

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mr D Cox
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
Mr D Jones
Mrs L Jones
Mrs C Lewis
Mr C D Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr P Smith
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

County / District Councillor: Ian Hardiman
West Mercia Police; Kate Easthope

112. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillor T Botterill,

113. **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.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - please see notes after the minutes.

The meeting now reconvened to conduct the items of business listed below;

114. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th September 2018 at 7.00pm. (minutes previously circulated).**

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;

115. **To receive Councillors Reports**

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Cookley - Westhead Road North pavement resurfacing; Completion has been delayed owing to necessary Gas maintenance works in this area.

Bridge Road, Cookley parking issues; The County Highways Engineer is continuing to support the introduction of a TRO Residents' scheme to provide permits to Bridge Street Residents.

Caunsall, Metal Bridge over the River Stour UPDATE; The County Countryside Services Team has carried out foundation repair work to the abutment where it was subsiding; next to do is the iron plating to deal with a crack in the structure - this is scheduled for November / December. I queried why this is taking such a time and was informed that much legal and safety preparation has been necessary and the works entailed frogmen inserting concrete packs below water level.

Lea Castle Farm Quarry Update; Councillor Marcus Hart and I attended a scheduled meeting on 21st September, with two County Planning Officers and Kedd's Agent Mr Robin Smithyman. The meeting referred to not only a likely planning application being submitted by the end of the year but to a Master Plan for Lea Castle Farm and Court Farm in the form of a Country Park which would provide the opportunity for "Re-engaging, adapting and connecting the local landscape for health, wellbeing, environmental benefit and management". Mr Smithyman talked us through this masterplan although he made clear that his and Kedd's focus is initially on progressing the Quarry Application. He explained how he is keen to engage with local residents and especially with the Parish Council who he wishes to present his Masterplan to; in fact he claimed that he has been trying to communicate with the Parish Council to arrange an opportunity for local engagement and to explain why Kedd are seeking to develop a quarry.

Re: Strategic Issues County Wide:

Work continues to set up a wholly owned company for Children's Social Care. It will be October 2019 when the company is completely set up.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is an area of focus following a recent Ofsted and CQC Inspection and WCC and the CCGs have agreed an action plan to ensure that areas of weakness are tackled.

We have a shortage of special school places which we are working hard to address and SEND is a huge pressure on our budget. This budget is overspending as well, due to demand, and we spend £7million per year on home to school transport in this area.

The County Council is facing unprecedented pressure on its budget from children's and adult social care. This year is already proving a financial challenge working within its approved cash allocations as in the first 4 months of the year, the Council's budget is £18million overspent, of which £15.2 million is adult social care!. The 2018/19 approved net revenue budget was £324 million, of which children's is £96 million and adults is £125 million. Work is being done to tackle this in year but it will be tough and the 2019/2020 budget will be very challenging. Currently 68% of the Council's budget is for children's and adult social care!. The subject of unitaries has been raised but there are no plans in Worcestershire or a unitary authority. And, Unitary authorities are struggling just as shire councils are!.

For information, at the start of 2018 we had circa 760 looked after children, it is now 816 with some care packages costing as much as £7,000 per week; even average packages can cost £1,000 per week.

Incredible pressures are therefore being put on our non-statutory services and indeed other statutory services, in terms of what standard we deliver them to!

Finally, VELO Birmingham is being held in 2019 but will be through Warwickshire.

District Councillor Marcus Hart reported:

The Quarry - having spoken to Mr Robin Smithyman, representative from Kedd, they expect that planning applications will go to Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council. They have some very interesting and ambitious plans. Residents concerns were expressed over the Quarry and Mr Smithyman was told he will have an uphill struggle to change people's minds, There is still no formal application that has been submitted yet, it may possibly be before Christmas, but they are already behind timeline so more likely after. Officers have indicated it could take up to 6 months to determine the application.

TG Hardwicks - racking: Wyre Forest District Council has now received a planning application which will come before the Parish Council next month. No enforcement action will take place yet due to this being received.

Low Lane, Wolverley - land used as builders yard: An enforcement notice has been served.

Copes lane, Wolverley: Planning consent was given for a barn but local residents are concerned it is not being used for intended use.

Wolverley Lodge, Lea Lane: A Planning application was submitted and refused for up to 7 houses on this site, following a meeting Marcus, Ian and the applicant Dr Rai, he has now withdrawn his appeal and is liaising with Wyre Forest District Council as to what will be suitable and acceptable development at this site.

Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan was formally approved by Wyre Forest District Council Cabinet on 19th September.

In February 2017 as part of the budget strategy, Wyre Forest District Council allocated a capital fund to buy assets, they have now started to acquire assets, in Shirley, just off the M42, also a property in Worcester Street.

Councillor Ian Hardiman and Marcus Hart welcomed any questions:

Castle Road Drains are blocked again - Councillor Hardiman will chase.

Councillor Cox queried why the County doesn't contribute to railcard services, when other areas such as Stourbridge do, Councillor M Hart explained it is due to them being a Centro area and Worcestershire is a Shire County.

Car Parking charges were discussed as they have been increased again in Wyre Forest. Councillor M Hart explained that every year on 1st October charges are either increased or remain the same. Income from car parking is a huge part of the income received by Wyre Forest District Council. They do try and give an element of free car parking in various car parks for a few hours and also at Christmas time and there is still some free on street parking. The Worcester street area was discussed and Councillor M Hart advised that this street area is dying because of the historic size of the units and the shift to Vicar Street, High Street and Weavers Wharf, this area needs more urban living and thus is being opened up to traffic.

The Quarry was discussed and concern expressed that this seems much bigger than just The Quarry now. Councillors Hardiman and M Hart advised how shocked they were when they much larger plan was unveiled by the Kedd agent. Cookley Councillors advised there is a Quarry Working Party set up consisting of local residents opposed to it, they are looking into the possibility of engaging a Barrister to assist in the fight against the Quarry, Councillor D Jones requested the possibility of the Parish Council contributing to funding this be discussed at the next meeting.

Thanks were expressed for the update and work to the metal bridge, Caunsall.

Discussion took place on the quality and quantity of grass cutting in the Parish with concerns that it has only been done twice or three times and the verges look terribly untidy. Councillor M Hart advised that it is normally between 4 and 6 cuts a year but this

is sometimes altered due to weather conditions, he will check with Green Street Depot what has been done. This matter is to be discussed later on the agenda.

Local Plan - There will be a further consultation from the beginning of November until Christmas and there will be a number of drop in sessions people can attend and ask officers questions. All responses will be considered and democracy will prevail.

A449 siding out was discussed, this work has been put back until October but Councillor Hardiman has been assured it will be completed. It has been very frustrating but now there is a new Highways Engineer, Paul Green, who is very experienced, it will be done. Good news as well that he has already offered to meet in the rural areas once a month to look at any issues.

Wyre Forest District Council acquisition of site in Shirley was discussed with questions asked over whether income from it will be guaranteed or projected and will it be affected by Brexit. Councillor M Hart advised that for the office development the Income comes from tenants, there are many people with leases in the building, there is some risk but this has been factored into the Business Plan. Nobody knows if Brexit will affect!

116. To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.

PCSO Kate Easthope reported

Cookley - Vehicle crime Highfield road - van broken into and tools stolen, stolen handbag Shrubbery Hill but not reported, Wolverley - Vehicle crime Sebright road, vehicle broken into, Bury Hall garage break in, tools stolen, numerous reports of sheep on the roads.

Dementia Action Alliance AGM, 9th October, 6pm here at Cookley School.

Police Junior Cadets Scheme - this has been offered to Cookley School after very successfully being run at Wolverley.

117. Financial Matters:

a) Accounts for Payment - agreed the following schedule of cheques be approved.

42	Mrs B J Drew (Salary September 18)	904.83
43	Inland Revenue (Tax & NI July - September 18)	190.86
44	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee September 18)	
45	Marvin Cox Lubricants (Works to Pound)	72.00
46	PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit Fee)	360.00
47	Mrs B J Drew (Expenses April - September 18)	112.78

b) External Audit - PKF Littlejohn have completed review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2018. A Notice of Conclusion of the Audit has been displayed on the Notice Boards and put on the website.

c) Payroll - Two quotes have been received for undertaking the Payroll,

DM Payroll Services - £141.00 per year

Siviter Greenfield Group - £340.00 per year.

It was unanimously agreed DM Payroll Services be appointed. Clerk to contact.

d) Other financial matters - The Neighbourhood Plan Bank Account, there has been a delay due to HSBC but this account should be open shortly.

118. **Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry and Restoration Scheme at land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley.**

This had already been fully discussed under Councillors Reports.

Councillor S Sherrey requested thanks be minuted to Tim Williams who has made contact with the local Quarry Working Party to offer his assistance, after having previously fought this battle.

Councillor M Hart, in his capacity as a Parish Councillor advised that the Parish Council need to be very cautious about instructing a barrister to oppose the Quarry Planning Application. The Parish Council will be a consultee and will express their views on the application but would pre - determine the view which could result in a judicial review. Also as a public body they need to be very cautious and careful about using public funds for one particular item, in addition the costs for a barrister would be extortionate. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

119. **Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan.**

As previously stated this was approved by Cabinet and then at Full Council.

120. **Lea Castle Site, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley.**

Nothing to report.

121. **Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease.**

Clerk, Councillor P Smith and Councillor M Hart are meeting 17th October to progress outstanding queries.

122. **Signage - Cookley.**

Councillor Cox has been pursuing this but as yet has been unable to obtain criteria needed to meet for a brown tourism sign. Councillor M Hart advised that there is a strict criteria, he will forward policy to Clerk to send on to Councillor Cox. Councillor Hardiman agreed to pursue this if he is sent details of what businesses / amenities the sign should include.

123. **Recommendations from Risk Committee.**

The Risk Committee met following the last meeting and identified the need for Employment matters relating to the Clerk to be updated. It was unanimously agreed Councillors M Hart and C Nicholls be appointed as a Staffing Committee to look at all matters relating to Clerks employment.

124. **Grass Cutting in the Parish.**

There was much discussion again on this and it was agreed Clerk write to Linda Draycott at Wyre Forest District Council to start discussions on the possibility of the Parish Council taking over this service. It is a complicated service as County subcontract to District who also subcontract the work. Ownership of the grass would need to be ascertained and areas for cutting agreed. The Parish would also have to negotiate funding from the district to take this over.

It was agreed Clerk to arrange an initial meeting to discuss with Councillor C Sherrey and S Sherrey representing Wolverley, and Councillors Mrs L Jones, and W Southam representing Cookley.

125. **30mph sign - Drakelow Lane.**

Sign had been hit and was leaning but has now been removed. Councillor Hardiman to investigate.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3357 18/0498/Full: Erection of first floor rear extension at 2 Austcliffe Cottages, Austcliffe Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3358 18/0501/Full: Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations to existing garage roof at 9 Westhead Road North, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3359 18/0559/Full: Demolition of existing single storey flat roof extension and replacement with two storey side and rear extension with single storey rear extension, new porch to front at 12 Gaymore Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3360 18/0563/Full: Single storey rear extension following removal of Conservatory at Old Rose Cottage, New Road, Caunsall,

Recommend Approval

3361 18/0566/Full: Replacement chalet and associated works including cellular mesh to driveway at Hobro Chalet, Hobro, Wolverley,

Recommend Refusal. This structure is no more than a tumbledown shack and has not been used as a holiday chalet or weekend retreat for at least the last thirty years according to local residents. Please see attached photographs.

The application although having a D & A statement does not provide any detailed plans of design and layout of the proposed replacement "chalet" .

3362 18/0598/Full: Proposed two storey and single storey side extensions at 2 Beechcote Avenue, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

127. Clerks Report (Clerk). Clerks and Councils Direct
Notice of Appeal; WF/18/0138 Land adjacent 3 Blakeshall Lane, WF/18/0147 Lyndhurst, Castle Hill,
Appeal Withdrawn; WF/17/0726/Outline Wolverley Lodge, Lea Lane.
128. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Lengthsman currently on holiday.
129. Update on Metal Bridge, Caunsall. Already updated.
130. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Wolverley Notice Board, Remembrance Day Parades
131. Dates for Meetings:
County Council Parish and Town Council Conference - Tuesday 9th October 2018. Councillor Mrs L Jones to attend.
132. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th November 2018, 7.00pm.
Wolverley Church Hall.
133. Cookley in Bloom - Councillor Southam expressed thanks to everyone involved and a job well done. Cookley won a silver gilt large village award and an outstanding achievement award for the work completed in such a short timescale from entering to judging. Fantastic - well done!!!.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman - 6th November 2018

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Diamond Buses were discussed again. A further meeting of the public participation group has taken place however yet again was not well advertised. Complaints consisted of buses not reliable, they keep breaking down, not fit for purpose, also buses are not turning up.

Congratulations were expressed to the Cookley in bloom team on their success following recent results of the Britain in Bloom competition especially considering the short time from entering to judging. They have also done a lovely job tidying the village and cutting grass.

A question was raised whether the Parish Council would consider putting more noticeboards around the village, many people are saying they do not use social media so would like more notice boards strategically placed around the village. Councillor Cox suggested this is put on the next agenda.