

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 4th December 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 Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr P Smith
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

County / District Councillor: Ian Hardiman
West Mercia Police; PCSO Zara Williams, PCSO Becky Ruston

158. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillor T Botterill.

159. **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 Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

160. **West Mercia Police Report**

There have been 2 burglaries in Wardle Way, Wolverley, theft of copper cable, Lea Castle site, shed breaks ins, attempt to break in to disused building at South Lodge, Sion Hill.

There have been reports of a male sleeping at Wolverley Church.

Community Speed Watch - Cookley have now got volunteers to set up this scheme.

The Junior Police Cadet Scheme has been running in Cookley School, final week this week and then there will be a passing out parade.

The issue of fly tipping was raised, particularly Axborough Lane, filters for hydroponics which are used for cannabis making, the police have been notified and Wyre Forest District Council have picked this up. Fly tipping is a particular problem in Axborough Lane and Shatterford Lane.

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;

161. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th November 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:

162. **To receive Councillors Reports.**

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Strategic Issues County Wide:

Work continues to set up the wholly owned company for Children's Social Care. It will be October 2019 when the company is completely set up and it is now likely for economies of scale and to improve outcomes for children that Education and Special Needs and disabilities (SEND) will go into the company as well.

Wyre Forest Issues:

The Public Realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is continuing.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues.

Local Issues:

A449 / By Cookley Entrance, Speed Limit: The County Council have indicated that they are looking at financial assistance being gained from the Lea Castle Developer towards either a roundabout or signals in order to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety here.

Also, I have registered a request for the speed limit from the traffic lights to beyond the Caunsall Road junction to be reduced to 40 mph.

Wardle Way, Wolverley: I am pleased to report that County Highways have replaced the temporary red barriers which were around a large void, with permanent safety fencing in order to prevent unsafe access by children.

District Councillor Marcus Hart reported:

Consent for agricultural barn land off Cotes lane, Wolverley, the owner of the land is using it inappropriately, site visit held today, it is being used for purposes other than agricultural therefore enforcement action is now taking place,

TG Hardwicks site, officers are still in discussion over the recent planning application, there will be no enforcement until this is resolved.

Local Plan consultation closes on 12th December 2018. Every household should have received a leaflet on this, Wyre Forest District Council are taking this up why they have not gone to every household, it is under investigation at the moment and WFDC will not be prepared to pay for this if it is proven that the company did not fulfil their duties.

Proposed Quarry - Councillors Hardiman and M Hart attended a meeting of the Quarry Working Group 7th November and advised residents of the process that will be followed, there has still been no formal application submitted.

Crown House - Wyre Forest District Council are still liaising with Telerum Trillium and are also waiting for a decision from the valuation office to see if it goes back on the rating list.

There have been increased instances of fly tipping in Shatterford Lane laybys and Axborough Lane, some of it asbestos, Wyre Forest District Council are removing it as promptly as possible, if any drug paraphernalia is found, a drug officer is sent out, normally Wyre Forest District Council prosecute, they now have 6 cameras across the district that get positioned in trees and laybys.

Brown Westhead Park, Wyre Forest District Council are the freeholder and own the land, but the football association run it. Councillor Hart will take up the issue raised in public question time on the entrance.

Councillor D Jones expressed concern over the Local Plan Consultation and keeping people informed feeling the internet was relied on too much, Councillor M Hart responded that the internet is used by quite a lot of elderly people, Wyre Forest District Council do not rely wholly on internet, that's why they were doing a leaflet to all, there was not a lack of information on this consultation.

163.

Financial Matters:

a) Adopt recommendations of Grants following Grants Committee Meeting.

The Clerk reported on recommendations from the Grants Committee,

The rent of £900 payable for use of rooms for the monthly meeting to be split between Wolverley Church Hall and Cookley School - £450.00 each.

Churchyard Grants - Last year a grant of £1034.28 was given to each churchyard. Parish Councils have now been advised that "The Local Government Act 1894 says that parish councils do not have the power to maintain or improve property relating to affairs of the church, or property held for an ecclesiastical charity, nor to contribute to the cost of doing so". This means that the Parish Council cannot legally give a grant for churchyard maintenance. However, this restriction relates to land and buildings. Councils are not restricted from contributing towards the cost of church activities, or the cost of moveable property, as long as they can identify a power that allows them to do so. Councils have a specific power to support religious events.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to Rev. N Taylor and Rev, B Woodhall advising them of this and await response.

b) Accounts for Payment - agreed the following schedule of cheques to be signed.

55	Mrs B J Drew (Salary November 18)	892.76
56	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee October 18) (Lengthsman Fee November 18)	130.08 32.50
57	Marvin Cox Lubricants (Works to Pound)	36.00
58	Mrs B J Drew (Ink 7.99 / Office 365 79.99)	87.98

59	Cookley Primary School (Rent)	450.00
60	Wolverley Parish Church (Rent)	450.00

Councillor C Sherrey reminded all that any request for an item to be included in the budget needs to be submitted in writing to the Clerk by 25th December 2018.

c) Neighbourhood Plan Bank Account. Tax forms have now been completed.

164. **To agree response to Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review Pre-Submission Publication Consultation.**

Councillor Nicholls opened discussion by proposing that the Parish Council reject the recommendations in the consultation. He expressed concern over the loss of a village community if the level of development takes place at the Lea Castle site. What will actually be built there, maybe some retail, a community facility, possibly GP surgery, School, but when will this all happen? Developers will build houses and the school etc will not be there at the start, the existing infrastructure cannot support anybody else. Cookley at the moment has shops, church etc which makes the village of Cookley, Lea Castle village will have none of that, he cannot support the idea of 1400 houses on this site,

Councillor M Hart has the opposite view and feels Lea Castle village will be an independent community in its own right, this concept is a large village, Wyre Forest District Council have listened to what everyone wants, i.e. that they want and need the infrastructure, they need to provide houses for the future children and grandchildren. 600 houses will not give us the infrastructure.

A brand new primary school can be funded from the development on that site, at day 1 not all the facilities will be built, major developers tend to build out at 100 to 150 houses per year, development will not be completed for up to 10 years, Lump sum payments will be put in to build school when there is a need for school places. There may also be a pub as well as shops, there are playing pitches and facilities, they cannot replicate the church but there is plenty of capacity for people to use Cookley church, it will provide wider benefits.

It was reminded that the response from the Parish Council is on the whole document not just the Lea Castle site.

Councillor D Jones is opposed to the proposals and totally against development on the green belt, Councillor W Southam agreed with this. Councillor Wood stated that the need for housing has been grossly overestimated. Councillor Cox cannot agree with the level of the development.

Councillor S Sherrey again stated that the response is on the whole plan and while Councillors have differing views the Parish Council need to try and find a way to respond reflecting these views. He expressed concern that a vote is not the way forward.

Councillor D Jones disagreed, and it was proposed Councillor C Nicholls and seconded by Councillor D Jones that a named vote be taken.

In favour of responding against development outlined in the Wyre Forest District Plan Review - Pre-submission Publication Consultation;

Councillors D Cox, D Jones, C Lewis, C Nicholls, W Southam, J Wood

Against responding against development outlined in the Wyre Forest District Plan Review - Pre-submission Publication Consultation;

Councillors R Drew, J Hart, M Hart, L Jones, C Sherrey, S Sherrey, P Smith

Six in favour, Seven against.

This was followed by a substantive motion to support the Pre-submission publication with Seven for (Cllrs R Drew, J Hart, M Hart, L Jones, C Sherrey, S Sherrey, P Smith) and six against (Cllrs D Cox, D Jones, C Lewis, C Nicholls, W Southam, J Wood). Clerk to submit response.

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

Clerk read advice from Richard Levett, Executive Officer, Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils regarding Parish Council contributing to cost of legal advice / surveys relating to the potential Quarry application.

"The Council is able to make representation about planning applications and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1872 allows it to do anything which will facilitate any of its functions however the Parish Council need to be very cautious! They would definitely need to know what they wanted to make representation about, would need to have enough information on which to base a judgement of how much they are willing to spend, would need to put a limit on the amount they are willing to spend, would need a budget allocation for this and must not compromise their position as a consultee.

Councillor M Hart advised that he had given advice on this to the Quarry Working Group and that at this stage as no formal application has been submitted the Parish cannot consider this.

166. **Cookley and Causall Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor J Wood reported that initial Grant Funding has now been received.

167. **Community Emergency Action Plan – Westley Court Residents.**

Councillor Nicholls asked that in the event of an emergency where would residents from Westley Court be evacuated to? Councillor Drew advised that the company running Westley Court has legal responsibility to have a plan for safety and evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Councillor C Sherrey advised that in Wolverley the Emergency Committee, not the Parish Council, have a plan and have spoken with the Church, Church Hall, Memorial Hall with regard to using halls in the case of an emergency, could Cookley committee do this?. Councillor Mrs L Jones advised that Cookley does have an emergency plan, the Church and Village Hall can be used, a copy will be given to Councillor Nicholls.

Councillor S Sherrey advised that the Chairman is correct, every establishment operating a business has a morale duty for an evacuation policy, the company running Westley Court Care Home has a responsibility to organise evacuation, the choice of venue can be agreed between the emergency Committee and whoever, e.g. the village hall. They should also have a business continuity plan so if a major disaster happens so they can carry on caring for the residents.

Councillor D Jones will raise this matter at the next Village Hall meeting.

168. **Replacement Street Light – Kinver Lane, Caunsall.**

Column 90, Kinver Lane, Caunsall. Councillor D Cox has inspected and proposes this light is turned off. Clerk to contact Worcestershire County Council to arrange this and advise residents.

169. **Signage – Top of Castle Road, Cookley.**

Re agenda.

170. **Additional noticeboards – Cookley.**

Councillor D Cox is still trying to pursue possibly District / County Councillor funding for additional noticeboards. Agenda for update only.

171. **Cookley Millennium Clock.**

The hands on the Clock are not working again and the bulb needs replacing.

The Annual Service charge is £280.00 and to date this year £480.00 have been spent on repairs.

It was agreed that repair costs will need to be budgeted for.

Councillor Cox requested Clerk query with Smith of Derby why bulbs don't last.

Councillor S Sherrey commented that the clock needs to be repaired so it is working properly, and the Parish council will need to budget for this in future but monitor costs. Agenda for next meeting.

172. **Red Telephone Box – Caunsall.**

Put on next agenda under updates.

173. **Planning Applications for Consideration: –**

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3369 18/0529/Full: Erection of 56 new residential units of mixed tenure and scale not exceeding 2 storeys, including 8 walk up flats, with new adoptable roads, retained trees, public open space and adoptable pumping station at former Sion Hill Middle School, Sion Hill,

Recommend Approval

3370 18/0623/Full: (Additional / Revised Plans / Revised Description) Single storey side extensions, two storey rear extension to dwelling at Hillcrest, Wolverhampton Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3371 18/0697 & 698/List: Proposed storage building at Blakeshall Hall, Blakeshall, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3372 18/0707/Full: Extension to existing garage at 18 Westhead Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3373 18/0733/Full: Proposed side and rear extension, relocation of existing outbuilding and internal alterations at Caunsall Farm, 100 Caunsall Road, Caunsall,

Recommend Deferral until conservation officer report received

3374 18/3066/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY – Single storey rear extension at 7 Westhead Road, Cookley,

3375 18/3068/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY – Single storey rear extension at 71 Castle Road, Cookley.

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required

174. Clerks Report (Clerk). Schedule of Meetings 2019. Waste & Recycling Christmas Collections.

175. Update from *CALC AGM*. Mainly introduction to new Chief Executive *WCC* Paul Robinson, discussion on whether training should be made compulsory, speed limit reductions and projects from other Parish Councils were discussed,
176. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Need to look at hours remaining for next three months,
177. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Grass cutting - update, Bin emptying, Metal bridge - Caunsall,
178. Dates for Meetings:
CALC Executive Committee - Wednesday 23rd January 2019.
179. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 8th January 2019, Wolverley Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman - 8th January 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A question was raised over the distribution of leaflets to residents regarding the Local Plan Consultation. It appears some people received the leaflet, but many residents did not and were unaware of the drop-in sessions. This is a Wyre Forest District Council matter and they are investigating this.

The pedestrian access onto the main entrance to Brown Westhead Park playing fields is becoming unsafe, it was clarified that the playing fields is run by the Worcestershire Football Association.

Funding for legal advice / surveys in the event of a Quarry application will be discussed in the meeting.

The Chairman reminded that public question time is intended for residents to give their views on items on the agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman.