

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 1st March 2022, 7.00pm at Cookley School

Present:

Mr D Jones (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr D Cox
Mr R Drew
Mr J Hart
Mrs L Jones
Mr B McFarland
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman, Lisa Jones
West Mercia Police: PCSO Kate Easthope

194. **Apologies.**
Cllr A Carlross due to family commitments, Cllr C Nicholls due to holiday, Cllr M Hart due to other commitments and Cllr C Sherrey and S Sherrey due to Memorial Service in London.

195. **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.
Cllr D Cox in PC3605 as known to the applicant.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

A parishioner asked if there was any news on the opening of Austcliffe footbridge. It was advised delays were due to a shortage of steel, but this has now been sourced. Opening anticipated in approximately 6 weeks.

196. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2022 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.

197. **Police Report**
Written Report Circulated;

We have had reports of residents being scammed or attempted scam, whereby a caller is impersonating a police officer and stating that their bank cards have been used to make payments without their knowledge. Another similar scam was that they had to click on a text link stating they had omicron covid virus

Theft of catalytic convertors have started to increase again. Not in Wolverley or Cookley just yet, but for people to be on their guard for and take appropriate precautions for

We have started to teach Tag rugby training to our primary schools, unfortunately Cookley Primary did not want to take part in the competition this year.

COOKLEY

Suspicious Males -Kimberlee Avenue - Police Ref 00632_I_27022022 - Reports received of males inside the compound of a building site, possibly going through a skip. Later another report further in the village near to The Eagle of a male wearing a face mask going through a skip. A van parked in this location has recently been entered and items stolen

Lea Castle building site has had items stolen - these include big items such as whacker plates etc

Reports of a male sleeping rough in the woods at the rear of woodlands road. Evidence of a fire etc and a male seen in the back garden of a resident. Homeless team have been contacted, but we have not had any further calls

WOLVERLEY

Reports of a male trying the door to a house - captured on cctv - enquiries have been made, and it seems the male went to the wrong address by mistake

We always urge anyone to contact us with anything they deem to be suspicious

Cllr R Drew queried whether there had been a change in law regarding parking on double yellow lines. Kate/Ian are not aware of any changes. Cllr Hardiman asked if the police have got cameras that can do enforcement at night. Kate confirmed Nicky and Becky are trained on a new camera that has night vision.

Policing Priorities were agreed as:

1. Speeding
2. Antisocial Motorbike Riding
3. Parking around Schools,

198. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report;

Lea Castle Farm Quarry Application: Since my Report in February, I have still not received a further update from the County Council's Planning & Development Manager as to when this application will be considered.

Lea Lane Landslip: Still, I am unaware of when the restoration works will commence. I have been chasing the County Council's Legal Department asking them to bring their negotiations to a conclusion.

Wolverley, Highlow Bank Pavement Issues: Having reported last month that the District Council had carried out cleansing and sweeping of this pavement, I have now received further complaints that following the recent bad weather the pavement is again mudded and debris-covered, and difficult for pedestrians.

I have reported this again to the District Council and have discussed this with Highways Engineer Paul Green who has requested a priority siding-out project to correct the overgrowth that is narrowing the pavement creating walking difficulties for pedestrians.

Cookley, Zebra-Crossing Lines Faded: I have requested repainting of the zebra crossing lines in the interest of safety.

Wolverley, Highway Safety Improvements, for Secondary School pupils: In addition to the recently installed railings and crossing point to improve safety for pupils when leaving school, a dozen bollards have now been installed in the pavement opposite the school entrance and two bollards necessarily to prevent vehicle parking near to the dropped kerbs now present. In addition, necessary tarmac resurfacing has been carried out in the entrance to the Shortyard.

Blakeshall, Snake Lane Large Potholes Rubble and Road Flooding: The ongoing issues here have again caused concerns; indeed I drove my car into this lane and found that the surface water was so deep that I had some difficulty in proceeding along here. Highways Engineer Paul Green was with me at the time and so gained experience of the recurring issues which he has now promised will be fully investigated. I have informed the local residents who brought this to my attention.

Wolverley, Gully outside Hardwicks business: I have again emphasised to the Highways Department that this gully is just not performing satisfactorily and is allowing flooding to occur frequently at this point creating a serious hazard for motorists.

Cllr D Cox commented again on the Lea Lane landslip. Cllr Ian Hardiman advised that WCC has been ready for 6 months to undertake restoration works however one party is still not agreeing. This may well be referred to Solicitors. The fallen wall is being dealt with by the houseowner. Cllr L Jones advised there are no TPO's where the wall needs replacing so the owner can fell if needed.

Drains on Castle Road - still not been done.

Cllr V Bordewich reported pavement going into The Shortyard is full of leaves and very slippery. Cllr Hardiman advised to report this on the WFDC website, it is not County Council.

District Councillors Report

Cllr L Jones reported;

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, fly tipping and litter picking on the main A roads and along the country lanes. Fly Tipping which was garden waste in black bags was removed from Lea Lane. The pavement at the bottom of Bridge Road into Caunsall is to be cleaned as its quite muddy, unfortunately this has been delayed due to the operatives assisting with the flooding, however, we have chased this with Green Street who have scheduled the area to be cleaned as soon as possible.

We have an online Teams meeting this Wednesday with the Development Team on the Lea Castle Village development for an update on Phases One and Two. We will update the council in due course.

Regarding the Red Lion Planning Application, this is continuing to be processed by Officers, we will keep you updated.

Enforcement Issues

The Old Post Office, Cookley - This is ongoing, we are continuing to work closely with officers to restore the shopfront to its original design. We will update you in due course.

Land off Drakelow Lane K9 Pawfection - This came to the Planning Committee meeting in February and an Enforcement Notice has been issued.

Drakelow Tunnels Fencing, Kingsford Lane - V Mesh fencing has been fitted, this has been decided by officers to be best option as it is a chain-link fence and will prevent the requirement to remove additional trees which was required to abide by the original landscaping plan. The fencing cannot be put any further back as it would also require the removal of more trees.

Low Lane, Wolverley - The officer has again spoken to the landowner regarding the bricks on the track and have advised that an enforcement notice will be issued if this continues. They maybe using them to re-establish a track, but this may need a planning application, she will advise them accordingly.

Local Issues - Enforcement Issues - Continued

Low Lane, Wolverley - The officer has also spoken to the Leaseholder regarding the wood and believes that this is being used on the land, unless we have evidence that this is not the case, they cannot pursue any further action.

The Retreat, Wolverley - The Officer has spoken to the owner who has confirmed that the property has not been let out for the last two years but is used by him and his wife for holidays. She has checked the conditions and they are not in any breach of conditions as long as the property is empty for the equivalent of one month of the year. We will update you with any further information that arises from this investigation.

Wyre Forest District Issues

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

Members approved the Council tax for 2022-2023. This includes the 2.23% increase £5 on a Band D property at £229.34 in the District Council's element of Council Tax, as recommended by Cabinet on 8 February 2022, the precepts and council tax increases in the elements of Council Tax set by the following bodies :-

Worcestershire County Council 3.94% (of which 3% is being ringfenced to fund adult social care) £52.95.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner 3.94% - £9.47.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority 1.96% - £1.72

With the rising energy bills the Government has announced support with a one-off payment of £150 rebate for Council Taxpayers in bands A-D. The Council is urging residents to sign up to the scheme and pay their bill by Direct Debit.

The Councils Budget for 2022-2025 was approved and Capital Strategy for 2022-2032. The Progressive Alliance Budget includes the closing of the Small Business Grant scheme, to end the support of sport and leisure facilities from April 2023 phasing out involvement in Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Club. This was approved by 17 votes to 16!

Members Community funding will be reduced from £1,000 per annum to £500 in the financial year 2022-2023 and Nil thereafter.

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission consultation for 2023 in underway, proposals for the district include changing the constituency name from Wyre Forest to Kidderminster, residents have until Monday 4 April to send in their comments. The website for this is:- bcereviews.org.uk

Cllr R Drew reported that the fencing at Drakelow Tunnels is still a solid wooden fence, not chain link. Cllr L Jones and I Hardiman will query this with the Planning Case Officer and report back.

Cllr R Drew also queried the K9 Pawfection Enforcement - is the enforcement to stop it or just to curtail activities? Cllr I Hardiman will report back.

199. To discuss proposed renovations to telephone box, New Road, Causall.

Councillors Unanimously approved renovations proposed to Telephone Box in Causall by New Road residents up to a limit of £500.00.

Cllr D Cox has a contact for a Plaque. Clerk to liaise.

200. Financial Matters:

a) To agree recommendations from Grants Committee.

The Grants Committee recently met to discuss the Parish Council providing Grants to each village for Platinum Jubilee activities and suggested to Full Council £250.00 for each village. This was unanimously agreed.

b) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

71 Mrs B J Drew
(Salary February 2022)

1067.71

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|----|---|----------------|
| 72 | Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Stamps) | 20.19 |
| 73 | Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman February 22 plus fuel for strimmer) | 300.00 8.15 |
| 74 | Worcestershire County Council (Street Lighting Initiative 20/21) | 11305.51 |
| 75 | Glasdon UK Limited (Gateways) | 3715.93 |
| 76 | RXM (Gateway Installation) | 450.00 |
| 77 | Amberol Limited (Planters) | 875.40 |
| 78 | Westcotec (Speed Sign) | 4710.00 |
| 79 | Boston Seeds (Platinum Jubilee Wildflower Seed/Grass Seed) | 304.50 |
| 80 | Hire It (Rotivator / Fuel / Weedkiller) | 136.48 |
| 81 | Gardens4Less (2 x Oak Benches) | 840.00 |
| 82 | Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant (Cookley) | 250.00 |
| 83 | Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant (Wolverley) | 250.00 |

201. **Localism Proposals from Wyre Forest District Council.**

Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the Localism deal for Bin Emptying/Litter Picking on the following basis -

A 5 year deal.

Year 2022/2023 - 60% of the current grant.

4 years commencing 2023/2024 - 40% of the current grant for each year.

WFDC would continue to deal with the A roads (parts of A442 / A449) and to remove the collected litter from the bins at Tim Dale's property.

A meeting will need to be scheduled for 6 months prior to the end of this agreement to negotiate a deal for the next 5 years.

202. **Contracts:**

- a) Grass Cutting
- b) Bin Emptying/Litter Picking
- c) Lengthsman

Following meetings with contractors new Contracts have been prepared and will be signed before the 1st April 2022.

203. **To discuss condition of bins in the Parish.**

Cllr R Drew/C Sherrey/S Sherrey will review Wolverley and Cllr W Southam Cookley and report back at next meeting.

204. **To discuss Lea Castle Village Wider Site Update following meeting 28th February.**

Cllr R Drew gave an update following meeting held on 28th April. No Planning application has yet been submitted.

Concerns were raised over the excessive number of non-material amendments that had been received following the last planning application, the road improvement works have not yet commenced despite over 100 properties being occupied, the footpath from the site does not meet the public footpath thus safety concerns especially for children, concern over additional

accesses, speed of traffic and the fact the school is not planned to be built until 2026. The Parish Council again strongly stressed concerns over the infrastructure.

Home England advised they are in discussions regarding building a multipurpose sports pitch at Brown Westhead Park.

They also asked if the Parish Council would consider taking on any assets but it was advised much more information and firm suggestions would be needed before this could be discussed.

Cllr D Jones said it had been a very positive meeting and they very receptive to comments made.

Cllr I Hardiman will try and get a specific date when road improvement works will commence.

205. **To discuss action on Street Lighting Columns.**

Clerk to chase James Douglas, WCC for meeting to discuss.

206. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Events/Tree Planting.**

Cllr J Wood advised 126 trees have been planted at Cookley Playing Fields.

Wolverley Committee have a meeting tonight and Cookley shortly. Both will be very grateful for the Grant.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3604 22/0087/TCA: Yew (T1) Remove deadwood. Oak (T2) Reduce height of tree by 2/3 metres, shortening back side limbs that have over extended beyond rest of crown. Yew (T3) Tip reduction by 1m. Yew (T4) Remove deadwood. Yew (T5) Remove. 3 x Yew (G1) Remove and replace at West Wing, Wolverley Village.

Recommend Approval subject to Arboricultural Officer.

3605 22/0105/HOU: Proposed relocation of an existing bedroom from the existing house into a refurbished garage/annex building. To be used solely by the existing dwelling as an annexed dwelling at Rose Cottage, Wolverhampton Road, Island Pool, Cookley.

Recommend Refusal. Inappropriate change of use in green belt and concern over future use as a separate dwelling.

3606 21/1065/HOU: Ground floor side extension to form sunroom and tv lounge at Hillcrest, Wolverhampton Road, Island Pool, Cookley.

Recommend Approval.

3607 22/0066/FUL: Continuation of the use of the site as a commercial equestrian facility at Spring Paddock, Horseley Hill Farm, Horseley Hills Lane, Wolverley.

The Parish Council note that the application is retrospective, and the proposed development will result in a commercial equestrian use on this site. There are concerns over future expansion of the facility which would impact on access and parking. The Parish Council recommend deferral, in line with Highway Authority comments for more detailed information to be provided.

3608 22/0130/AG: Extension to existing agricultural building to be used for storage of fodder and machinery at land at Highlow Nurseries, Franche Road, Wolverley.

Recommend refusal. The site is located adjacent to the Honey Brook in a known area of flooding. The proposed extension is closer to the brook and therefore at higher flood risk.

The Parish Council concur with comments made by North Worcestershire Water Management.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

208. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Appeal Decision Wyre Mill Cottage, Wolverley, Decision Notices - 21/1026, 21/0990/S73, 21/1125, 22/0017, Extension Notice - Footpath WC-602 (part) Wolverley & Cookley.

209. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Noted.

210. Update on Cookley/Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan. (DJ) - There is currently no progress. The team are waiting for local plan to be approved to judge way the forward, Cllr D Jones will report back in due course.

211. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All)

212. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th April 2022.

Meeting closed 8.10 pm