

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 3rd December 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
Mrs L Jones
Mr B McFarland
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr W Southam

County Councillor: I Hardiman
District Councillors: I Hardiman, M Hart, L Jones
West Mercia Police; PCSO Becky Ruston

151. **Apologies.** Councillor C Nicholls due to ill health and Councillor J Wood due to bereavement.

152. **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. Councillors A Carloss, L Jones, C Nicholls, J Wood, W Southam on potential quarry, Lea Castle Farm from advice received from WFDC Solicitor.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. Councillor B McFarland on potential quarry following election literature. Councillor C Sherrey on potential quarry as agent for Mark Garnier.

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.

153. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th November, 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:

154. To receive Councillors Reports;

County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Local Issues:

On 18th November, The Crescent Residents' spokespersons met with Helen Hawkes, Development Officer of the District Council and Paul Green Highways Engineer, plus Cllr Adrian Carloss and myself, to express concerns regarding the 600 homes development on the former hospital site.

Helen Hawkes subsequently met with the Developer Galliford Try, and Homes England, and The Highways Authority officer Stephen Hawley. A report back from Helen Hawkes states that the possibility of a Bus Barrier for The Crescent has been discounted / The Transport Assessment indicates an expected 10% only of the predicted traffic movement through The Crescent / There is no possibility of the Crescent's roadway being widened / Double-Yellow lines are being proposed for The Crescent / As some residences do not have off-street parking, residents will need to put in a driveway at their own cost. However, Homes England will consider providing off-street parking on part of The Green within The Crescent for these residents.

ALSO: The Highways Authority do not intend reducing the existing 50 mph to 40 mph speed limit for the A449 as had been requested between the Traffic Lights and the Caunsall turning!

AND: The highway works / alterations between The Crescent and the Wolverhampton Road will be finalised as part of the Section 278 application, not as part of the Reserved Matters Application.

AND: the locating of a pedestrian refuge will be to the left of the road junction to serve those using the main footpath to Castle Road; it would be impractical to have this in a different location as this would obstruct vehicles trying to turn right into The Crescent.

Helen Hawkes has informed that however, there will be a Section 73 application which will need to be determined before the Reserved Matters application, seeking permission to allow changes to the timings of when highway improvements need to be made to Wolverhampton Road, The Crescent, Park gate Road and Stourbridge Road.

Wyre Forest Issues:

The Worcester Street Public Realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is now virtually completed and is open.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues, with changes to the forecourt taking place.

Worcestershire County Highways have now started work on the Churchfields site with the creation of a spur road off the island at the top of Blackwell Street to accommodate traffic out of the town via a one-way system.

Strategic Issues County Wide:

The County's Cabinet will soon be announcing their draft budget for 2020/21 and I will update on this in January.

The Council is undertaking an organisational redesign with a view of reducing staffing costs by £6million and restructuring its top 3 tiers to a chief executive, 3 strategic directors, and assistant directors which are currently being appointed. Also, Simon Mallinson, the current Head of Legal and Democratic Services is retiring in February 2020 after 21 years of service.

There was much discussion on the comments made by Helen Hawkes, Development Officer. Councillor C Sherrey was appalled by the comments regarding the double yellow lines, residents are fine to park today and following double yellow lines will not and will have to pay for a driveway with no help from the developer. They should be asked to give grants towards dropped kerbs and driveways. Councillor Cox said it is ridiculous to refuse to drop the speed limit, there have been so many deaths on this stretch of road, also to say only 10% of residents will use the Crescent access is preposterous.

District Councillor Marcus Hart reported:

There is a meeting with enforcement tomorrow to discuss all outstanding issues in the parish, especially stables and horseculture. He will update at the January meeting. Also, the use of a property in Wolverley village as a business, Paul Round will update whether a planning application is required.

The potential quarry - e mails are still being received and answered by the District Councillors.

Local plan - Full council on 11th December will not take place due to the Election, so will take place on 26th February, The Local plan will be discussed at extraordinary meeting of district council on 20th February, cabinet on 11th February, Scrutiny 6th February.

Sion Hill - development on site imminent.

Free parking for Christmas from 3 o'clock in WFDC owned Council carparks.

Brown Westhead Park - trees being felled not consented by WFDC, the forestry commission are involved and investigating matter,

Independent remuneration panel will need to be considered by full council in due course to set members allowances,

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

PCSO Becky Ruston gave the police report;

Three incidents in Cookley - suspicious incident at steel wheels, theft of Honda motorbike Gaymore Road, Cookley, now recovered by Staffordshire police and being held by a holding company and criminal damage at Debdale Riding School.

Becky advised to keep lights on in house, be vigilant, there have been lots of burglaries in neighbouring Marlpool.

Police Priorities - frosty mornings and car thefts, jingle bells companions, crime prevention, visiting local coffee mornings, dementia cafes etc and giving advice,

156. Financial Matters:

a) Approved - Recommendations from the Grants Committee;

£450.00 Wolverley Church Hall in lieu of Rent

£450.00 Cookley School in lieu of Rent

£1,000 St Peters Church, Cookley

£1,000 St Johns Church, Wolverley

b) Approved - The following Accounts for Payment to be paid:

53	Mrs B J Drew (Salary November 19)	880.47
54	Mrs B J Drew (Expenses) Freedom of Parish Scroll Refreshments Brockencote Voucher Stationery	88.56 21.00 119.90 10.94
55	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee)	No Account
56	Amberol (Tam Torque Fixing)	10.08
57	St John the Baptist Church (Grant) (Rent)	1000.00 450.00

58	St Peters Church (Grant)	1000.00
59	WCC (Cookley School Rent)	450.00
60	Oakvale Nurseries (Winter 2019 Planters)	645.00

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

No formal planning application yet received.

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

Plan is progressing.

159. To discuss suggested naming of residential development at former Sion Hill School site.

Planning Policy at Wyre Forest District Council have received an application to address the new properties on the residential development at the former Sion Hill site. The names suggested are York Green Way, Windsor Yellow Close, Kent Red Place and Gloucester Blue, deriving from the Sion Hill School houses.

After discussion it was proposed Councillor C Sherrey, seconded Councillor S Sherrey and agreed, with 8 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions to respond asking for the colours to be dropped from the road names.

160. To grant honorary "Freedom of the Parish" in recognition of service to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to grant "Freedom of the Parish" to former Councillor Peter James Smith.

161. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

PC No WFDC No/Details

3443 19/0664/Full: Two storey side extension and single storey side and front extension at 6 Brown Westhead Park, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3444 19/0667/Full: Erection of detached dwelling including associated works at land adjacent 1 Westhead Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3445 19/0672/Full: Two storey side extension with single storey extensions to front and rear at 25 Causall Road, Causall,

Recommend Approval

3446 19/0694/Full

3447 19/0695/LIST: Conversion of garage to kitchen, replacement windows to rear elevation, reconfiguration of first floor WC and en-suite at Oak House, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval subject to Conservation Officer approval of rear bi-fold doors.

3448 19/0710/Full: Extension and conversion of detached garage to kitchen at 22 Gaymore road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3449 19/0724/RESE: Reserved matters following outline consent 17/0205 for approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of scheme involving 600 homes, public open space and infrastructure on phases A, B, C, D, E and F at former Lea Castle Hospital site.

There was considerable discussion on this reserved matters Planning Application with various Highways Issues raised and it was Unanimously agreed to:

Recommend Refusal and request a Site Visit and request that Parish Councillor Adrian Carlross speak at the WFDC Planning Committee meeting where this application is discussed.

The Parish Council strongly object to this reserved matter application on Highways grounds.

The vehicular access point from the Crescent will be a main route in and out of the site and is a narrow residential road currently servicing only 39 properties. The Transport Assessment states that only 10% of traffic movement is predicted through The Crescent, which is ridiculous, any traffic heading towards Wolverhampton, Dudley etc will use this access and also any traffic using the local amenities of Cookley village. The access out of The Crescent turning right is already extremely dangerous and will be worsened with the increase in traffic resulting in a backlog of vehicles leading back along the road.

This will, in turn, have an effect on air quality due to the idling engines waiting to exit. The sentence stating that the site generated substantial traffic flows in the past when it was a hospital is totally inaccurate, staff lived on the site or were

transported by a bus so traffic was very sparse.

It is also proposed to double yellow line The Crescent along the straight stretch to allow the movement of vehicles and buses. This will leave many households without driveways and garages nowhere to park and Highways have indicated that residents will have to pay for a drive to be put in which is totally unacceptable.

The initial proposals which included a bus barrier to The Crescent appear to have been withdrawn.

There has been no account taken of safety risks to pedestrians trying to cross the A449 wishing to access Cookley village for school, doctors, shops, pubs, church etc.

19/0750/S73: Variation of conditions 11, 12, 13 and 14 of planning permission 17/0205/Outline to vary the timing of when specific highway works/modifications are required.

Recommend Refusal. As previously stated, the Parish Council are unhappy with the current highways works/modifications proposals and are against the timings being varied.

Discuss Public Open Space - former Lea Castle Hospital Site.

Galliford Try had e mailed enquiring whether the Parish Council would adopt the public open space, woodland and new play areas on the Lea Castle Site. The Parish Council agreed unanimously they would not.

3450 19/0731/Full: Erection of additional bungalow at former Sion Hill Middle School site.

Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

162. Clerks Report (Clerk): Orchards Workshop. Tuesday 10th December, Schedule of Meeting Dates 2020.

163. To update on Lengthsman Scheme. No work undertaken; meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

164. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Budget/Precept, Wolverley & Cookley Matters, Wolverley and Cookley Charities, Cleaning, repositioning of Highlow Bank Gateway and Planting for 2020.

165. Dates for Meetings: None

166. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.00pm. Cookley School.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman - 7th January 2020

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Gill Hill, a resident of The Crescent who will be affected by the Lea Castle development gave a very comprehensive talk on various matters of extreme concern relating to Highways Plans / Modifications with the new development.

These included;

The Crescent will be the main route in and out of the site

Effect on air Quality

Lack of consideration for pedestrians

Proposal for double yellow lines which will stop some residents being able to park by their property

No mention of a bus barrier

Axborough Lane not being made an entry point

Also - no provision for sustainable build, no sustainable materials, no solar or green energy, no local wind farms and no grey water recycling anywhere on the plans.

Nigel Sadler, also a resident of The Crescent agreed with everything said.