

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Wolverley School, Wolverley on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

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

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman / Marcus Hart
West Mercia Police: PCSO Zara Williams

223. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillors Mr J Hart and Mr S Sherrey.

224. **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.

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:

225. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th February 2019 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;

226. **West Mercia Police Report**

Wolverley - Garages Sebright Road broken into again, car broken into Sebright Road, 4 burglaries on Fairfield lane, coping stones taken from pillars in Blakeshall, car in village broken into, burglary TG Hardwicks of stones and gravel.

Cookley - Shed break ins New Road, Caunsall, car break in Lionfields Road, also Westhead road car break in, copper pipes stolen from Van.

Mobile PACT - was well attended, horse tack marking event took place, tag rugby training taking place, 10th March.

Councillor Cox reported on the incident in Lea Lane with slippage of the road into the canal, police support was requested via 101 but not forthcoming.

227 **To receive Councillors Reports.**

Marcus Hart reported as follows;

Strategic Issues- Wyre Forest District Council Full Council approved its budget on 27th February of a 2.39% increase in council tax, A Localism Fund of £50,000 has again been agreed and a Community Leadership Fund of £1,000 for community groups. Car parking charges will be frozen and a discounted annual pass offered for Bromsgrove Street.

There will be another enforcement officer appointed for planning and another environmental protection officer appointed. Crown House will be demolished, hopefully this spring. The District Council have agreed with Kidderminster Town Council transfer of the Town Hall and staff. The District Council are involved in negotiations over grass cutting and bin emptying and litter picking contracts. There has been a lot of local casework, fly tipping, litter on roads, street furniture signs have been cleaned, pedestrian access into brown Westhead park - a path will be put in April this year, Planning enforcement at old rover works, also noise issues, pursuing enforcement Lowe Lane, sign Sebright Road damaged, grant given to Wolverley Memorial Hall from Localism Fund,

Councillor Cox asked the cost of the next phase of realm works? Councillor M Hart advised first phase cost £2 million, second phase will be the same, some is from Worcestershire County Council, some from Birmingham Council and some from Wyre Forest District Council.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Wyre Forest Issues

The public realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is progressing and should be completed by the autumn.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues and should be completed by the end of this year.

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 in to the company as well.

Full Council met on 14th February and a 2.99% increase in Council tax and a 1% increase in the Social Care levy, were duly approved. These increases will see an average Band D property have their bill increase by about £48 per year, 93pence per week and will be £1260.75 per annum for the County's part of the bill.

Worcestershire is still in the lowest percentage quartile compared to other Shire Counties.

The net revenue base budget was approved at £330.4m in 2019/2020, an actual net cash increase from £324.2m in 2018/2019.

An extra £14.1m was approved for Adult Social Care and an extra £7.7m into Children's Social Care, £3m for apprenticeships, skills development and business growth and £2.8m into regeneration and infrastructure projects.

In 19/20, it is proposed to spend £140 million on adult social care and public health and £104 million on children's social care and communities, which is 74% of the Council's net revenue budget.

The good news is that there is extra money for Wyre Forest residents. The A449 at Hoobrook will benefit from a substantial investment from the congestion fund and each County Councillor has been allocated £43,000 over 19/20 and 20/21 for highways infrastructure projects.

LOCAL ISSUES:

Quarry Concerns: An application has still not been received by the County Council; it seems likely that an application will be submitted in May.

The A449 between Cookley and Kidderminster: I have again reminded County Highways that I am overdue a response to my request for a 40mph speed limit here.

Franch Road Wolverley, Approach to the Primary School: I am still chasing for the Safety Lining and signage to be installed; I have already agreed the funding for this from my Councillors Divisional Fund.

Wolverley, Brown Westhead Road Brambles: I have now been informed that the County Highways officers have requested the land owner to cut back the brambles which are encroaching into the highway preventing safe parking.

Wolverley, The footpath connecting Sebright Road to Franche Road has been inspected by the Highways Engineer who has agreed the need for substantial surface repairs.

Cookley, Castle Road Drains: I reminded Highways that these drains require clearing and would hope that this has now been dealt with.

Wolverley, Fairfield Lane junction hazard for Buses: Highways have investigated and are prepared to recommend double yellow lines for the section of this junction where buses have difficulty.

Lea Lane Road subsidence: Following helpful prompting by Cllr Dean Cox on Friday 1st March, that the canal bank had collapsed and the road tarmac had moved owing to being unsupported, I attended the location accompanied by Cllr Cox and directed vehicle traffic whilst calling Highways to attend as an emergency. It appeared that the water main had been leaking and caused the bank to become unstable. I understand that the necessary works to reinstate the bank and the road itself will be quite substantial.

228. **Financial Matters:**

- a) St Peter Cookley Churchyard Grant - Clerk read e mail received from Rev. N Taylor requesting grant towards benches for the churchyard. This will be scheduled for approval at the next meeting.
- b) Accounts for Payment - agreed the following schedule of cheques to be signed.

80	Mrs B J Drew (Salary February 19)	892.76
81	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee January/February 19)	675.75
82	WFDC (Parish Games Entry)	10.00
83	Mrs B J Drew (Stamps / Ink)	16.03
84	Kirkwells (Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan) (From Grant)	2436.00
85	Thursfields Solicitors (Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease)	900.00

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

No formal planning application has yet been received and it is now anticipated this will be after the elections in May. It was agreed by all the Parish Council need to wait for the application to come in, given the size and scale of application, it won't go before committee until the end of year.

230. **Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan**

Nothing to report

231. **Street Lighting Column 90, Kinver Lane, Caunsall.**

Following previous discussion on this Street Lighting Column it has now been ascertained several residents support the original letter dated 24th October but one resident does not. After discussion it was agreed a site meeting should be held with the Senior Lighting Engineer, Worcestershire County Council to ascertain options and try and find a suitable compromise for all residents.

232. **Parish Council Elections.**

Clerk reported on forthcoming elections. Closing date for nominations Wednesday, 3rd April, 4.00pm.

233. **Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease.**

The Lease, incorporating all amendments has now been received for signing. It was unanimously resolved Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign and return immediately.

234. **Bin Emptying / Litter Picking Contract.**

Councillor C Sherrey reported on the above. An agreement has been reached with Wyre Forest District Council for a 3 year contract, on the same basis as previously, with a 2.5% annual uplift. Councillor C Sherrey and Chairman met with the Contractors and discussed various issues and they are happy to renew the contract, therefore it was resolved to renew the Contract with Mr T Dale.

235. **Grass Cutting Contract.**

Councillor C Sherrey advised that five contractors had been sent paperwork to quote for Grass Cutting in the Parish, 1 didn't respond, 1 didn't want to quote, 1 was extortionate, so it was down to 2, A meeting was arranged with the 2 to discuss the contract in finer detail however Oakleaf cancelled the day before and did not reschedule. A meeting was held with Mr Keith Basketfield, the only issue being the LANTRA qualification however Wyre Forest District Council have agreed to provide the necessary training.

The Grass Cutting Sub Group are keen to offer Mr Basketfield the contract, on a basis of 5 cuts per year. He is a local man, with knowledge of both villages, is accessible and has back up if needed. He will liaise regarding any special requirements for cutting prior to Wolverley Carnival and Cookley in Bloom.

Councillor C Sherrey proposed the contract be offered to Mr Basketfield, this was seconded by Councillor Cox and agreed. Councillor M Hart thanked the Parish for their work on this and said that it is Localism working well.

236. **Cookley Bus Service.**

Nothing to report.

237. **Cookley Post Office.**

Councillor D Jones reported that there is still no Post Office Services in Cookley and asked if the Parish Council could write asking to be kept updated with any progress and strongly supporting Post Office facilities in the village. This was agreed.

238. **Covenant on land next to Multi Use Games Area, Cookley.**

Councillor D Jones reported that the trustees from the Playing Fields are giving an area of land to Cookley in Bloom for a garden area, there is an existing covenant, but they think it has expired and request the Parish Council to investigate,

Councillor M Hart asked what is the covenant, who has the benefit and burden and they are not normally time limited. It was agreed Cookley Village Hall send a formal request to the Clerk prior to investigation.

239. **Traffic Calming, Cookley.**

Councillor D Cox enquired whether there is possibility of any traffic calming through Cookley Village.

Councillor Hardiman advised that there has been a thorough investigation by Worcestershire County Council and they will not agree to any calming measures, they are doing speed checks, wardens etc but nothing else will be done,

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3387 19/0061/TCA: Remove limbs from two Cypress trees, St John the Baptist Church, Wolverley,

Already approved.

3388 19/0074/Full: Replacement entrance porch and bay windows at The Viewlands, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval.

3389 19/0104/Full: Extension and conversion of detached garage to kitchen with link extension and rear decking area at 22 Gaymore Road, Cookley.

.Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

241. Clerks Report (Clerk). Consultation on Blakeshall Common (will be presentation at Parish Meeting), Closure Notice, Charity Dinner, Parish Games Quiz, Clerks and Councils Direct, Wolverley and Cookley Matters article.

242. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Nothing to report.

243. T G Hardwicks. - They have done a lot of work to improve the footpath by pollarding willow trees, agreed Clerk send letter of thanks.

244. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting.

245. Dates for Meetings:

Parish Forum - Thursday 21st March, 2019

247. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd April 2019, 7.00pm, Cookley School.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman - 2nd April 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Crescent, Cookley - a parishioner spoke of unusable state of pavements as tree roots have brought tarmac up, public footpaths are dreadful and the actual road itself terrible - not a proper surface and the road dips. There is no footpath onto A 449; you take your life in your hands getting across the road. They asked Parish Councillors to please consider the forgotten of Cookley.

Councillor Cox re iterated concerns and asked if the County Councillor could assist in any way. Councillor Hardiman will take comments on board.

A resident of Gaymore Road reported a sign outside house, opposite Cleve road that has been knocked over and there are a lot of tyre tracks on soil, Councillor Cox has reported this to Balfour Beatty as it was their lorry, Councillor Hardiman will check on this.