

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held via ZOOM on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7.00pm**

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

County Councillor: Apologies  
District Councillors: Marcus Hart, Lisa Jones

173. **Apologies.** Cllr. I Hardiman - due to another meeting, West Mercia Police.

174. **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.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

The Chairman welcomed Mr & Mrs Elcock and Mr T Partridge to the meeting.

Mr Elcock thanked Cllrs. for their attendance at a site visit at Townsend House last Saturday. He explained that they had worked closely with the Case Officer to address neighbour comments and consultee comments. The Conservation Officer and Highways are now happy with the application and they have accepted requests from North West Water Management. Mr & Mrs Elcock hope that the Parish Council will now be able to support their application.

The Clerk read an e mail received from a resident regarding a possible new footpath to link the existing one behind the houses at Brown Westhead Park to avoid having to walk along the busy B4189. After discussion it was agreed to ask County Councillor Hardiman the procedure to change/create a new footpath and approach the landowner to ascertain if they would consider this. Clerk to agenda.

The Clerk read an e mail to preserve anonymity in enforcement matters,  
"When are the District Council going to take enforcement action against the unlawful use of land in the Green Belt next to the Conservation Area at Court Farm for motorsport use. Councillors asked local residents 12 months ago to keep a log of unlawful activity. This record was given to the Council regarding more than the lawful number of activities in the first and second half of 2020. The unlawful and anti-social use of the land in the Green Belt continues in 2021. The use by Warley Wasps MX will also be unlawful if the permitted number of days the use is allowed is taken up. When are the District Council going to take some action to prevent the unlawful use".

Cllr. M Hart responded that Cllrs present were at this meeting as Parish Councillors however they can ask the District Councillors to pursue this and District Cllr. Mrs L Jones has been continually active with reporting issues on this. It was suggested the Clerk ask the resident if they would be happy to contact one of the District Councillors direct to pursue further which of course would be kept anonymous.

175. **Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm.**

These having previously been circulated, it was resolved unanimously to receive and adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters for Discussion / Decision:**

176. **Police Report**

Written report circulated;

**Cookley**

Vehicle Crime - On 12/01/2021 - unknown persons have stolen a vehicle parked from the rear of a property on Lionfields Road, Cookley.

## Wolverley

Theft - Between 27th & 28th Jan 2021 a log splitter was stolen from the rear of a tractor in Hobro, Wolverley.

Theft - On 20/01/2021 a piece of artwork was stolen from a garden on Franche Road, Wolverley

### Suspicious Incidents

We have had a few reports over the past month of suspicious vehicles driving around late at night and also of people loitering in our rural areas, please can we ask that any concerns of this nature are reported online to us via the link below. Please supply as much information as possible such as descriptions of people and vehicle registrations, makes and models.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

## 177. County/District Councillor Reports **County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report**

LEA LANE LANDSLIP: Unfortunately, I have still not received a progress update despite chasing.

LEA LANE CHANGE TO NO THROUGH ROAD: No response yet received on this despite chasing.

LEA CASTLE QUARRY: No date yet set for the County Council's Planning Committee's meeting to consider this application. (19/00053/CM).

DIVISIONAL FLOOD RELIEF MONIES UPDATE: The County Council have provided funding for allocation by myself with regard to properties affected by flooding in 2020 in my County Division of Cookley, Wolverley & Wribbenhall.

I have been reminding both the leader of the County Council and the Cabinet Member Responsible that following the 2020 flooding in Wyre Forest, we had agreed to demonstrate the County Council's support for the residents and businesses affected. Their response now is very positive.

I have allocated the following amounts:

1. £20,000 which will be held specifically for contribution to the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Scheme for a permanent Beales Corner Barrier in Wribbenhall (Total Project circa £4.5million).

Also,

2. £18,000 will be held in an account at the County Council which may be accessed for contributions towards either individual property remedial or preventative projects, or local resilience schemes as will be supervised by Mr Richard Osborne and Ms Kirsten Huizer of North Worcestershire Water management who are best placed to direct funding appropriately. (I am very grateful for their kind agreement to assist with these allocations).

It should be noted that this cumulative £38,000 Allocation from the County Council is additional to the recently committed £0.5 million for the Environment Agency's Future Flood Resilience Barrier Scheme, at Beales Corner.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES: Further to my January Report, in response to my chasing the Leader of the Council, I have received help from Highways Liaison Engineer Hannah Davies (Who supports Malvern); she has been dealing with several of my outstanding casework issues and will continue to progress others in the coming weeks.

Chairman advised despite reporting on 6<sup>th</sup> January and chasing by Cllr Hardiman several yellow County Grit Bins have still not been filled.

Cllr. Nicholls queried the £38K divisional flood relief monies as he has reservations about Councillors being given funds to individually allocate and felt this should be done by officers. MH advised that all County Councillors receive an allocation to spend on capital and if it was from this it is done in liaison with officers.

### **District Councillors Report**

#### Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

We have had a large amount of fly tipping at Debdale Farm, Cookley removed.

We have been contacted about litter in the Shatterford Lane lay by near the junction of the Bridgnorth Road and liaised with the clerk.

We submitted a response to WFDC raising our concerns regarding the diversion of the footpath along Wyre Mill Lane.

We have been keeping an eye on the temporary take away unit in the Lock Car Park to ensure it does not change the materials to as approved.

We continue to receive some communication from residents regarding the potential quarry at Lea Castle.

We continue to receive some communication regarding motor cross, which Lisa kindly collates for us.

We have been told that WFDC want to discuss assets in the Parish with the Parish Council including Brown Westhead Park.

#### Wyre Forest Issues

In respect of the WFDC's draft Local Plan, the Public Hearings by the Planning Inspector began from Monday 11th January on selected days into early February 2021. Information can be found on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

The Progressive Alliance want to make home working the norm post Covid and we have some concerns regarding this. This matter was looked at by the cross-party overview and scrutiny panel recently and overwhelmingly voted for the Cabinet to look again at this matter and recommend to Council that this process is paused and looked at further in April 2021 when hopefully we will have a clearer picture on Covid.

The Progressive Alliance want to look at a commissioning a business case to look at options to sell all or part of Wyre Forest House!

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public as is the Green Street Hub save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications.

The Progressive Alliance are proposing scrapping the Localism fund and Community Leadership fund, the later allocating all district councillors £1,000 to spend in their ward on community groups.

The Progressive Alliance are deleting a number of officer posts and they are not being replaced. They are proposing funding only statutory services moving forward and they continue to seek to transfer largescale assets and services to Town and Parish Councils.

It is proposed that Council tax is increased by £5 which is the maximum it can be (2% or £5 increase, whichever is the higher) otherwise the local referendum principles apply.

Budget Council will be held on 24th February.

We have a suite of alternative proposals, including a pay freeze, senior management review, more shared services and further investment in environmental protection allocating resource for a further officer post to tackle fly tipping, littering and dog fouling and more investment in infrared CCTV and also funding for community projects and the councillors' £1000 per member community leadership fund which is spent in our local communities which we feel is very important.

WFDC has been successful in securing £20.5 million from the Future High Streets fund something we are delighted about as this will transform and regenerate Worcester Street in Kidderminster town centre and was a bid that Marcus signed off in 2018 when he was Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council has removed the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr. Fran Oborksi and there has been quite a public falling out. The 3 Liberal Democrats have therefore left the Progressive Alliance and they are in minority control now with 16 members. There are 17 opposition members, in three groups, 12 Conservatives, 3 Liberal Democrats and 2 Labour.

The next few weeks and months will certainly be interesting, but rest assured we will continue to fight hard for you and our other 5 rural parishes.

Chairman reported that The Shack at the Lock Inn have ordered 2 large bins for their customers rubbish as the 2 Parish Council Bins have been used and have been overflowing.

Cllr Mrs L Jones reported on moto cross activity, non-mask wearing at Tesco Express, Cookley, new road sign Hayes Road, Wolverley and increased police patrols on Cookley Playing Fields.

Cllr D Jones thanked WFDC for removal of fly tipping by the River Stour.

#### 178. Financial Matters.

a) **To discuss street lighting invoices 2017/18 & 2018/2019.**

Cllr. C Sherrey advised these are still in dispute, WCC are adamant they are correct and have now advised that they have been undercharging on maintenance for several years as the number of columns charged for is less than on the Inventory. Cllr C Sherrey to review and report back to next meeting.

b) **To agree action on lost cheque (CVHPFA Annual Grant 2019/2020).**

It was agreed Clerk place a "stop" on the lost cheque and once the bank have confirmed, issue a replacement.

c) **To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.**

58	Mrs B J Drew (Salary January 2021)	1046.52
59	DM Payroll Services Limited (Administration of payroll and pension, second half year 20/21)	90.00
60	Worcestershire CALC (Training - Mrs L Jones)	30.00
61	The Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust (Sanitising 3 x weekly 22/10/2020 to 14/01/2021)	360.00
62	Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Zoom/Stamps)	35.43
63	Mr R Drew (Grit)	179.64

64 Cookley Village Hall & Playing Fields Association (Swings) 2623.48 \*

\* On production of Invoice from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

65 Cookley Village Hall & Playing Fields Association (Annual Grant 2019/2020) 1441.29

66 Underhill Farm (Lengthsman Dec 2020/Jan 2021) 324.00

179. **To discuss Defibrillators in the Parish.**

Cllr. A Carloss is aware that this has been discussed before but enquired if current defibrillators in Cookley are accessible to all and advised there is no defibrillator in Caunsall. During discussion it was reported that there are 2 at Cookley Club, one inside and one out, the outside one is accessible 24/7 and the one outside The Eagle Pub is unlocked and available to all. Cllr Cox advised that they are fool proof to use. The Chairman suggested Cllr Carloss investigate costings, location etc to put one in Caunsall and update at the next meeting.

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

**PC No** **WFDC No/Details**

3504 WF/20/0739/FUL: REVISED APPLICATION: Construction of a single detached 'eco-dwelling' and associated works at Townsend House, The Shortyard, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval. The Parish Council have looked at the relevant policy context in the consideration of this development which is Paragraph 145 (e) of the National Planning Policy Framework which advises limited infilling in villages is permitted in green belt and are now happy to support.

3509 WF/21/0012/TCA: T1 Large willow tree - reduce the tree to 4m and remove the chance of any branches falling for a number of years, T2 Twin stem willow tree - remove the stem to as near to ground level as practicable at Queens Head, Wolverley Village,

Recommend Approval subject to agreement from Arboriculture Officer.

3510 WF/21/0013/HOU: Proposed single storey rear extension at 22 Gaymore Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3511 WF/21/0020/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Proposed outbuilding in rear garden/games room incidental to the use of the main dwelling house at Hope Cottage, New Road, Caunsall,

There was much discussion on this application but as it is a proposed certificate of lawfulness and for information only it was noted.

3512 WF/21/0024/HOU: First floor extension at 79 Castle Road, Cookley,

Recommend Approval

3513 WF/21/0037/PNR: FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house at barn at Os 382566 280920, Solcum Lane, Wolverley,

Noted

3514 WF/21/0060/HOU: Single storey side and rear extension at 33 Franche Road, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval

3515 WF/21/0066/S73: Minor Material Amendment to 19/0724/RESE to substitute house types in Phases E and F, make elevational changes to house types within Phases A and D and amend soft and hard landscaping at former Lea Castle Hospital, Park Gate Road, Wolverley.

Recommend Deferral to seek clarification on proposed changes to cladding. The Minor Material Amendment seeks to change the previously approved cedar boarding on the semi-detached plots due to issues relating to warranties following Grenfell, however, all detached plots proposed with cedar cladding will remain as approved. The Parish Council cannot understand the rationale behind this request to change the semi-detached houses but not the detached.

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

181. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Noted
182. To update on Street Lighting Column 112 Gaymore Road, Cookley. (DC/Clerk) The resident, Mr Talbot does not want the column replaced causing damage to his wall, so we are awaiting site meeting with contractor, Prysmian to try and agree a solution. This is on hold until after lockdown.
183. To update on Parish Grit. (RD/Clerk) Chairman reported all Parish Bins at least half full.
184. To update on Lengthsman Contract 2021/2022. (Working Party) Clerk advised meeting had been held, application form agreed, timeline for re tender agreed and advertising in Wolverley & Cookley Matters/Worcestershire CALC/All Wyre Forest Area Clerks/Neighbouring Parish Council, e.g., Kinver and Facebook groups. Kidderminster Shuttle was ruled out due to cost. Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> February and the working party are meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February to review applications with a view to interviewing w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Cllr S Sherrey has provided a matrix to score applications. The working party will make a recommendation to Full Council 2<sup>nd</sup> March.
185. To update on Lengthsman Work. (RD/WS) Cllrs Southam and Drew both reported that although no work has been issued to the Lengthsman he has been visible around the Parish and has completed jobs detailed on timesheet.
186. Neighbourhood Plan / CLT. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report, on hold due to COVID-19.
187. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Advise Clerk.
188. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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Chairman - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021