

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.00pm**

Mr D Cox (Chairman)  
Mrs V Bordewich  
Mr A Carloss  
Mr R Drew  
Mr J Hart  
Mr M Hart  
Mr D Jones  
Mr C Nicholls  
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

65. **Apologies.** Councillor Mrs L Jones, Mr B McFarland and Mr C Sherrey as away on holiday.

66. **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. Councillors A Carloss, C Nicholls, J Wood, W Southam on the Proposed Quarry, 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.

67. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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.

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

To receive Councillors Reports;

Councillor Ian Hardiman reported:

**Strategic Issues County Wide:**

The County Council's Children's Social Care company will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year. Education and Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will go into the company as well.

The County Council have received very good news, as Children's Services is no longer "inadequate", and OFSTED have rated it as "requires improvement" which is the next step to becoming "Good" which is the aim.

**Wyre Forest Issues:**

The Public Realm work for Kidderminster's Worcester Street is progressing well and should be completed by the autumn; this scheme will link into the District Council's plan to regenerate this area and Bromsgrove Street—the Lion Fields area of the town.

**Local Issues:**

**Lea Castle Quarry:**

Again, I must report briefly that no planning application has been received by Worcestershire County Council.

**Lea Lane Landslip:**

Further to my recent email update provided to parish councillors, I have not received any further information from the County Council; I am meeting the Highways Engineer this week and will be urging further clarification on this.

**I am** continuing to chase County Highways regarding:

Modification to the dropped kerb by No. 11 Franche Road which, since recent road resurfacing has caused rainwater to flow down the resident's drive.

ALSO:

A449 Speed Reduction to 40 mph.

Fairfield Lane/ Franche Rd junction, yellow lines.

Highlow Bank Siding Out of pavement overgrowth.

Franchise Road Signing & Lining (tiger's teeth) before the school.  
Repairs to the Damaged fencing by the river at Caunsall.

#### **New Local Issues:**

My attention has been drawn to minor road subsidence in Lower Kingsford Lane, alongside Kinverdale Park; this is near to a recent Severn Trent water main repair works.

Residents in Shatterford Lane have asked for vehicle speed checking to be carried out as they consider excessive speeding is occurring quite regularly; I have forwarded a request accordingly to the Highways Engineer.

Traffic congestion is occurring at peak school start/finish times and local residents have asked for investigation as to whether double yellow lines could be installed opposite the lower entrance to the High School in an effort to ease this situation; I have referred this to the Highways Engineer.

Local concerns have been expressed regarding the overgrown pavement on the Wolverley side of the Bridgnorth Road below the 3 Crowns Pub. I have asked the Highways Engineer to arrange Siding Out of this stretch of pavement.

Sheepwash Lane potholes: Residents have asked for the County Council to carry out tarmac repairs. However, this is a Bridleway and as such is not under Highways Maintenance. I have therefore asked County Countryside Services to at least consider using scalplings to fill the potholes.

Cookley, Bridge Road property damaged by vehicle collision: Apparently, a vehicle mounted the pavement and collided with the front of the residence. Consequently, I was asked whether bollards could be installed on the pavement edge to provide some protection in the future; the Highways Engineer considers bollards are not an option but he is seeking advice on whether the kerb can be modified in order to provide greater resistance to vehicles which may roll down the sloping roadway.

Cookley Gaymore Road; Residents have asked whether white lining can be installed to deter drivers from hogging the centre of the road, causing others to brake hard or hit the kerb! I have asked the Highways Engineer to consider this

Questions followed regarding drains blocked Castle Road, Cookley, road surface Woodlands Road, Westhead Road, Westhead Road North, thanks for removing flytipping Lea Lane, yellow lines Lea Lane are slightly worn but will not be repainted and Lea Lane subsidence, still talks between Worcestershire County Council, Canals and Rivers Trust and a private third party. Will not be opened before November 19.

District Councillor Marcus Hart reported:

Wolverley and Cookley Issues:

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter on the main A roads.

Litter on Shatterford Lane has been reported to the clerk for the litter picker to attend to.

WFDC have been requested to deal with dog fouling in the Austcliffe Lane alleyway.

Ian and I have been requested to tackle the issue of the hedge overgrowing the footpath from Sebright Road to the Wolverley Road. We have liaised with Malcolm Hazlewood from the Memorial Hall committee and they are going to engage a contractor to do this work. Marcus is funding £200 worth of work from his locally determined funding and Ian is prepared to do the same if necessary.

We have been dealing with a new business sign at Wolverhill in the village in the conservation area. We have chased Richard Jennings a number of times without a successful response to the sign issue. He has indicated that there has been no planning application for the business and this is being investigated. We are now escalating this to Paul Round.

Gaymore Road stables, Richard Jennings is compiling a land ownership portfolio and has written to them all and met with them, Will update further at next meeting.

There is a fresh application which has been submitted in respect of Drakelow Tunnels, now with the inclusion of a museum, which appears to make the scheme look more favourable from a planning officer's perspective.

We continue to receive communications from local residents articulating their concerns regarding the proposed quarry at land at Lea Castle. We are acknowledging all of them.

Wyre Forest Issues:

Kidderminster Train Station

Work on the £4,000,000 transformation and redevelopment of Kidderminster train station continues. The station forecourt has recently been demolished.

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 high street fund 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. The initial bid has been successful, which is very good news.

#### Crown House

Demolition has finally commenced and we are very pleased about this. Demolition is likely to take another 6 months to complete.

#### Green Street Depot

Work is progressing well on this £3 million capital scheme which will see a brand new fit for purpose customer service centre and major investment in the depot site. This project will make a circa £20k revenue saving overall to the Council. The new customer service centre should be open in September.

#### Local Plan

The consultation re-opens on 2nd September.

#### 69. To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.

PCSO Zara Williams reported -

Cookley - Incident in Kinver Lane van break in, Woodlands Road damage to vehicle

Wolverley - Kinverdale Park trailer stolen, Bury Hall children trespassing on property, break in Wolverley High School, children on the premises when it was closed,

Councillor David Jones asked if there is any greater police presence during the school holidays as this is when there tends to be more trouble. Zara replied not but please report anything you see.

#### 70. Financial Matters:

Approved - Accounts for Payment to be paid:

24	Thursfields	2.40
25	Mrs B J Drew (Salary July 19)	880.47
26	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee July 19)	No Invoice submitted
27	Keith Basketfield (4 <sup>th</sup> Grass Cut)	655.00
28	Mrs B J Drew (Stationery)	21.89
29	Groundwork UK (Underspent NP Grant)	307.52
30	Worcestershire CALC (Training)	180.00

#### 71. Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry and Restoration Scheme at land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley.

No formal planning application yet received.

#### 72. Report on Cookley and Causall Neighbourhood Plan / Wyre Forest Community Land Trust.

Councillor Wood advised that 4 comments on the plan had been received, the deadline for response is 9<sup>th</sup> August.

#### 73. Report on progress with Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease.

This matter has now been completed.

#### 74. To discuss the GBSLEP Habitats Grants Programme.

Councillor S Sherrey commented that as this fund is still open for applications information should be passed on to any group locally that may be able to benefit.

Councillor David Jones reported that he has looked through this and made a few enquiries and is hoping to create a dementia sensory garden working with Cookley In Bloom. He will report further at the next meeting.

#### 75. To discuss recycling banks within the Parish.

Following a request made by the Charity Scope, Councillor Drew enquired whether there are any locations to put a Textile Bank in the Parish. Councillor Cox advised there is one at the back of Eagle pub.

#### 76. To discuss the Local Council Award Scheme.

Councillor S Sherrey commented that on the recent Councillor Surveys there was a question relating to the Local Council Award Scheme. He explained the scheme and the different levels you can apply for and asked whether the Parish Council should consider this. Councillor M Hart advised that Chaddesley are the only Parish in Wyre Forest that have done this, it will

mean an increase in work for the Clerk and as Councillors are unpaid volunteers they do not want the job to be onerous and he does not see any benefit to the residents or the Parish Council. It was agreed not to pursue.

77. **To discuss correspondence received regarding hedges around Wolverley Memorial Hall grounds.**  
Councillors Ian Hardiman and Marcus Hart have now given funds to help with the issue of overgrown hedges, the Memorial Hall can of course apply for future funding prior to budget setting.
78. **To agree final grass cuts within the Parish.**  
The contractor has completed 4 cuts with the final one scheduled later in August. Approval was given for a 5<sup>th</sup> cut, if needed, which has been budgeted for.
79. **Planning Applications for Consideration: -**

**PC No**    **WFDC No/Details**

- 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 Approval
- 3400    WF/19/0242/Full (Additional Plans / Revised Plans / Revised Description: Change of use of approximately 285,000 square feet of floor space within the Drakelow Tunnels for the storage of wine and other alcoholic drinks (Class Use B8), erection of 2 portacabins and new boundary treatment, refurbishment of metal structure to form reception canopy, alterations to disused sub-station to provide alternative bat habitat and the change of use of part of the tunnel space to provide a museum (amended description) at Drakelow Tunnels, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley,  
  
Recommend Refusal  
The Parish Council still feel very strongly that the site location is not sustainable for this application and will result in a detrimental impact on the neighbouring residents and on the character of the area due to heavy goods vehicles and increase in traffic, which the addition of a museum will only add to. The lack of infrastructure does not support safe and suitable access.  
District Councillor Marcus Hart will be requesting that this is put on Part A of the agenda of Wyre Forest District Council Planning Committee and Councillor John Hart requests to speak at the Planning Meeting where it is discussed.
- 3415    WF/19/0414/Full: Detached garage/store at The Retreat, Lowe Lane, Wolverley,  
  
Recommend Refusal in line with Planning Officer comments, inappropriate development in Green Belt.
- 3416    WF/19/0422/CERTP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY Proposed single storey rear extension at 6 Clee Road, Cookley,
- 3417    WF/19/0430/Full: Proposed two storey side extension at 6 Clee Road, Cookley,  
  
Recommend Approval
- 3418    WF/19/0434/Full: First floor rear extension at 3 Lionfields Close, Cookley,  
  
Recommend Approval
- 3419    WF/19/0464/CERTP: Rear extension, replace existing flat roof with apex roof and replace existing porch at Windy Ridge, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley.  
  
Information Only.

**Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required**

80. Clerks Report (Clerk):  
Appeal Dismissed 18/0615/Full: 35 Castle Road, Cookley,  
Appeal Dismissed 19/0132/Full: Narok, Birds Barn Lane, Wolverley,  
Wyre Forest District Local Plan reopening of Pre-Submission Publication Document 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> October 19,  
Community Solutions Fund, Closing Date 8<sup>th</sup> September,  
Showcase of services for older people, 26<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am - 1.30pm, Kidderminster Town Hall,  
On the beat in North Worcestershire, newsletter,  
Passenger Transport Strategy - August Schedule,  
Community Broadband Engagement Event, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 4.00pm - 6.00pm, County Hall,  
Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 10.00am Wyre Forest House  
Application for street trading consent.
81. Update on recent CALC Training. Councillors V Bordewich and S Sherrey. Councillor Bordewich reported that the training event had been very useful and helpful,
82. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Councillors R Drew and W Southam. Nothing to report,
83. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Local Plan Consultation, Lea Castle Site, Payphone Cookley.
84. Dates for Meetings:

85. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chairman - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

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

Comment was made about the advertisement for a new enforcement officer at Wyre Forest District Council and enquiring on backlog of cases as a complaint made over a year ago had still not been answered. Councillor M Hart advised that a second officer has recently been appointed and there are in excess of 50 enforcement issues at any one time.

A parishioner spoke on their planning application, they bought Gardeners Cottage in 1976, it had agricultural tenancy on the wall, they ran as a nursery garden which was sold in 1986, the wall was in a very bad state and they have restored it to safe order. They would now like extra living space to allow for live in help.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Hardiman for attention to flooding on Kingsford lane.

Comment was made on the Blakeshall Common proposals expressing concern that as the Parish Council gave support at last meeting people may think everyone is in agreement. The Clerk advised that the forestry commission give the final say after an environmental impact assessment,