

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr D Jones (Chairman)

Mr T Botterill

Mr D Cox

Mr J Hart

Mr M Hart

Mrs C Lewis

Mr C Nicholls

Mr C Sherrey

Mr S Sherrey

Mr P J Smith

Mr W Southam

West Mercia Police: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor Ian Hardiman
Councillor Marcus Hart
County Councillor: Councillor Ian Hardiman

184. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors R Drew and Mrs L Jones and West Mercia Police.

185. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of need to update their register of interests.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None Declared.

To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

Public Question Time

Mr John Wood asked how the replacement to LED lights is progressing as some lights in Cookley appear very dim compared to others. It was confirmed the conversions are progressing well and nearing completion with the next phase being discussed on the agenda later.

186. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th December 2017 at 7.00pm**

These having previously been circulated it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting and these were signed as such by the Chairman.

Matters for Discussion / Decision;

187. **To discuss next phase of Street Light Conversions in the Parish**

Councillor C Sherrey advised that Wolverley have undertaken a review and provided the Clerk with a list of the final LED conversions. Councillor Cox and Nicholls will do the same for Cookley then the Clerk can proceed with order.

188. **To update on Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.**

An election will take place on Wednesday 31st January, 2018, 7.00am - 10.00pm to fill the Vacancy on the Cookley Ward. Estimated cost for this to be in the region of £7,500.

189. **To discuss progress with Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

Councillor D Jones updated that meetings had taken place and the structure is slowly coming together, there are approximately 16 key people with varying skills involved to drive this forward, a leader has been identified and now they are looking into obtaining grants and engaging a consultant.

190. To receive Councillors Reports;

County / District Councillor reported;

- Lionfields Cinema and Leisure Hub - The District Council has awarded the contract for this development to Cordwell property group based in Belbroughton. The District is excited to see this project moving closer to fruition. It is important that this first phase of redevelopment acts as a catalyst and sets the benchmark for the redevelopment of this area of Kidderminster,
- At the recent District Council's cabinet meeting it was agreed to proceed towards a land swap with Kidderminster College to allow the College to increase its footprint in Market Street, Kidderminster,
- Also, the Cabinet agreed its medium term financial strategy for 2018-21. This will be subject to Full Council consideration in February. Importantly, it is proposed to continue with a further Localism Fund of £50,000 for 2018/19, and a Community Leadership Fund providing each Councillor with £1,000 to assist worthy local causes or groups. It is proposed that the Wyre Forest element of the Council Tax will be increased by 1.94% for 2018/19,
- Crown House tenant, Telereal Trillium has agreed the terms of demolition. There will be no cost to the public purse. Telereal Trillium has already served notice to the Council of their intention to carry out demolition,
- Lea Lane Safety Barrier Request - Further to my forwarding the accident data held by the Police which records 3 accidents here, I am awaiting further consideration by the Cabinet member for Highways,
- Bowed wall on B4189 - The County Highways officer has referred this outstanding matter to WFDC Building Control for their supervision,
- A449 overgrowth on pavement - I have today been advised by Highways that because of present Severn Trent works and soon to happen Bridge Rd pavement repairs, this siding out work will not be carried out until later in February,
- Wolverley Bridges Maintenance - The re painting of the rails has still not been completed. I have again chased Highways stating how ridiculous this incomplete project looks,
- Castle Hill Bridleway - I am pleased to say that new scalplings and stones have been pressed and rolled as agreed, the residents have reported their gratitude as this lane is now safer for Horses, Cyclists and Walkers.

Councillor Lewis queried why, after stocking up on Grit supplies, WCC now appear to be using a liquid solution to clear the roads in snow. Several residents have complained this is not as effective. Ian Hardiman will query this with Highways. Councillor Nicholls queried why the decision had been taken not to clear side roads? Councillors all confirmed that side roads had not been done for a considerable number of years, only main roads and roads essential for dairy farms and schools are classed as priority. Grateful thanks were expressed to the Lengthsman, his brother and son, for his work in clearing the snow around the Parish. There was a lot of discussion on this and it was confirmed Worcestershire County Council did authorise Lengthsman to help clear snow and will pay for the work undertaken.

Councillor Cox advised that the Deputy Head at Cookley Primary School has been promoted to Head when Mr De Vine leaves. He also queried the Cookley Bus Service which is shortly up for review. It was confirmed this will be looked at by the end of April 2018.

Councillor D Jones expressed disappointment on the news on the A449 overgrowth that this remedial work has been put back as this desperately needs attention as it is dangerous to walk along this stretch.

191. **Report from West Mercia Police**

Councillor Southam queried the criteria for police to come out and visit a crime scene as they rarely seem to attend incidents for such as theft or damage to property. Councillor Nicholls agreed that there now seems a complete lack of empathy and people are just given a crime number and no follow up. Councillor M Hart advised that Jake Wright is the new Inspector for Wyre Forest Safer Neighbourhoods Team and has only been in post for 6 weeks. He suggested the Inspector be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to outline his vision for the future and answer Councillors concerns. This was unanimously agreed.

192. **Financial Matters:**

To agree Parish Council Budget and Precept for Financial Year 2018/19.

Councillor C Sherrey presented very comprehensive schedules of figures to enable discussion on the budget and precept setting and explained the figures contained therein.

Schedule 2, Income & Expenditure forecast to 31st March 2019 showed all the expenditure forecasts and Councillor C Sherrey explained the amounts put in the budget.

Schedule 3b - looks at forecast deficit for the year 2019.

Street lights are a separate cost as they do not have to be annually recurring. This schedule is what the Council should use to base the Precept and this needs to be fully discussed.

Councillor M Hart thanked Councillor C Sherrey for the presentation and commented that the Council would be running a deficit of £8k if they do not increase the precept and according to the figures presented would need to increase Precept by 20% to cover this.

He advised that increases will not be capped in the forthcoming year but may be capped in the future, so this should be considered.

Councillor C Nicholls queried what is meant by Reserves, Schedule 3A projected £15,694.22 for 2019. It was explained that it should be at a minimum of £20,000 for our size of Parish Council.

Councillor J Hart commented on the expense of the Cookley by election contributing towards the deficit, and also added there will be Parish Council elections in May 19 so do need to budget for this?

There was considerable discussion on this with all in agreement that the Council is now in a position where the Precept will have to be increased but there were differing views on by how much.

Councillor C Sherrey also explained that the Council will lose the shortfall funding next year and will have another election to pay for, so they do need to think of this.

After more discussion Councillor M Hart proposed a 10% increase on the current Precept. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and approved with 6 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Clerk to advise Wyre Forest District Council.

Accounts for Payment - to agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

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| 59 | Mrs B J Drew (Salary December 17) | 909.06 |
| 60 | Inland Revenue (Tax and NI Sept to Dec 17) | 205.47 |
| 61 | T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee December 17) | 333.90 |

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| 62 | Mrs B J Drew (Office Outlet) | 35.49 |
| 63 | TG Hardwicks (Grit) | 388.99 |

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

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| 3305 | WF/17/0653/Full (Revised Plans) | Rear double storey extension and front extension 13 Franche Rd, Wolverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3314 | WF/17/0726/Outline | Outline application for up to 7 residential dwellings following demolition of outbuildings. All matters reserved at Wolverley Lodge, Lea Lane, Recommend Refusal - Inappropriate development in Green Belt, Impact on openness, Highway Concerns, Potential impact on Canal Conservation Area. |
| 3315 | WF/17/0746/Outline | Construction of 2 new detached residential dwellings with associated garaging, parking and amenity spaces within the grounds at 63 Austcliffe Road, Cookley, Application Withdrawn. |
| 3316 | WF/17/0756/S73 | Provision of a log cabin for a permanent agricultural workers dwelling at Bluntington House, Blakeshall, Wolverley, Recommend Deferral for clarification. |

There was considerable discussion on this planning application. It is understood from the applicant he was told permission would be permanent and then two weeks later received a letter saying it was temporary for 5 years. The Parish Council seek clarification on the original decision notice and feel that if it would be granted for 5 years, provided the same reasons still exist in 5 years' time that the application should be renewed for a further 5 years and that WFDC should confirm this in writing now to the applicants to put their mind at rest.

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| 3317 | WF/17/0768/TCA | Shorten back branches on a Sweet Chestnut, overhanging nearby dwelling to give a 2m clearance and remove epicormic growth from dwelling side of tree. Pollard a second Sweet Chestnut at 4 metres at St John the Baptist Church, Wolverley. Recommend Approval subject to Arboricultural Officer approval. |
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194. **To discuss alternating Parish Council Meetings between the two villages.**

It has been confirmed Cookley School can be used as a venue in Cookley. Meetings will therefore be alternated from April 2018, Clerk to liaise with school. This was unanimously agreed.

195. **To discuss Cookley Clock.**

Councillor Cox advised that at the next Service could Smith of Derby check on the paint as it may need a touch up. Clerk to request.

196. **To discuss Historical Society Exhibition in Cookley Village Hall.**
Councillor Cox advised of exhibition, November 11th, Cookley Village Hall.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

197. Clerks Report (Clerk). Update on recent snow / grit supplies, Pollinators Conference.
198. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Clerk to do schedule of hours remaining for next meeting.
New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Grit Bin by Anchor, Splitting of Parish Councils (March meeting), Defibrillator, Inspector Wright, Alexandra Powell.
199. Dates for Meetings:
CALC Executive Committee, Wednesday 17th January 2018.
WCC Budget Consultation Meeting, 24th January 2018, 6.00pm, County Hall.
Parish Chairman Meeting, Thursday 15th February 2018, 6.30pm.
County Council Parish and Town Council Conference, Tuesday 6th March 2018, 6.00pm.
Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th February 2018, 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman - 6th February 2018