

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 7.00pm

Mr D Cox (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr R Drew
Mr J Hart
Mr M Hart
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
West Mercia Police: PCSO Zara Williams

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Cookley in Bloom team who have done a tremendous job to get Cookley looking fabulous and hoped that the judging day went well.

43. **Apologies.** Councillor Mr A Carlross and Mr D Jones as away on holiday and Councillor Mrs L Jones.

44. **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.
Councillor J Hart, C Sherrey, S Sherrey agenda item 8 as members of the National Trust, Councillors C Nicholls, J Wood, W Southam and B McFarland on the Quarry however Councillor McFarland can take part in debate and Councillor Mrs V Bordewich on Planning Application 19/0334 as friend of the applicant.

The meeting 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.

45. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th June 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.

46. **Matters for Discussion / Decision:**

To receive Councillors Reports;

District Councillor Marcus Hart reported:

Wyre Forest Issues

Kidderminster Train Station - Work on the £4,000,000 transformation and redevelopment of Kidderminster train station continues.

Worcester Street - Work to enhance the public realm and improve the infrastructure on Worcester Street has now commenced. This is a £2 million capital investment between the GBSLEP and County and District Council working collaboratively to lead the way in attempting to get the land holdings in that area to act differently and redevelop the redundant empty shop units. We would like to see more accommodation and in particular affordable housing in this area as it is a sustainable location. We have made an application to the Chancellor's £675 million to support further regeneration in this area as this is exactly what we need to get this scheme off the ground from a Council perspective as these regeneration issues especially transforming brown field sites always come down to matters of viability.

Crown House - We are pleased to report the tenant Tellereal Trillium's demolition contractor started on site last Monday to commence with the demolition and are advised that the work will take approximately 30 weeks.

Wolverley and Cookley Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter on the main A roads, dealing with planning enforcement issues, reporting damaged street nameplates.

The National Trust consultation continues to come across our radar as residents are emailing us with their views or copying us into their communications with the National Trust, but Ian has been predominantly dealing with this matter as county councillor as the land was transferred from WCC to the National Trust.

The quarry matter is still ongoing and as we all are aware no application has yet been received. Residents will no doubt be aware of the two consultation events held in Cookley on 14 th June and Wolverley on 17 th June. We ensured we delivered a newsletter to all local residents in Wolverley and Cookley notifying them of the two consultation events, in advance of the dates. We also attended one of the consultation sessions. We have received many emails now from concerned local residents many of which are very similar, and have been responding to them all setting out our position and explaining that the rules state that we must not pre-determine of view and therefore must wait and debate the matter when we actually have a planning application in front of us.

Building of the 91 houses on land off the Stourbridge Road has now commenced and is progressing.

Marcus and Ian have now held a meeting with WFDC's planning manager and enforcement officer to discuss the issue of the stables in Gaymore Road, Cookley. They are actively compiling all of the information on land ownerships as the fields have been portioned off. Therefore, this is taking some time, indeed liaising with the Land Registry for ownership information. They will then contact all landowners about the unauthorised stable blocks and discuss, where there may be a suitable location for them all together that may be supportable from a planning perspective, but this has yet to be discussed. We will keep the Parish Council updated but this will take a little bit of time to resolve.

The Canal Lock by the Lock Inn public house is now fully re-opened.

County Councillor. Ian Hardiman reported;

I am continuing to chase County Highways regarding:
A449 Speed Reduction to 40 mph.
Fairfield Lane/ Franche Rd junction, yellow lines.
Highlow Bank Siding Out of pavement overgrowth.
Franche Road Signing & Lining (tiger's teeth) before the school.
Repairs to the Damaged fencing by the river at Causall.

Re: Wyre Forest Issues:

The respite facility at Ludlow Rd in Kidderminster is being consulted on for closure, again. This is not a County owned facility. The County commissions beds from the Health and Care Trust. Due to Ofsted rules, twin rooms are not acceptable and this means the unit would have to become a 4 bedded unit, which would require substantial investment; it is not financially viable. The County is looking at the other facilities in Worcestershire to ensure service users who do use the facility still get the respite cover they need and in fact are statutorily entitled to.

Re: Strategic issues County Wide:

County Cabinet met on 6th June and the final accounts position for 18/19 was reported. In the Autumn of 2018 it was forecast that the County Council would overspend its budget by £19m but as a result of management actions the final position was a £2m overspend and so £324m not £322m. This was taken from reserves. The major pressures are Adult social care and Children's social care including SEND and higher needs spending. Higher Needs spending overspent by £9m so actions are being considered on how to address this in 2019/20.

The Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy is now out for public consultation; from 14th June for 13 weeks. There will be hard copies available in public libraries and Tourist Information centres in addition to the opportunity to take part online.

Councillor Drew asked for the road closed signs at Lea Lane to be changed to access only, also diversion signs are regularly knocked down, can these be regularly checked as people can't find their way around the diversion.
Bridge in Wolverley - large crack and this is getting worse.

Councillor Hardiman replied that the Bridge had been inspected - minor damage and no urgent action required, also Lea Lane signage is being inspected weekly.

Councillor McFarland expressed concerns over the A449, there is increasing pressure for resolution over speed, also the respite facility in Kidderminster - the response from the County Council is cruel. Ludlow Road provision and the 40mph limit - nothing will get done quickly,

Councillor Cox reported blocked drains on Castle Road, Councillor Hardiman will speak to Paul Green, Highways Engineer.

47. **To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.**

PCSO Zara Williams reported -

Wolverley - Bicycle stolen from property in Wardle Way, Burglary T G Hardwicks, break in Beechcote Avenue, van broken into on Hayes Road. A resident in bury hall has been knocking cars of parents collecting children from Wolverley High School, query on who owns driveway, Councillor C Sherrey will ascertain if it belongs to the Sebright Foundation.

Cookley - Car window smashed Castle Road, car stolen Kinver Road, Caunsall, No quarry march well attended well and no issues, meeting with rural councillors on 20th July,

None of team are working and able to attend at Wolverley Carnival.

48. **Financial Matters:**

Approved - Accounts for Payment to be paid;

16	Mrs B J Drew (Salary June 19)	880.47
17	Inland Revenue (Tax & NI April - June 19)	175.29
18	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee June 19)	477.00
19	Keith Basketfield (3 rd Grass Cut)	655.00
20	Mrs B J Drew (Stationary)	49.49
21	Info View Ltd (Internal Audit)	200.00
22	Mrs Y Biggs (NP Expenditure)	150.03
23	BT Payphones (Kiosk Bridge Road, Cookley)	360.00

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

No formal planning application yet received.

50. **To discuss Blakeshall Common Heathland Restoration Proposal from National Trust.**

Councillor Wood reported that following consultation the amount of land is now less than half of what it originally was, most of the land contained as coniferous woodland, does not believe it is denying peoples rights, has walked over this land for over 25 years, how is this restricting access to the whole site?

Councillor Nicholls referred to the recent news report on the chequered skipper butterfly that became extinct in England 40 years ago that has now been bred for the first time in a secret forest location and said that we have to manage our land and the National Trust have listened to peoples concerns and have amended their proposals accordingly.

Councillor Southam advised that he believes the National Trust know what they are doing and should be trusted. The Heathland was there first.

Councillor Bordewich commented that by installing gates the National Trust are actually making it safer, so children, dogs etc do not run off, they are not trying to do anything harmful, they are trying to protect it for the future.

Councillor McFarland said that the area is a public amenity and therefore should be for all to enjoy! No one group should dominate the decision on how it is used, it should be used by walkers, dog walkers, cyclists, families, etc. Heathland areas are very important, and conifers do have a detrimental effect on the environment.

Councillor Drew stated that the National Trust have fully engaged with consultation and have amended proposals in light of concerns raised and therefore he proposed that the Parish Council accept this final proposal. If the proposals are modified again the Parish Council will request to be re consulted.

Councillor M Hart advised he has received a lot of e mails from individuals on these proposals in support and against and feels that nobody on this Parish Council would want the area destroyed and not open for the whole community to use. The National Trust have listened and done their utmost to accommodate all views.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Southam and agreed with three abstentions.

51. **Report on Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan following Launch Event 30th June 2019.**

Councillor Wood advised of the first draft launch last Sunday which was attended by 49 people and well received. Consultation ends on 9th August 2019.

52. **Report on Wyre Forest Community Land Trust.**

The Community Land Trust is offering proposals for modular housing, self builds and are now also in partnership with co-housing group. There is a meeting tomorrow with Wyre Forest Community Housing.

53. **To discuss Worcestershire County Council Passenger Transport Strategy Consultation.**
Councillor Drew reported on this consultation and urged Councillors to encourage parishioners to complete a response form. Councillor M Hart advised that this is a Worcestershire wide strategy which covers buses and public transport.
54. **To agree next phase of conversion of Street Lighting Columns in the Parish to LEDs.**
Councillor C Sherrey advised Councillor D Jones had suggested the 16 lights in The Crescent, and there are 9 in Wolverley, It was agreed Clerk place order to get these converted.
55. **To discuss possibility of re-siting a litterbin Austcliffe to Cookley Village.**
There is a need for a bin near the caravan park. Councillor Southam to liaise with Lengthsman to see if an existing bin can be re-sited.
56. **To discuss Cookley Village Book Exchange, Elizabeth Bache Corner, Cookley.**
Worcestershire County Council have contacted the parishioner who requested this to pursue.
57. **To discuss Councillor Training.**
Clerk advised of training session to be held at Trimpey Village Hall 22nd July 2019 7.00-9.00pm.

Councillors V Bordewich, D Cox, C Sherrey, S Sherrey, W Southam and Clerk to attend. Clerk will book.
58. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3407 WF/19/0313/Full: Erection of garage, Wyre Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Wolverley,

Recommend Refusal -

There is already an existing approval for a 2 door, 2 floor garage and this has now been changed to a much larger 3 bay garage with workshop to side, refusal and recommend footprint is brought down to original size

3408 WF/19/0332/Full: Two storey side and front extensions and internal alterations to existing dwelling house at 6 Brown Westhead Park, Wolverley,

Recommend Refusal -

Impact on openness of green belt, extensions are not subservient and are an example of poor design, insufficient information for parking provision and insufficient information for discharge of foul water.

3409 WF/19/0333/Full: Installation of wastewater treatment unit at Hern Cottage, Drakelow Lane, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3410 19/0334/Full: Single storey front extension, conversion of existing shed to ancillary accommodation, new garden shed and installation of replacement roof to conservatory at The Walled Garden, Wolverley,

Recommend Refusal -

The conservation officer comments are to approve however this is a very ancient walled garden with building inside, it is totally out of character and inappropriate development in conservation area. Councillor M Hart advised that this may go to committee so only voting on information here, will not predetermine decision.

3411 19/0343/Full: Single storey extension to provide enlarged hall, store and canopy at 16 Westhead Road North, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3412 19/0361/CERTP: Lawful development certificate for proposed loft conversion at 18 Bridge Road, Cookley,

Noted

3413 19/0375/Full: single storey rear extension at 27 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3414 19/3031/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Single storey rear extension at 7 Westhead Road, Cookley.

Noted

59. Clerks Report (Clerk). Notice of Appeal 18/0615/Full, Community Solutions Fund, Showcase of services for older people.
60. Wyre Forest Area CALC Meeting. Councillor R Drew reported - Well attended, New officer Christopher Wayman attended, not enough people being trained, new format of fortnightly bulletins, free government mapping,
61. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Councillors R Drew and W Southam. Councillor Southam reported he has done a lot in Cookley this month and has been brilliant.
62. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting.
63. Dates for Meetings: CALC Executive Wednesday 10th July.
64. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th August 2019, 7.00pm, Cookley School.

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

Chairman - 6th August 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

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

A resident apologised for comments made last month and spoke about the public consultation exhibitions held recently about the proposed Quarry and stated that at the Wolverley event they overheard Councillor M Hart speaking on the matter and predetermining his view on the proposals. Councillor Hart categorically refuted that any such comment was made and has made it very clear that he would not make any comment in support or against to allow full participation if and when a planning application is received.

Councillor Cox explained that the Parish Councillors are in a very difficult position at the moment because if they express a view, written or orally whether in support or opposing the proposed Quarry then they can be seen as predetermining their view before the formal planning application is submitted. This could result in the applicant challenging the response from the Parish Council when it is submitted so in order to represent the parish and not weaken a response, they need at the moment to keep their views to themselves.

There were many comments from parishioners on the Blakeshall Common Heathland Restoration proposals with concerns expressed over covenants on the land when it was transferred to the National Trust and compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 and that currently people can wander into the area with no danger but the National trust want to put barbed wire around the whole perimeter which will make it unsafe and people won't want to come to the area. Also concerns expressed that the proposals are being rushed through and that the latest proposals have no date or reference number on them.

County Councillor Hardiman reported that a meeting had been held with the National Trust, County Council and several concerned residents were invited to discuss the proposals and put forward their concerns. It was made clear that the conveyance would not be discussed, and names of officers were given to the residents if they wished to pursue any questions over the transfer of the land.