

## WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)  
Mrs V Bordewich  
Mr G Connolly  
Mr D Cox  
Mrs M Huselbee  
Mr D Jones  
Mr C Sherrey  
Mr W Southam  
Mr A Webber  
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: Apologies  
County Councillors: Councillor J Shaw  
District Councillors: Councillor R Drew

87. **Apologies**

Cllr Mr B Brookes, M J Hart attending conference, Cllr J Hart on holiday and Cllr J Hicks who is unwell.

88. **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

89. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at 7.00pm**

These having previously been circulated it was proposed Cllr C Sherrey seconded Cllr Cox 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;**

90. **Police Report**

Report circulated.

**Priorities October - December 25 - Speeding / ASB / Burglaries**

We are appealing to the Wolverley community for information following an attempted burglary at a home on Attwood Close. The attempt took place at approximately 0400 am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Two males were kicking a door of a residence and have caused significant damage.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Across the Wyre Forest we are experiencing theft from vehicles and urge residents to ensure that vehicles are locked secure and all valuable items removed.

Historically with darker nights now upon us we remind residents to lock windows and doors, leave lights on in the home when unattended and report any suspicious activity to police.

91. **To receive Councillors Reports;**  
**County Councillor Report;**

**Cookley, Wolverley Division – Cllr J Shaw reported.**

WCC 2026/27 budget consultation is now live. The consultation runs until 1 November and will gather views from residents, businesses and employees on the following: • How comfortable you would be with reductions in spending across our different service areas • Your suggestions for how to make further savings, efficiencies, and increase income • Your views on Council Tax options. All the information can be found at the web address below: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/budget26/27](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/budget26/27)

Lea Lane Last week I visited Lea Lane and yet again chased up the siding out, we are still waiting for the new fencing to be installed (I have been told this will be done ASAP!) but the concrete barriers have now been moved up to the next access points in an attempt to put off fly tippers, new signs (road closure and access to) have been placed at either end of the lane. All options are still being explored in relation to the status of this lane I will let you know when I know what and when decisions are made.

10185 - I have requested the clearing out of gullies and siding out surrounding them from the crossroads of Kinver Lane/Kinver Road by The Sladd all the way down Kinver Lane to Caunsall Road in an attempt to be proactive in reducing the flash flooding that occurs in Caunsall outside The Anchor Pub. Work has commenced of the damaged bridge over the Stour in Caunsall I have been assured that the railings over the canal bridge in Caunsall will be done while the road is closed.

I have chased up but I'm still waiting for highways to get back to me on the following.

9936 - Siding out of Pavement on Wolverley Road between the island and the Primary school carpark Entrance.

9934 - Damaged and missing curb stone off the island between Wolverley Road and Church Bank

9935 - Overgrown hedges down church bank a request for the green team to send letters out to landowners.

9941 - Pothole repair on Blakeshall lane that is not holding up.

9837 Obstruction of pavement on the A449 between The Crescent and the Island Pool. In my last update the Green team were writing to landowners.

Cllr Webber expressed concern over the pause in Capital Expenditure on projects in particular about the safer routes to school project. He invited Cllr Shaw to walk the path at Highlow Bank to experience how narrow and dangerous it is. Cllr Webber also advised there is a lot of debris on the path following Storm Amy. He queried how often gully clearing is undertaken as there are a lot of silted gullies and the village is subject to flooding. Cllr Shaw advised it is undertaken every four years.

Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Shaw for visiting Caunsall. Cllr Cox will email Cllr Shaw details of gullies requiring attention in Castle Road and a sign hanging off.

Cllr Drew asked for responses to the three questions asked last month that are not covered in the report. Cllr Shaw responded that VAS signs are acceptable as long as they are not permanent. Cllr Shaw confirmed she is happy to contribute to a sign from Divisional Funding. With regard to flags, if they are not causing a visual obstruction they will be left up.

#### **Chaddesley Division – Cllr M Hart report had been circulated.**

##### **Lea Castle Issues**

1. As reported as far back as May and in all subsequent reports, 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. Since the last meeting I have received an update and I am told that a draft orders or what are referred to the s.278 agreements have been drafted and sent from WCC's legal department to the developer's lawyers. The fees have been received by WCC from the developer. Obviously, it is for the developer to get them up to adoptable highway standard. Originally it was going to be for this autumn but obviously we are now in autumn! I will keep chasing.
2. The highway infrastructure work on the A448 has now commenced as you will all be aware and Lea Castle Drive is closed at The Crescent end.
3. I am still receiving speeding complaints, but the police will not carry out enforcement until the TRO is in place.
4. I have asked for the pavement between Lea Castle Drive and the A448 Wolverhampton Road along Park Gate Road to be inspected for potential siding out.
5. Regarding the coach for Wolverley Secondary School that is used to pick up children from Lea Castle Village going to Wolverley it was parked overnight on Lea Castle Drive and I have liaised with WCC and they liaised with the coach company so that the coach is now more appropriately parked overnight in the layby at the Park Gate Road end of Lea Castle Drive.

##### **New Issues**

1. The pavement on Park Gate Drive to the A448 has been raised with WCC highways for siding out.
2. The pavement along the A448 from the Crescent heading in the direction of Castle Road has been raised with WCC highways for siding out.
3. I attended the Lea Castle Village Residents Association meeting at the Eagle and Spur PH on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September with my District Council colleagues. The police and representatives from Citizen housing were present. There were a number of issues raised but none relevant to the functions of WCC save for those already mentioned in this report.

##### **Wyre Forest Issues**

Bewdley Bridge is now open to two-way traffic. This happened over the summer holidays.

##### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

In respect of local government reorganisation WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21<sup>st</sup> March and final proposals by 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

Full Council met on 11<sup>th</sup> September and the Reform administration confirmed they support a single unitary authority for Worcestershire.

There is now some clarity on the new administration's capital programme as to what commitments they are going to continue with and which ones they will scrap. They look like ceasing funding for Redditch train station. Importantly they are scrapping £5 million of devolved highways funding in 26-27 and 27-28. This is allocated to local county councillors to get pavements resurfaced in their area. This will have a direct affect on local residents.

Regarding county hall, they appear to have deemed this surplus but it's future proposed use still appears unclear. Car parks have been rented out for use by the neighbouring hospital. This is something that was planned pre-May. I believe the new Worcester Secondary School should be built on this site.

There was much discussion on Lea Castle Village with various issues being raised. The matter of adoption on the roads was discussed. Cllr Drew re-iterated comments in the County Councillor report that it is a matter between the developer and Worcestershire County Council and Cllr M Hart is chasing this.

Cllr Jones proposed letter to be sent to County Councillor M J Hart expressing deep concerns that the roads have not yet been adopted and that there are no facilities for the people living at Lea Castle and requesting an end date for when the development of the 600 houses will be built. This was seconded by Cllr Webber and agreed with 8 in favour and 2 abstentions.

Cllr Huselbee raised issues with lampposts, Cllr Drew advised that these belong to the property developers and residents need to raise any issues with them.

#### **District Councillor Report – Cllr R Drew reported.**

##### **Local Issues**

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping, fly tipping is becoming a regular occurrence on the B4189.

Vandalism to the parking signs on Brown Westhead Road have been reported... this has been an ongoing issue, and I have requested sturdier signage be installed.

The Planning Inspectorate has turned down the appeal at "Land off Sion Hill, Badlands Avenue, Wolverley, DY10 2YH", WFDC issued an enforcement notice on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 after iron railings and part of a wall was being demolished, this being in our Conservation Area.

Cllr. R Drew, Cllr. I Hardiman and Cllr. M Hart attended the Lea Castle Residents Association meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Our Police Officers and representatives from Citizen Housing were also there. It was a very well attended meeting.

##### **Wyre Forest Issues**

The Piano Building planning application was approved at the September meeting and work has well and truly begun. The building is being actively marketed for office space on the first and second floors and food and beverage on the ground floor. The project should be completed by November 2025.

The Connectivity Project was due to finish this July but will be December now due to unforeseen groundworks.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has finally commenced and the artificial badger's sett has been constructed.

The Old Pals shelter has been demolished, and the planning application was granted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. There will be a new café and toilet facilities.

At the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting: We received a presentation from our Integrated team of Civil and Environmental Enforcement officers.

The Enforcement Team are based in our Green Street Kidderminster Depot.

We now have 3 (Full Time Equivalent) Community & Environmental Protection Officers and 7.7 (FTE) Civil Enforcement Officers.

The Team is making good progress and is focused on Ensuring Wyre Forest is "A Clean safe and green place to live, work and visit" in accordance with our Corporate Plan.

Call for Sites: Landowners, developers, agents, community groups and other interested parties are being asked to put forward land for potential development.

From Wednesday 1 October 2025, Wyre Forest District Council is launching a 12-week Call for Sites engagement. This is a key part of a Local Plan review. It is an opportunity to tell the council about land that is available for housing, employment, leisure, gypsy and traveller sites and renewable energy generation to ensure the council can meet its identified needs.

Councillor David Ross has been appointed Deputy Leader of the council. He takes over the role from Councillor Ben Brookes who remains as Cabinet Member for Operational Services.

Cllr Ross has been Cabinet Member for Finance and the Capital Portfolio since May 2023 and represents Franche & Habberley North Ward. He'll continue leading this important work while stepping into his new role.

Cllr Wood expressed surprise on the Call for Sites especially as many houses are not selling.

Cllr Connolly advised that National Government have imposed this on Wyre Forest District Council.

They have introduced new instructions on the number of houses needed in Wyre Forest which has increased from 276 to 606.

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

- i) It was proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Bordewich and unanimously approved the schedule of payments be paid.
- ii) Cllr Sherrey advised that we have received the External Auditor's report and certificate and no matters have been raised. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk.
- iii) The Clerk reported two quotes had been received for work to the bench in Sebright Road. These had been sent to all Councillors. It was proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Justjays.

93. **Community Governance Review (CGR) Wolverley & Cookley.**

The subcommittee recommendations for consideration by Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council had been circulated to all Councillors.

- 1. To request the date which the order comes into force be changed from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027. Proposed Cllr Drew, seconded Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed.
- 2. To note the land and property in schedule 3 (Woodland in Wolverley) be retained in the reorganisation order drafted by Wyre Forest District Council. Noted

3. To consider the transfer of land and property in schedule 4 (Woodland in Cookley) in the reorganisation order drafted by Wyre Forest District Council. There was much discussion on this and it was felt that as long as any remedial works are undertaken by WFDC before the transfer Cookley Cllrs would be happy to accept the woodland. This was proposed by Cllr Jones and agreed.
4. Save for the date which the order comes into force being altered as per 1. above and the decision made in 3. above the Parish Council approves the reorganisation order drafted by Wyre Forest District Council. This was proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Drew and agreed with 9 in favour and 1 against.

94. **Remembrance Day Arrangements**

Cllr Drew reported that there will be a parade in Wolverley from the Memorial Hall to the Church. He is applying for Road Closures. Timings will be advised in due course.

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

**WFDC No/Details**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 25/0484/CLE | Retention of timber garage building at Rock Cottage, Sladd Lane, Wolverley, Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Bordewich and agreed.  |
| 25/0643/TCA | Various tree works at Wolverley High School, Wolverley, Recommend Approval subject to approval from Tree Officer, proposed Cllr Sherrey, seconded Cllr Bordewich and agreed.  |
| 25/0664/HOU | Installation of external wheelchair lift at 7 Staite Drive, Cookley, Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Southam, seconded Cllr Jones and agreed.   |
| 25/0698/S73 | Removal of conditions 1 (Landscaping Layout) and 2 (Reserved Matters Applied For) attached to Planning Application 23/0928/OUT (allowed on appeal) at land at Os 381880 279160, Lowe Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval, proposed Cllr Webber, seconded Cllr Sherrey and agreed. |

**Planning Appeal Decisions.** None Received

**Planning Decision Notices.**

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| 25/0466/PNH | Larger Home Extension Prior Approval Given 108 Lea Castle Drive.   |
| 25/0534/CLP | Certificate of Lawfulness Solcum House, Drakelow Lane, Wolverley.  |
| 25/0557/AG  | Determination for Agricultural or Forestry Purposes Permitted - Farmyard at Highlow Nurseries, Franche Road. |

**Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.**

96. Clerks Report. (Clerk) CALC AGM - 13<sup>th</sup> November 5.15pm, WFDC Chairman's Charity Quiz - 1<sup>st</sup> November 7.00pm, Meeting of PC Chairs with Leader of WFDC - 16<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm.
97. Lengthsman/Bin Emptying/Grass Cutting. (ALL) Cllr Cox reported bins overflowing in Caunsall. Clerk will contact the contractor.
98. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)
99. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.37pm

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Chairman - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025