

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr D Jones (Chairman)

Mr T Botterill

Mr D Cox

Mr R Drew

Mr J Hart

Mr M Hart

Mrs L Jones

Mrs C Lewis

Mr C Nicholls

Mr C Sherrey

Mr S Sherrey

Mr P J Smith

Mr W Southam

Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police:

PCSO Kate Easthope

District Councillors:

Councillor Ian Hardiman

Councillor Marcus Hart

County Councillor:

Councillor Ian Hardiman

224. **Apologies**

No Apologies.

225. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

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

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

Councillor R Drew declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 7 - Community Governance Review as husband of the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Botterill declared an interest in agenda item 6 - Damage to Barrier Baskets - Wolverley Village as Governor at Wolverley High School.

Councillor Mrs Jones declared an interest in agenda item 12 as husband is Architect for the project.

226. **Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed 2 members of the public and invited them to speak.

There were no public questions.

227. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th February 2018 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:

228. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

County / District Councillor reported;

The District's Full Council meeting on 21st February approved it's Medium Term Financial Strategy;

This included a 1.94% Council Tax increase; An Allocation of £1,000 Community Leadership und for each Councillor; and a further Localism und of £50k.

Green Street Depot: Following the District Council's approval of the capital funding, planning permission has been achieved for the £3m investment at the Green Street Depot. The District hopes to go out to tender very soon for the building works.

Kidderminster's Churchfields urban village development; In February the Government announced nearly £2.7m of funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to help unlock this brown field land for development. Further funding also should become available from the Worcestershire LEP and the GBSLEP in the near future.

A449 Siding Out - I have written to the Head of Highways Service and the Cabinet Member who is urging attention to this.

Response to Mr Peter Biggs Questions;

Potholes in Gaymore Road - A new works order was raised by Highways on 12th February, Stables rear of Eleanor Harrison Drive; The Districts Development Manager, Paul Round has given fresh instruction for investigation.

Lea Lane Subsidence; A fresh works order has been raised (15th Feb) but this may be up to 3 months before work effected.

Lea Lane Safety Barrier (by canal); I had a site meeting with County Officers on 12th Feb but was told that County Council cannot afford to install a barrier. (Criteria for a barrier would be only if fatalities or serious injury recorded!! - they said that the recently installed chevron signage should/is providing early warning for drivers!

Wolverley Village Drains by Church Bank; I am still awaiting advice as to how this work can be completed.

Wolverley Village Sunken Drains Blakeshall Lane; Highways have raised a works order to deal with this.

Wolverley Bridges Railings; Highways have agreed to engage a contractor to complete the railings paintwork.

Councillor Bill Southam and Mr Lea's concerns regarding the Lea Castle Footpath Closure; Councillor Southam and I walked the route so that I could see the closure. I have referred this to the Countryside Officer at County who is presently investigating.

Mrs Katrina Willets complaint; The District Council have provided evidence that Mrs Willets was responded to.

Councillor M Hart reported the interim Chief Executive at Worcestershire County Council sadly passed away. A new Chief Executive will start on the 16th March. Cookley Bus Service - The service will continue, the County Council worked with operators to re let the contract but only one tendered - Diamond, so they will provide the service. District Matters: Enforcement Issues Coates Lane - storage facility/barn will be monitored, Hobro Forest School activities on a Friday morning - this is still being investigated, TG Hardwicks racking - deemed inappropriate development in Green Belt, given 28 days' notice to remove.

Questions;

Councillor Cox advised that Gaymore Road resurfacing was re done last week but since the snow is now bad again. Councillor Hardiman will meet Councillor Cox on site to look at.

Councillor David Jones mentioned that the bus service in Cookley is very popular so is there any way pressure can be put on diamond to provide better buses as it is well known they are often breaking down. Councillor M Hart advised that they must meet a certain standard to provide the service other than that

there are no other controls. Councillor Hardiman expressed relief that there will still be a service in Cookley, thanks were expressed to Ian.

229. **Police Report**

PCSO Kate Easthope reported;

Cookley;

Theft of Post box on A449 - Royal Mail reported,

Horses loose on A449, also sheep loose and goats loose,

Dementia - there have been a few dementia cafes held, next café this Friday 2pm, Cookley social club, Kate asked for possible donation from the Parish Council if there is a hire charge for room, Councillor D Jones advised the club will try and keep the room without a charge

Wolverley;

Lead thefts,

Tack marking event,

Theft of camper van,

Theft of Lead supplement - Wolverley Sebright Primary School,

Fairfield Lane - hot water tank stolen,

Safe found in Wolverley Woods following burglary at Dentists,

Former Sion Hill Middle School - still getting intruders on site,

Attwood close - footsteps to back door but no theft,

Stables broken into Horseley Hill,

Next tack marking April 29th,

PACT this Saturday, Wolverley village, 9.45am

Questions;

Councillor M Hart suggested perhaps the post box was from The Crescent.

Councillor J Hart spoke on the lead thefts and queried how they are getting their money as they must provide ID at scrapyards, Kate advised they normally have a cheque cashing system.

Councillor Botterill advised that genuine lead thieves know the difference between false and real lead.

Councillor D Jones asked if the bike marking event at The Lock can be publicised.

230. **To discuss damage to Barrier Baskets - Wolverley Village.**

Councillor Drew reported further incidents of damage to barrier baskets in Wolverley Village. CCTV footage identified two youths pushing over two of the baskets, one of these then did the same again a few days later.

The school have spoken with them both and the one youth has been temporarily excluded from school. The mother has been informed, was horrified and has offered to pay for the damage. The youth wants to apologise, and it was agreed that he will do some hours community service in the village, so he understands the consequences of his actions, Kate will liaise regarding this.

The plants were all rescued and re planted so the Council do not want any payment.

231. **Community Governance Review of Parish.**

Councillor R Drew left the room.

Councillor C Sherrey provided an introduction to a Community Governance Review.

At the January Parish Council meeting, Councillor Nicholls raised the issue of the splitting of Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council. He requested that it was not put on the agenda for the February meeting and hence the discussion now.

It is not the Parish Council who can decide whether we remain as one large Parish - it is up to the residents of our two villages. Historically we are one Parish, but we should let our residents have a say as times have changed and we are no longer in the past but in the 21st Century.

Reasons;

- We are 2 distinct separate villages with 2 separate identities,
- Wolverley is rural and smaller than Cookley whereas Cookley has Industry and is at the point of massive expansion,
- We each have our own Parish Church, Primary School, Doctors Surgery, Social Club, Separate Bus Service, Own Shops, Post Office, Pubs, Sports Facilities including tennis courts, Scouts and Cubs groups etc,
- In Wolverley the Councillors will be focusing their thoughts and support for the proposed £2m plus Community Project in Wolverley - the proposed new Wolverley Memorial Hall which is on the agenda later,
- The Wolverley Councillors would like to work closer with Wyre Forest District Council on taking over further services, e.g. possibility of grass cutting; they do not rule out the possibility of taking on Community Assets (e.g. land being disposed of by WFDC) and definitely wish to continue with the work on Floral Wolverley (i.e. The Island Planter etc),
- A split would give Cookley greater control over the expansion and enable it to shape the village as they see fit without having to be reliant on Wolverley,
- Separate villages could set their own budgets and precepts that reflect their own changing demand,
- The Neighbourhood Plan might then become for "The Cookley Parish".

Councillor S Sherrey advised that a Community Governance Review would give the community the opportunity to vote on how we are in the future. All that is being sought tonight is permission to approach Wyre Forest District Council to start the process of a community review.

Councillor J Hart advised that if the proposal is carried, with an electorate of just under 4,000, we will require 7.5% of this to support this in the form of a petition. If this is obtained it will be passed to Wyre Forest District Council who would set a timeline and process for a Community Governance Review to be undertaken.

Councillor C Sherrey proposed;

This Parish Council requests that Wyre Forest District Council undertake a Community Governance Review in order to consider the dissolution of the existing Parish Council and the forming of two new Parish Councils, namely Cookley Parish Council and Wolverley Parish Council, and

I propose a secret ballot.

Much discussion followed;

Councillor M Hart said all believe in the democratic process and by approving this at Parish Council we would be asking the electorate what they want. The 3,877 electorate should be asked how they want to be governed. Development in the Cookley part of the Parish will add to their electorate, if we are to do this it needs to be done now as all Parish Councillors are due for re-election in May 2019, so the process needs to be started now otherwise it could be costly, if it is done now costs will be borne by Wyre Forest District Council. Councillor M Hart seconded the proposal.

Councillor Nicholls said he was quite surprised by this as in January he only mentioned it in passing, however he does agree on democratic process and on the timing with May 2019 elections.

Councillor Cox agreed it would be fair to let Parishioners decide.

Councillor Smith advised he has been on the Parish Council for the longest, has seen many changes but nothing as serious as this.

Councillors Mrs Jones agreed with the comments made by Councillor M Hart.

Councillor C Sherrey advised he had proposed a secret ballot as he didn't want anybody to be put under pressure when voting. All agreed to proceed with a vote.

The Clerk handed out voting slips.

It was unanimous (all 13 in favour) to commence a Community Governance Review.

Councillor M Hart advised we now need 291 signatures (7.5% of electorate) to submit to Wyre Forest District Council to undertake a review.

Councillor D Jones thanked all.

Clerk will produce a Petition forward to all Councillors or approval by e mail then once approved Clerk will distribute for all Councillors to obtain signatures. Completed petitions then need to be returned to the Clerk.

232. **Progress with Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

Councillor Wood advised that both scheduled meetings had been cancelled due to the snow.

233. **To discuss Community Led Housing Schemes and agree action to be taken.**

A meeting has been scheduled in Cookley, Councillor Drew will liaise with Alexandra Powell regarding a meeting in Wolverley.

234. **Financial Matters;** Accounts for Payment - to agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

68	Mrs B J Drew (Salary February 18)	909.06
69	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee February 18)	477.00
70	Office Outlet (Ink)	34.99
71	Mrs B J Drew (Expenses to March 18)	203.71

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3323 WF/18/0124/Full: Single storey side extension, replace existing conservatory roof and glazed canopy to rear at Yew Tree House, Lea Lane, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3324 WF/18/0138/Full: Proposed detached bungalow, land adjacent 3 Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley,

Recommend Refusal - inappropriate development in Green Belt and harm to openness

3325 WF/18/3010/PNH: Single storey rear extension, 41 Westhead Road, Cookley.

For Information Only

236. **To discuss plans for the Wolverley Memorial Hall Project.**

Clerk advised that as Custodian Trustees of Wolverley Memorial Hall if plans for the new project are submitted in the name of the Parish Council, fees will be reduced. Unanimously approved.

237. **To receive update on matters discussed at Chairman's meeting.**

Councillor M Hart advised that the General Data Protection Regulations were discussed. It is agreed that Clerks cannot be Data Protection Officers as they have a conflict of interests. It was suggested reciprocal arrangements between Clerks with other councils, but Councillor M Hart feels that we need to appoint someone external to do this.

Councillor S Sherrey agreed that these new regulations are onerous and cannot be done by Clerks, we need to appoint someone external.

Councillor D Jones advised that the VELO event will no longer be happening in Worcestershire this year.

238. **To discuss new General Data Protection Regulations.**

Councillor R Drew advised that a company, DM Payroll Services Ltd have been engaged by Broome and Rushock Parish Councils to undertake this work.

The Clerk has obtained a quote from them which is £600.00 per year.

Councillor M Hart proposed the Council use DM Payroll Services Ltd, they are local and reliable and have been used by Broome and Rushock. The Council will get fined if these regulations are not properly met.

This was seconded by Councillor R Drew and unanimously approved.

239. **To discuss consultation paper on proposed changes to scheme of fees and charges for local elections.**

Councillor M Hart proposed the Council agree with recommendations in the consultation paper of same election cost per elector not dependant upon size of Parish, Councillor J Hart seconded this, and it was unanimously agreed.

240. **To discuss revised request received for signage Church Bank, Wolverley.**

Clerk read further communication from Mr Ed Cheshire.

His request is purely for a street nameplate at the top of Church Bank, Wolverley and this requested was supported by all.

241. **To discuss Defibrillators'.**

Councillor Mrs Lisa Jones advised she is doing work in Cookley to try and raise funds for a defibrillator. She has contacted numerous organisations for help, also The Ambulance Service who will provide the defibrillator, training and fitting for £1200.00. Councillor Hardiman has given £200 funding towards it. It will be cited on the outside wall of the doctors.

Councillor Botterill suggested speaking to the co-op at Franche, they are normally very good.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

242. Clerks Report (Clerk). Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease - original deeds have been located so hopefully this can now progress, Housing Needs Survey - results awaited in April, Clerks & Councils Direct, Road Closure, Parish Games Quiz.

243. Update on Wall around Wolverley Sebright VA Primary School. - The Clerk to Sebright has confirmed the wall belongs to WCC Highways so they are looking into it. It is in a poor state and needs urgent repairs.

244. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. - 28 hours left for March 2018, thanks were expressed again to Tim for help in snow.

245. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. - Community Governance Review

246. Dates for Meetings:

Wyre Forest Area CALC Meeting, Thursday 15th March 2018.

Chairman's Charity Supper, Friday 23rd March 2018, 7.30pm - Stourport Yacht Club.

247. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd April 2018, 7.00pm, followed by Annual Parish Meeting, Cookley First School.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman - 6th March 2018