

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr D Cox (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr A Carloss
Mr R Drew
Mr M Hart
Mr D Jones
Mrs L Jones
Mr B McFarland
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman / Marcus Hart / Lisa Jones
West Mercia Police: PCSO Kate Easthope

27. **Apologies.** Mr J Hart as on holiday.

28. **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.
Councillor Carloss reported that following advice from Solicitors at Wyre Forest District Council he has to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the potential Quarry at Lea Castle Farm. As Chair of the Quarry Campaign Group, opinions voiced in election material, proximity of home address to the potential quarry, e mail address against the Quarry his opinion has been predetermined and if partakes in any discussion / voting could jeopardise any response from the Parish Council which could be challenged. He advised he will leave the room when any discussions on this take place.
Councillor Nicholls and Councillor Jones also declared a DPI due predetermination on election literature and house proximity to proposed Quarry. Councillor Wood also declared a DPI. They will leave the room when this item is discussed. Councillor McFarland advised he had sought legal advice on his position.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.
Councillors D Cox and C Nicholls in Planning Application 19/0262 as School Governors.

The mee4ting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME;

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and invited questions. - Please see notes after the minutes
Councillors with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests left the room.

29. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 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.

30. **Matters for Discussion / Decision;**

To receive Councillors Reports;

District Councillor Mrs Lisa Jones reported;

District News

Shazu Miah is the new chairman of the District Council and Peter Young is the Vice Chairman. Graham Ballinger is the New Leader of the Council and Fran Oborski is the new Deputy Leader under the newly formed Progressive Alliance Party, this includes councillors from Health Concern, Liberal Democrat's, Green, Labour and Independent parties.

At the Full council meeting in May the following items were discussed :-

Officers and Directors were asked by the Progressive Alliance Party to consider the financial implications arising from the planting and future maintenance of school children planting over 6,000 trees within the District.

Officers and Directors were asked by the Progressive Alliance Party to consider the financial implications of installing and purchasing additional electric charging point machines in council owned car parks within the district, and the implications involved in ensuring that all privately controlled car parks and new residential developments and businesses install them.

Officers and Directors were asked by the Progressive Alliance Party to consider the financial implications on how the District Council can be enabled to build social rental housing, constructed on land already in public ownership.

Local Issues

Wolverley Issues

I am very pleased that Gill's Cafe is now signed up on the Safe Place Scheme and will be placed onto the main database for vulnerable residents shortly. Gill already offers a safe place for the children from Wolverley High School if needed.

Wolverley Lock - Marcus has been contact with the Canals and Rivers Trust regarding the locking of the lock at 3pm without any warnings. The engineering department will be in contact with Marcus shortly.

There has been some anti-social behaviour in Knight Road including damage to vehicles. We have spoken to the residents affected and have notified the Housing Association and asked for more regular visits from their wardens. We will be contacting residents again shortly and asking if this has improved.

Grass Cutting in the villages - I have spoken to Keith Basketfield and explained that I would like the grass strimmed after he has mowed and ensure that the areas are left neat and tidy. I thanked Bill Southam and Ribby for tidying up the mowing in Cookley. Keith has assured me that in future it will be much neater. I will keep an eye on the presentation.

Cookley Issues

Whilst on our monthly litter picking group in Cookley we were made aware of footpath in Austcliffe Lane towards the caravan park. This was extremely overgrown and have asked the Lensman to cut this back.

Marcus has spoken to the enforcement officers regarding the new stable buildings on the fields at the back of Kimberlee Avenue in Cookley. The enforcement officer will report back when he has visited the site.

The Litter on the grass verges on the A449 and A451 will be cleared shortly.

We have been in contact with Green Street and Homes England regarding the removal of the three large builders' bags that have left in the lay-by by The Crescent. These will be removed within the next few days. They are also looking into the cost of erecting a boundary fence to deter further fly tipping in the lay-by.

The Weeds growing in the kerbs in Westhead Road, Westhead Road North and Woodlands Road have all been treated with weed killer and have been mostly cleared away by the road sweeper visiting today.

I have requested that the road sweeper to be sent out again to Lea Lane and the leaves cleared up. This will be carried out on Friday 28 June.

We have now received our leadership funding and I will be speaking to the primary schools in Cookley and Wolverley regarding funding for a possible day trip and or some dyslexia reading books.

Officers from WFDC have been in contact with us regarding the banners for the events held on the playing fields by the social club. The banners cannot be larger than 0.6m. Robert Beeston has continued to reiterate this but with no avail. Could the representative please contact him with regard to this.

With regard to the quarry we would like residents not to listen to rumours and village gossip on social media and speak to us councillors if they have any concerns and we will speak on their behalf at meetings and we inform the residents of any news and updates.

Councillor M Hart advised that a leaflet from the District Councillors will be going out to all households in the Parish in the next few days.

The Local Plan consultation will re-open but will be re consulting on the same sites with same volumes, there were some technical issues and many people didn't get the household flyer. At present there are 2 locations for people to attend the consultations but the District Councillors will try and persuade more consultations in our local parish,

County Councillor. Ian Hardiman reported;

Kinver Edge Kingsford Forest Park Update

Further to the National Trust's recent Public Engagement sessions and subsequent residents' communications received, some of whom are supportive of the National Trust's plans and some who are against, I was approached by two local residents who were spokespersons seeking help towards ensuring the National Trust were fully aware of the concerns being held presently by some local residents.

I undertook to speak with the National Trust's Management and did so, explaining that my belief is that the Public Engagement sessions held had not produced clear and satisfactory outcomes and that perhaps a small meeting with the residents' representatives would be more suitable.

The National Trust thought this was a good idea and asked me to arrange a meeting accordingly. On Friday 10th May, a meeting was held at Wyre Forest District Council's offices attended by two National Trust representatives, two residents' spokespersons and myself; I chaired the meeting. In addition, County Cllr Rebecca Vale, one of my colleagues attended to give advice as she is an experienced horse owner/rider.

The meeting provided the opportunity for all matters of concern regarding the National Trust's plans to be expressed and responded to in a round table discussion. Further to this meeting, I provided the residents' spokespersons with the names and contact details of County Council Officers who could be contacted regarding the actual transfer of land to the National Trust. For clarity I would explain that Worcestershire County Council, agreed in principle in 2014 to transfer the land from the County Council's ownership to the National Trust as the County Council were no longer in a position to allocate the resources required to appropriately manage the land. The land was costing the taxpayers of Worcestershire approximately £30,000 per year and this would be saved by the transfer and this was at a time when the County Council had to make millions of pounds a year in savings in order to protect front line services. This decision was taken by the cabinet in the public domain. The actual transfer of the land took some time and was actually transferred in 2018. I am advised that the National Trust will make their decision on final proposals during June.

Lea Castle Quarry

No Planning Application has yet been received by the County Council. We are advised that an application may still be some months away from submission. Meanwhile NRS Aggregates Limited have agreed to do Public Exhibitions: at 4.00pm on Friday 14 th June at Cookley Village Hall, and at 4.00pm on Monday 17 th June at Wolverley Memorial Hall.

This will provide an opportunity for residents to meet the NRS team, hear about their draft proposals for mineral extraction and land restoration, and to provide feedback on their plans.

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A449 Speed reduction to 40mph

I am still awaiting a response on my request for the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph along the section from the traffic lights to beyond the Caunsall Road junction.

Fairfield Lane / Franche Road Junction County Highways have agreed to introduce a short run of double yellow lines at this junction to prevent vehicle parking close to the junction which impedes access by buses.

HighLow Bank Overgrown Pavement - This siding out work has still not been carried out; I am meeting with the Highways Engineer this week and will remind him that this request is in the interests of pedestrian safety.

Franche Road Lining and Signing

I am most concerned that the agreed Lining and Signing (tigers' teeth) at the approach to Wolverley Primary School which was agreed several months ago and for which I have financed the work from my divisional highway's allocation is still outstanding. I will chase this work with the Highways Engineer again this week.

Caunsall Damaged Fencing by the river - I am continuing to chase Highways on the agreed replacement fencing for by the bridge layby.

WYRE FOREST ISSUES:

The Public Realm work in Kidderminster's Worcester Street is progressing well and should be completed by the autumn.

Kidderminster Station's forecourt works are taking place; there will be some highways disruption shortly as trees and shrubs are being removed to open up visibility of the station. Work should be completed by the year end.

STRATEGIC ISSUES:

The wholly owned company for Children's Social Care should be completely set up by October this year; 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. The Chairman and 3 Directors have now been appointed.

At Full Council on 16 th May, Councillor Peter Tomlinson was appointed as Chairman for the municipal year.

The County Council is about to embark on a 12-week public consultation on its County wide Transport Strategy, including home to school transport and bus services, as it spends circa £28 million net on these services and wishes to hear the views of residents.

Councillor D Jones asked for an update on Lea Lane. All parties are still in discussion over who will pay for repairs

Councillor Carloss reported that the double yellow lines in Lea Lane are in bad repair and existing lines have faded,

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

PCSO Kate Easthope reported -

Cookley - Metal bird table stolen from property in Kinver Lane, Titan Steel Wheels scrap stolen, horsebox burnt out Caunsall, van broken into Castle Road, Bridge Road Tesco alarm going off - scared people off when police attended, Memory Lane dementia awareness week had surgeries, run a café 2nd Friday of every month,

Wolverley - fires reported corner of Sion House, Badland Avenue, National Trust 5 metal signs stolen from wooden posts, Wolverley Village garden furniture stolen.

32. Financial Matters:

Councillor C Sherrey presented financial figures to all Councillors.

It was unanimously resolved to approve finances as follows:

- a) Approve Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019.
- b) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019 (Section 1 of the Annual Return).
- c) Approve the Statement of Accounts 2019 (Section 2 of the Annual Return).
- d) Approve the Annual Return 2019.
- e) Approve Accounts for Payment - to agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

10	Mrs B J Drew (Salary May 19)	880.47
11	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee April/May 19)	373.64

12	Keith Basketfield (2 nd Grass Cutting)	655.00
13	Mrs B J Drew (Stamps / Ink)	16.39
14	Revive (Gateway Cleaning)	260.00
15	Smith of Derby (Re-issue of chq 310)	285.60

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

Councillors with Disclosable Pecuniary Interest left the room.

No formal planning application has yet been received. Consultations are being held on 14th June at Cookley and 17th June at Wolverley.

34. **Response to National Trust following consultation on changes at Blakeshall Common.**

The National Trust have not yet issued their report following consultations. Clerk to re agenda.

35. **Report on Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor D Jones reported that the 1st document of the plan is being launched on Sunday 30th March, 11.00am - 4.00pm, Cookley Hall.

Councillor Wood asked for the Wyre Forest Community Land Trust to be a separate agenda item next month.

36. **To discuss Street Lighting Columns in the Parish:**

- a) Conversion to LEDs - Councillor D Jones has checked all outstanding lights and there are 86 still needing conversion to LED in Cookley. Councillor C Sherrey reported in Wolverley there are only 8 that need doing, Lamps to be agreed at next meeting and column numbers given to the Clerk. County Councillor Hardiman to check on County Council lights in village - safer routes to school,
- b) Streetlight 90, Kinver Lane, Caunsall - Still awaiting painting - chasing Paul Green, Highways
- c) Lighting in Gaymore Road, Cookley - Noted

Councillor Nicholls asked if a price could be obtained for additional lighting in Lionfields road between Highfield Rd and Clea and Lionfields by allotments. Clerk to enquire.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3399 WF/19/0232/Full: Revised Plans: Two storey side extension and garage, 7 The Crescent, Cookley.

Recommend Approval

3400 WF/19/0242/Full: Change of use to B8 storage use, including erection of 2 portacabins and boundary treatment, parking provision, refurbishment of metal structure to form canopy and creation of alternative bat habitat at Drakelow Tunnels, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley.

Councillor M Hart advised that he is on the Planning Committee at Wyre Forest District Council but is not precluded from voting and will judge the application on the information presented. Councillor L Jones will do the same.

Councillor Drew agreed with the comments from planning that the site location is not sustainable and will result in a detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents and on the character of the area due to heavy goods vehicles and increase in traffic. The lack of infrastructure does not support safe and suitable access. It was unanimously agreed to recommend refusal.

3401 WF/19/0247/Full: Removal of Conservatory at rear of house replacement with new extension at Sinkers Cottage, The Shortyard, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

3402 WF/19/0254/Full: First floor side extension with single storey rear and garage conversion at 12 Winston Road, Cookley.

Recommend Approval

- 3403 WF/19/0262/Full: Construction of a Nature Study Hut within the existing forest school grounds at Cookley Sebright Primary School, Lea Lane, Cookley.
Recommend Approval
- 3404 WF/19/0275/Full: Single storey side extension at Abbots Croft, The Cottage, Wolverley Road, Wolverley.
Recommend Approval
- 3405 FOR INFORMATION ONLY: 19/3021/AG Agricultural storage building at land adjacent to Longdon, Lowe Lane, Wolverley.
- 3406 19/0292/RES: Reserved matters following outline planning permission 18/0310/Outl at 63 Austcliffe Road, Cookley.
Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required

38. Clerks Report (Clerk). Notice of Appeal, Narok, Birds Barn Lane, Wolverley, Local Plan Consultation, Volunteer & Skills Fair
39. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Councillor Drew reported all gateways strimmed prior to planting, fallen tree cleared, Councillor Southam reported footpath Austcliffe lane, cut branches in fold. Councillor Nicholls would like a breakdown of hours spent in each village.
40. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Wyre Forest Community Land Trust, Elizabeth Bache Corner Book Swap.
41. Dates for Meetings: Wyre Forest CALC Monday 24th June, CALC Executive Wednesday 10th July.
42. Date of Next Meeting – to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd July 2019, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall.

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

Chairman - 2nd July 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Councillor Cox asked all public wishing to speak to say their name and address prior to addressing the Council.

Lea Castle Equestrian Centre felt the consultation letters sent out looked like junk mail so probably a lot of residents put them in the bin and did not read also thought the Parish Council had previously voted against this. The Chairman advised that no formal planning application had yet been received. The Parish Council did respond to the Scoping Opinion report. A question was raised on how effective the Parish Council will be when discussing the Quarry as several Councillors must leave the room and cannot vote. The Chairman advised that predetermination can render decision making open to challenge so these Councillors cannot risk jeopardising a response voted from the remaining Councillors.

Many residents again expressed their concern over the potential Quarry and the worry that the consultation events will show a very attractive picture. It was also questioned where the application will be sent, and residents asked for support from the District Councillors and County Councillor. Councillor M Hart responded that local residents want members to support them so it is really important as a matter of law that their view is not predetermined, that they do not say in any literature that they oppose or support the quarry. At the time an application is received they will judge on its merits, listening very carefully to residents' concerns. The application will go to Worcestershire County Council as minerals and waste authority, but the Parish Council will be consulted and all Councillors without a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will vote on the application,

A question was asked whether the Parish Council will hold a public meeting regarding Blakeshall Common. The Chairman advised that final proposals had still not been received but this will be on the next agenda. The issue of climate change emergency with regard to National Trust proposals was raised and flood risk, trees have recently been planted around Wolverley to reduce flood risk and now the National Trust want to remove trees, people should have access to woods and trees, heathland requires human intervention. Also why are barbed wire gates etc being installed, the National Trust are breaching the Equalities Act 2010 by discriminating against people.

The matter of the review of public transport in Worcestershire was raised and there are still concerns in Cookley, hope the survey is not just online.

A resident queried the minutes from the April meeting. The Clerk confirmed the resident's comments are in the Annual Parish Meeting minutes.