

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF WOLVERLEY AND COOKLEY
HELD AT WOLVERLEY CHURCH HALL, WOLVERLEY
ON TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM

1. **Welcome**

Councillor Mr John Hart, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all present and presided over an attendance of 16 Local Government Electors together with the Clerk to the Parish Council and District Councillor Stephen Williams.

2. **Apologies**

No apologies

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th April 2016**

The minutes of this meeting were read and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of that meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman reported on a very successful year for the Parish Council;

Obtained a grant of £9,250 from the WFDC localism fund and together with matched funding from the Parish Council, we have completed three projects, these are:-

Purchased and installed 9 village gateways for entrances to both villages with new signs with the Parish council crest on them.

Purchased and installed 28 post mounted and 16 floor mounted branded council litterbins
We have had cleaned and painted the railings of the village pound and tidied inside and removed unwanted shrubs and varnished the signs.

Completed the conversion of 36 more street lights to LED, the project is now nearing completion and hopefully will result in lower running costs for the Parish

We have again been successful in our application to WFDC localism fund this year, our projects will be 3 more village gateways to be installed, plants and compost to go under all gateways and village tourism boards to be located in each village

Earlier in the year, we invited Jo Hughes, one of the organisers working for the Alzheimer's Society to give a presentation to the Parish council on the work that they undertake. The aim being for us to become a dementia friendly parish council. Her words we all found were very thought provoking and from this initial presentation, five councillors attended a training course to further improve their understanding on how we are able to raise awareness in our community. We have now set up a sub-committee of 5 councillors to progress this issue further.

Agreed to support financially the Wolverley and Cookley Matter local magazine which is distributed monthly to all properties in the parish and to have a by-monthly parish council report in it.

Investigated complaints regarding the motorbike noise at Court Farm, we as a Parish Council in conjunction with District Councillors have done all we possibly can to resolve this issue, but with little success on the basis that these events are legal.

Investigate a planning violation in Drakelow tunnels where meetings have been held with our District Councillor and planning officers.

Being pro-active with regard to matters of flooding, we applied for and received a £500 grant and undertaken clearance work under the bridges in Wolverley village.

We are continuing to participate in the Lengthsman scheme, our Lengthsman does an excellent job in keeping the two villages tidy.

We have now undertaken the responsibility of emptying our own litter bins from the WFDC and we as a parish council feel that a significant improvement has been made in this area in both villages.

We have given grants to Wolverley Memorial Hall, Cookley Playing field and village hall association and the Anne Mitchell Fund of Wolverley.

We have commented on all planning applications and consultation documents received in the last year.

There was an excellent turnout of Councillors for both the Wolverley and Cookley Remembrance Day parade.

Councillors also attended Rev. Jan Ashton's leaving service and the Rev B Woodhall's licensing plus Councillors attending many other events and meetings as required.

5. **Reports**

District Councillor Report;

Report given by Councillor Stephen Williams

This is our second annual report as the three elected councillors for the Wyre Forest Rural Ward.

Within this district ward there are six parish councils for which we endeavour to ensure attendance by at least one District Councillor at each meeting throughout the year.

This year has been exceptionally busy; we have seen the closure of The Glades and Stourport Leisure Centres with reinvestment in a brand new, state of the art District Leisure Centre on the Silverwood's site in Kidderminster. Already attendances are exceeding expectations, causing the need for additional car parking spaces to be provided. Financially, the leisure provision costs have reduced - the current annual subsidy is about £500,000 less than was necessary for the two previous sites.

The District Council's element of the Council Tax will again be frozen; for the fifth time in seven years!

The District Council is finding innovative ways to grow income and reduce expenditure. It will have access to up to a £25million loan for regeneration projects, plus a £10million fund which it may use to provide loan capital for developer commitment to the area.

The Council has appointed a new development partner 'Public Sector PLC' (PSP) to accelerate the development of some of its property and land holdings.

The Council will soon be considering tenders for the former Glades site's redevelopment. Positive indications show there will be considerable interest in constructing a multi-screen cinema and leisure hub on this site. The Council hopes that bringing such a project to fruition will kick start the whole Eastern Gateway redevelopment project for the area. Also, the Council is identifying suitable locations for additional small to medium sized industrial units which it is keen to see and help establish to meet local needs for small businesses.

The Council is continuing discussions with the owners of Crown House to find a long-term solution for this site.

We three Councillors are continuing to press for the actual redevelopment of the former Sion Hill School site for which planning consent has long been granted by the Council.

The Council expects soon to receive funding to ease congestion in the Horsefair and Blackwell Street and facilitate good connectivity for the Churchfield's redevelopment project.

The Council is continuing its Localism Fund.

We have supported the Parish by making grants from our Community Leadership Fund to several local organisations.

Whilst we do not have the remit for Highways, we do our very best to liaise with County Highways to try and get things done for the benefit of the Parish.

It has been a very busy year and we look forward to continuing to represent residents throughout the Parish.

6. **To receive Charity Accounts and Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2016**

Audited accounts were presented for inspection;

Sebright Educational Foundation

Anne A Mitchell Fund

The Wolverley Charity

Parish Council Accounts

The audited Parish Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 were received, examined and approved.

7. **Any issues residents would like to discuss;**

Lea Castle Site - A parishioner queried whether there was any news on development of this site. Councillor John Hart advised that an e mail had been received today to say that an outline planning application has been submitted but has not yet been validated. The application will not go to committee before June, and John Baggott, the development control manager will come to a meeting prior to that to discuss application.

Parishioner living in Lower Kingsford Lane, off Kingsford Lane said that beyond house is a rough track that leads to fields - when any events are on at the tunnels people come along lane and get stuck at entrance to field. He would like a no through road sign at the end of the unadopted section of road at junction of Castle Hill and Lower Kingsford Lane. County Councillor Yarranton advised this is something County Councillor can implement after next election.

Kingsford Lane has several blind bends and blind summits, a lot of horses are ridden along there, totally unsuitable for a 60mph speed limit - again a County Council issue, can this limit be reduced?

Parishioner advised they moved to address three and half years ago - superfast broadband for Worcestershire was being trialled and eventually a new cabinet was installed at the bottom of Sladd Lane, but the speed isn't as fast as was promised. Councillor C Sherrey advised this will be on the agenda at the next Parish Council meeting.

Footpaths - a Parishioner commented on footpath top of Castle Road Cookley down to island pool pub - cannot walk with dogs, pushchair, wheelchair safely as footpath is overgrown and too narrow, also the 50mph speed limit is too fast so cars come whizzing past - can someone please look at this footpath? County Councillor Yarranton has taken this up with County. Councillor David Jones has also raised this at Parish Council meetings. The Parish Lengthsman cannot do this as too dangerous.

A parishioner advised the next Wolverley Flood Forum Meeting 19th April, 7.00pm Queens Head, Wolverley, it was confirmed Councillor C Sherrey will be the Parish Council representative, thanks were expressed that the Zig Zag path will be discussed at the next meeting.

Austcliffe Lane by OAP bungalows - path is in poor state of repair and needs resurfacing - information passed to County Councillor.

David Bareford expressed thanks to all Parish Councillors for all the work they undertake.

Drakelow Tunnels - parishioner expressed concerns over the number of events planned to take place at the tunnels, she has compiled list and there are 72 events over next nine months this will cause parking problems. The Council are aware.

Sign opposite TG Hardwicks advertising motorcycle rallying in Alveley - why is this allowed? It was advised group mainly consist of Wolverley people but will investigate if it's allowed.

Memorial Plaques - will they go rusty, advised they should not but will keep a check on them.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.