support in case of any incident or injury. Cllr Wood, as Chair of Cookley Village Hall and Playing Fields Association stated that they don't allow drones to be launched from the site. Cllr Jones proposed that a letter be sent to CVHPFA and TWMCCT advising that copy of insurance and drone identifier number should be obtained if a drone is flying at an event. Cllr Drew advised that the control of drone flying comes under Worcester Regulatory Services so if a letter is sent it should be clear it is not a Parish Council responsibility. Cllr Drew is happy to second the proposal with this amendment, this was agreed.

21. **To discuss additional litterbins in Cookley.**

Cllr Huselbee reported that at some point she would like additional litter bins in Cookley in Elm Close, Kimberlee Avenue and Westhead Road. Cllr M Hart advised that the Parish Council have just agreed the Bin Contract for 25/26 so it would be sensible to look at this when the contract for 26/27 is being negotiated. This was agreed.

22. **To discuss email address held by the Parish Council.**

The Clerk reported that Worcestershire CALC have advised that every authority must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain, for example clerk@.....gov.uk or clerk@.....org.uk rather than @gmail.com.

Cllr M Hart proposed that the Parish Council do this, this was seconded by Cllr Sherrey and unanimously agreed.

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

WFDC No/Details

25/0119/S73 Removal of Conditions 2 (Agricultural tie) and 3 (Personal Permission) attached to planning approval ref: KR 57/66 at Greenways, Austcliffe Lane, Cookley,
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Huselbee and agreed.

25/0193/PNH FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Single storey rear extension (6 metres in depth) at 2 Beehcote House, Mill Lane, Wolverley,

25/0194/PNH FOR INFORMATION ONLY - First floor extension 3 m beyond original rear wall of house at 2 Beehcote House, Mill Lane, Wolverley,

25/0237/TCA Various tree works at Frogmore Cottage, Drakelow Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr J Hart, seconded Cllr Sherrey and agreed.

25/0252/HOU Single storey side and rear extensions at Foxwood, 5 Mill Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr J Hart and agreed.

25/0263/HOU Proposed ground mounted solar panels at Brookfield Cottage, Lowe Lane, Wolverley,
Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr J Hart, seconded Cllr Sherrey and agreed.

25/0276/NMA Replace two windows with bi-fold doors to side elevation at land at Os 384162 278701, Wolverley Road, Wolverley.
Recommend Refusal, proposed Cllr Bordewich, seconded Cllr J Hart. Cllr M Hart also requested this be determined by the WFDC Planning Committee. This was unanimously agreed.

Planning Appeals

24/00213/ENF Land at Os 383860 278450 Badland Avenue, Kidderminster - Appeal against unauthorised removal of iron railings and partial demolition of Grade II listed Brick Boundary Wall.

Planning Decisions

24/0702/FUL Refusal - Conversion of former garage and workshop to 1 self-build dwelling at Lower Kingsford Farm, Castle Hill, Wolverley.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

24. Clerks Report (Clerk). Mayor Making Ceremony Thursday 15th May, 7.30pm St. Georges Church, CALC meeting 12th June, Shatterford Village Hall, Chairman's Meeting 15th May, 6.00pm, Wyre Forest House.
25. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. (RD/WS) Cllr Southam and Cllr Drew advised Mr Hull is doing an excellent job.
26. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
27. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd June, 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.04pm