

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st July 2025, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

Mr D Cox
Mr R Drew
Mr J Hart
Ms J Hicks
Mr D Jones
Mr C Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr A Webber
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: PC Ryan Bridgwood
County Councillors: Councillor J Shaw (Wolverley, Cookley & Wribbenhall)
District Councillors: Councillors R Drew

40. Apologies

Cllr V Bordewich due to another commitment, Cllr B Brookes due to holiday, Cllr M Huselbee due to work commitments and Cllr M J Hart due to attendance at conference. It was proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Sherrey and unanimously agreed to consent to the absence of Cllr C Nicholls due to continuing ill health.

41. 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. None declared.

Public Question Time

No Public Questions

42. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June 2025 at 7.00pm

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr R Drew 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;

43. Police Report

Report circulated.

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY - Priorities July - September 25- Speeding / ASB / Burglaries

Vehicle Crime - 99_I_20062025/132_I_20062025/211_I_20062025 Vehicle Crime - overnight on 20/06/2025 Several vehicles parked on Sebright Road and Hayes Road had damage caused to their vehicles.

Theft - 00108_I_02062025 - Elm Place, COOKLEY. 29/05/2025 between 10:00hrs and 13:30hrs - Dustbin stolen from front garden

We are appealing for your help following the theft of White Smart Car convertible with a red roof, from Lionfields Road in Cookley between 02/06/2025 16:00 hours and 03/06/2025 06:30hours. We would like to hear from you if you witnessed this incident or may have any doorbell camera footage available. Anyone with information is asked to contact West Mercia Police quoting Incident reference 00060_I_03062025.

Vehicle Crime - We are appealing for cctv footage relating to a Grey Audi Quattro A4 Estate, registration GV*9 HSX that was stolen from a driveway in Hurcott Rise, off Albrighton Drive, Kidderminster yesterday 20th June at approximately 15.00hrs without keys. Offenders were seen arriving in an Audi Convertible registration ending FBW. Two males were seen getting out of this vehicle and then proceeded to steal the Audi A4. They are described as wearing shorts, hoodies and balaclava's

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We are also planning some "walk and talk"/ van surgeries patrols around our various areas which we would like councillors to attend if possible. I'm just finalising the dates, so should be able to send onto you by the end of today.

We have done speed enforcement where words of advice and also tickets have been issued. We will continue to do speed enforcement throughout July where we have days of action planned. We have put in a bid for the TRU CAM which we share across the force, so will be on areas using this also.

Cllr Southam reported ongoing issues with scooters and bikes in Cookley, Cllr Drew advised they are coming along the towpath.

Cllr Jones thanked the police for their presence at Cookley Playing Fields carpark.

44. To receive Councillors Reports; County Councillor Report;

Cookley, Wolverley, Wribbenhall Divison - Cllr J Shaw reported.

Some good news to start with, the bollards outside Wolverley High school we replaced with newer more robust ones on the Friday 13th and Monday 16th June. Two weeks ago, I chased up the BT phone line that was down on Shatterford lane as it had impeded the county council's ability to cut the verge, in fact it had become victim to the flail mower. It had been down since storm Darragh, it seems they had no log of this and once notified Openreach were out within 4 hours. I have logged the blocked drains Wolverley end on Shatterford Lane, it is over 4 years since they were last cleared so they should be on schedule to be done soon anyway. Hopefully I will have an update on when this work will be carried out soon. The three streetlights in Caunsall that are not working. The streetlight that was damaged by the tree by the bridge has now been disconnected by National Grid in readiness for its replacement however they have discovered a fault in the supply to other street lighting in the village. This will need another road closure and at the present it is with National Grid Technicians to programme a date for the work to be done. They have a 3-month target date for work such as this, but they have assured me they will plan the work as soon as they can. The recent temporary Traffic Lights outside the Lock on the Wolverley Road. Severn Trent put up temporary traffic lights on the 16.06.25. No permit had been sought for this work and as such County were not aware till later in the week that this work was going on and that people were experiencing significant delays to their travel time. I just want to assure you that this has been taken seriously, it has been escalated to the top at Severn Trent, and they will be fined. It was a commuter that alerted me to this as he could not find the road work notification on One network. My point is really the sooner we find out about unauthorized work the sooner we as a county can do something about it. Obviously if it's an emergency work will need to take place but we can put stipulations on the job such as having the lights maned to avoid significant delay on one side. I have had a site meeting today on Lea Lane, last month I reported that the CC were starting the motions of compulsory purchase of land adjacent to

the slip, the landowners have since come back to the table to start discussions so this will be explored first as there is a significant cost associated with compulsory purchase and it would have to go out to public consultation. I will say that at the moment the new administration is exploring all potential options as to the status of the lane that considers the cost benefit to the taxpayer. Our main purpose for the visit today was to try and get the lane tidied up somewhat. We are looking at getting the concrete blocks moved so that they will be in sight of residential properties to deter the reoccurrence of fly tipping in the lane. The temporary fencing that was once around the slip re-instated, but to help with this I am hoping for some cooperation from the district council, the lane is badly in need of strimming along the edges and sweeping, particularly where the slip is so that County have the room to reinstate a fence. We are also looking at improving the signage at the end of the lane by the lock pub as we feel it is not giving a very good impression particularly to all the visitors Wolverley attracts.

Cllr Jones reported that the siding out just after the entrance to The Crescent needs doing as a matter of urgency, it should be safe for residents to walk.

Cllr Drew stated there is nothing on County issues and enquired what is the view of WCC on this. Cllr Shaw responded that they do want one Unitary Authority, it would be a disaster to split services up in a North / South split.

Chaddesley Division - Cllr M Hart reported.

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors. Please accept my apologies but I am away on council business.

Lea Castle Issues

As reported in May, the main issue pertaining to this area is highways. The road and highway network for the development of the 600 houses is not yet adopted. At the time of typing this report I have chased an update with a senior highways officer at WCC.

I am also chasing an update as to when the highway infrastructure work will commence at the main traffic light junction at the A449/Park Gate Drive for the installation of the pedestrian link, pelican crossing and amending the junction to allow for a right turn, the redevelopment of the footpath linking Lea Castle Drive to the A449, together with the pelican crossing and refuge for the A449 between The Crescent and Castle Road.

Since the May report, I have received this update from WCC:-

- None of the 5 individual Section 38 Agreements covering Phase 1 Lea Castle have been signed by the joint developers Homes England / Vistry. Until the Agreements are signed, the adoption process cannot commence.
- The build of the scheme remains unfinished with the majority of the carriageways / footways without final surfacing. We understand that final surfacing to the main spine road - running from Park Gate Road to The Crescent - as well as the majority of minor access roads is scheduled for late summer 2025 by the developers (to be confirmed).
- Phase 2 Lea Castle is currently being considered via the Planning system (800 residential units + employment / School / Care Home). This may impact the overall adoption process of certain aspects of the internal infrastructure.

I am aware of the above broadly and so have asked for further details on timeline.

I responded back to the resident regarding trees on the A449/The Crescent setting out what land was owned by WCC and what wasn't.

Strategic Issues County Wide

By way of a brief devolution and unitary update, the Government has now formally written to the County Council and the six district Councils with its initial feedback from our initial submission.

WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21 st March and final proposals by 28 th November.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet met on 20 th March to agree to support a Worcestershire Unitary Council and agree the interim plan. We now await to hear from Government on the next steps which is expected in the next few weeks. This feedback was due some weeks ago and is now scheduled for 3 rd June, the day of this meeting and so I may be able to provide an update.

Given that the Leader has appointed a Cabinet Member for 'One Worcestershire' I had assumed they supported a one unitary authority for Worcestershire. However, at the recent Worcestershire Leader's Board meeting held on 25 th June for the 7 county wide leaders the Leader indicated they have not yet agreed their position on Local Government Reorganisation. They have also not agreed a position on a footprint for a strategic authority.

As it presently stands the Government are scheduled to make a decision in April 2026 albeit I can see this being delayed until after the local elections in May 2026. Between 28 th November and their decision they need to undertake statutory consultation.

There are 10 members in the Cabinet, 4 from Redditch, 3 from Wyre Forest, 1 from Worcester City, 1 from Malvern Hills and 1 from Wychavon. Cabinet met on 26 th June for the first time to approve the 24-25 financial outturn accounts. This was presented by the Deputy Leader of the Council as the Cabinet Member for Finance actually sent apologies for the meeting. This was the only item on the agenda.

District Councillor Report; Report previously circulated.
Cllr Robin Drew reported.

Local Issues

Following complaints from residents regarding illegal/inconsiderate parking around Wolverley Sebright Primary School WFDC CEO`s have attended the area to educate and enforce TRO`s

WFDC Planning Enforcement Officers have continued monitoring sites at Sion Hill, Wyre Mill Lane and Drakelow Lane for unauthorised activity following concerns raised by residents.

Fly tipping was reported on Lea Lane and WFDC have investigated the contents and removed them.

Wyre Forest Issues

Wyre Forest District Council awarded funding to tackle the sticky issue of chewing gum on district's streets

A grant from the Chewing Gum Task Force, administered by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, will help Wyre Forest District Council clean up gum and reduce gum littering.

Wyre Forest District Council is putting plans in place to remove the chewing gum that blights local streets after receiving a £27,500 grant to tackle the issue.

The council is one of 52 across the country that have successfully applied to the Chewing Gum Task Force, now in its fourth year, for funds to clean gum off pavements and prevent it from being littered again.

Work begins at Brinton Park

Work is now underway on our improvement project at Brinton Park. Our contractors are busy with the construction of an artificial badger sett, which will relocate badgers that are already living in the park. This important first stage will allow work on the Sons of Rest Pavilion to begin in the Summer.

The Sons of Rest Pavilion, which has serious structural issues, will be replaced with a new building that keeps its historic charm and adds a café, terrace, ornamental pond, and improved landscaping. The project has been made possible thanks to a grant of £2.4 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

EV chargers update

We have appointed a new contractor, Otaski, to carry out the installation of 62 electric vehicle chargers (providing 124 sockets) across 17 council-owned car parks in Kidderminster, Bewdley, and Stourport-on-Severn. This includes car parks at Green Street and Wyre Forest House.

This new appointment comes after our previous contractor withdrew from the project.

The installation will come at no cost to the Council and will also generate a new income stream through revenue sharing from the charging infrastructure.

Work is expected to begin in the summer, starting with Kidderminster car parks.

45. **Financial Matters. To agree the schedule of accounts to be paid.**

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Southam and unanimously approved the schedule of payments be paid.

46. **Consultations:**

- a) Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document
- b) Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document

It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Webber and unanimously agreed these be noted.

47. **Natural Networks - Biodiversity Grant.**

Clerk to forward details to Cllr Southam and Cllr Wood.

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

25/0386/HOU Installation of disabled access platform lift at 91 Castle Road, Cookley,
Recommend Approval - Proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed.

25/0453/HOU Demolition of existing single storey side garage and replacement with new
shower room, cloakroom and kitchen extension at 62 Castle Road, Cookley.
Recommend Refusal - Proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed. Exceeds
the existing building line.

Planning Decision Notices.

25/0358/HOU Sion Hill Lodge, Sion Hill, Wolverley - Permit.

25/0385/PNR Barn at Honey Top Farm, Bridgnorth Road - Change of Use to Residential Prior
Approval Given.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

- 49. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Neighbourhood Plan Support Programme discontinued, Monthly Fraud Bulletin, Meeting of Parish Council Chairman with WFDC Leader - 16th October 25, 6.30pm.
- 50. Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Mr Hull continues to do an excellent job.
- 51. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)

52. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th August 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.29pm

Chairman - 5th August 2025