

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall.**

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Apologies  
County Councillor: Apologies  
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart and Mrs L Jones

28. **Apologies**

West Mercia Police, County Councillor Ian Hardiman, Cllr S Sherrey due to holiday.

29. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

- a) Register of Interests: The Clerk reminded Councillors that it is their responsibility to update their register of interests forms as required. On looking at the website it appears some do need updating. If you require a new form, please contact the Clerk.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. No Public Present.

The meeting now reconvened to conduct the items of business listed below.

30. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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 and these were signed by the Chairman.

**Matters for Discussion / Decision;**

31. **To discuss Planning Committee decision on application 19/000053/CM - Proposed sand and gravel quarry.**

The Chairman declared that it was fantastic news that the Quarry Planning Application was refused at the Worcestershire County Council Planning Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May. He expressed thanks to all who had made representation and opposed this application. The Chairman was particularly delighted that the robust reasons for objection submitted by the Parish Council were read at the meeting. Thanks also to The Macdonalds and their spokesperson, the Quarry Action Group and their representative and finally to our own District Councillor Marcus Hart who in three minutes summed up all the concerns and reasons why the application should be refused.

Cllr. B McFarland stated he was delighted with the results but disappointed by the actions of County Councillor Ian Hardiman. Cllr. A Carloss also thanked all but advised he would be asking for answers from Cllr. Hardiman when he next attends a meeting.

32. **Police Report.**

**WOLVERLEY**

Criminal Damage - Church Bank, Wolverley - Police ref 00603\_I\_04052022 Between Monday 2nd May and Wednesday 4th May, unknown persons have damaged a fence by cutting the wire.

Police Ref 00284\_I\_24052022 - Sometime between 13:00hrs - 13:30hrs on 24/05/2022 a White Citroen C4 Registration Similar to DA61 \*\*S which was parked locked and secure on Shatterford Lane has been stolen.

**COOKLEY/ CAUNSALL**

Vehicle Crime - Bridge Road, Cookley - Police ref 00507\_I\_04052022 Between Tuesday 3rd May and Wednesday 4th May, two unknown persons have broken into a white van and stolen power tools from within. It is believed the offenders left in a silver Peugeot.

Vehicle Crime - Caunsall Road - Police ref 00196\_I\_08052022 - owners of two vehicles parked on a driveway in this location were alerted to the sound of their car alarms sounding. On inspection they noted their Land Rover Discovery had had the drivers window smashed and another vehicle on the drive had had the rear tyre stabbed with an unknown object. No items were stolen from the vehicles and no offending weapons were left at the scene

Suspicious Circumstances - On Thursday 5th May sometime between 7.30 - 8pm an attempt has been made to steal a horse from a field near to caunsall bridge. The horse seemed subdued (most likely doped) and was found wandering not far from the A449. There is evidence that the fences surrounding the field have been broken and posts and gates have been pulled from the ground. The offenders were most likely disturbed. The horse is a 2yr welsh cob, light brown and white

Police 00190\_I\_28052022 - Burglary, Lea Castle site. Sometime overnight 27/5 unknown persons have broken into the building site. A large quantity of piping and tools have been stolen along with a defibrillator.

Policing Priorities for the next three months were agreed as - Speeding, Flytipping and Antisocial behaviour.

33. **County / District Councillor Reports.** Reports circulated prior to the meeting.

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report to Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council, 7th June 2022.

Lea Lane Landslip: Although last month I was pleased to report that the County Council were making progress towards agreement with all other parties involved, I have still not received a commencement date for the works. I shall chase the Highways Dept. during this week for an update.

The Crescent, Island Removal / Safety Improvements: Paul Green, Highways Engineer and I met with residents' representatives on 25th May, to show the planned details for the agreed improvements for the Crescent inner junction. It was agreed to proceed with these works which I have agreed to finance from my Divisional Highways Fund.

Lea Castle Farm Quarry Application: At the County Council's Planning Committee on 24th May, this application was refused by 7 votes to 6. As a member of the Planning Committee, I chose to vote in support of the application ( and recognise that some residents may be concerned about this ) because I had read the Officer's Report carefully, spent many hours considering and challenging the Application Report which details the findings and recommendations of the County Council's professional, qualified Planning and Highways Officers and those of expert consultees such as Worcestershire Regulatory Services. Resultantly, I believe that the Quarry Application should have been approved, as the health and wellbeing of local residents would not be affected, HGV activity would not adversely impact the area and the phased project system of small site quarrying and progressive restoration would minimise the effect on local amenity. And ultimately by 12 years time, open greenbelt would be completely restored.

I have sat on the County Council's Planning & Regulatory Committee for 5 years and similarly on WFDC's Planning Committee for several years. I have undergone training in this role. I always perform my duties with the health and wellbeing of the residents of Worcestershire uppermost in my mind. I must also have regard to the National Planning Policies and Guidance for Planning. I and all members of the Committee cannot simply reject an application because we don't like its purpose, or would prefer it to be for a location elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the above, for this Application, as is appropriate, Democracy has prevailed and is accepted.

Caunsall, Damaged Railings by the River: I am pleased that these barrier railings have now been repaired satisfactorily.

Cookley, Woodlands Road subsidence around a manhole: Highways have agreed to themselves dig down into this area to establish the cause of the problem, rather than wait further for Severn Trent Water to respond.

Cookley, Gullies in Castle Road, Austcliffe Road: Upon realising that these gullies have not yet been cleared, I chased the Highways Engineer again last week to urge attention to this.

Park Gate Road Pavement Overgrown: I have again requested urgent siding-out works for this as it is presently a safety hazard.

Wolverley, Castle Hill Lane Brook Bridge Railings Damaged: I have reported this to the County Council Highways and Countryside Services as this hand rail has been damaged and has fallen into the brook.

District Councillors Report:

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.

Regarding the Red Lion Planning Application, we are continuing to liaise with the Planning Officer and Conservation Officer. No decision has been made as yet but will do shortly.

Marcus and Lisa attended the Worcestershire County Council Planning Committee Meeting with residents which determined the Lea Castle Farm Quarry application. Marcus spoke for Three minutes on behalf of residents and put across the grave concerns that we have. We were very pleased and relieved that the application was refused, Seven votes to Six, Four Wyre Forest County Councillors along with Three Worcester County Councillors all spoke and voted against the application.

We have enjoyed attending the jubilee celebrations in the ward, it was wonderful to be part of this happy occasion with our residents.

#### Enforcement Issues

The Old Post Office, Cookley - This is continuing to be in Planning Enforcement until the end of June, we are continuing to work closely with officers to restore the shopfront to its original Victorian design from photographs in the Archives. There maybe an additional Planning Application coming in shortly to match this.

The Retreat, Lowe Lane, Wolverley - The Enforcement Officers are requiring evidence of rental information and the bookings diary.

Six Acres, Castle Hill Lane, Wolverley - Residents living in a caravan, planning was granted for the buildings, the residents have to relocate due to a sensitive enforcement issue which not all the information is allowed into the public domain at the present time. The Enforcement Officers are liaising for a deadline to relocate by the end of June.

Land off Drakelow Lane K9 Pawfection - The 28 day period for an appeal to be received was 26 May, no documentation has been received by officers to date. They will be given Three months from the 26 May to clear their equipment and take down the buildings. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Lowe Lane, Wolverley - Wood Storage - Officers will be undertaking a site visit to carry out a upto date site investigation. Bricks in Field - Officers will be contacting the owner to determine whether the bricks are to be used as a driveway.

#### Wyre Forest District Issues

Wyre Forest House is open to the public through the reception facility only, Green Street Hub is not open as a walk in Hub, appointments must be pre-booked save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications and 'urgent' issues.

A WFDC By-Election will be held on 16th June; this has been caused by the resignation of a Health Concern / Progressive Alliance Councillor for Franche & Habberley North in Kidderminster.

The District Council have started a consultation on their proposals for a new three-storey residential building, this will be for short-term accommodation units. They are looking to build it at the corner of Castle Road and New Road in Kidderminster. If they get the go-ahead it will help the District Council meet a growing demand for temporary accommodation and save money on external accommodation.

There are two new regular community cafes in the ward, Lisa attended the Wolverley Coffee and Chat morning which is held in the church hall every last Thursday of the month from 10am-12noon, she has donated money from her Community Leadership Fund to purchase a larger hot drinks machine for the group to use. The event was very popular with residents who enjoyed playing board games. The Cookley Chill and Chat event is held at the Village Hall from 2.00pm-3.30pm on Friday 10 June and held fortnightly thereafter. Lisa is also attending this event.

Cllr D Cox advised of a problem with ambulance access due to the closure of Lea Lane.

Cllr Nicholls queried responsibility for weeds inbetween pavements and roads, Cllr M Hart advised it is a statutory responsibility of WCC but we can ask the Lengthsman to undertake this work. It was agreed this be included in her work for next month.

#### 34. Financial Matters:

##### a)Agreed the schedule of cheques to be signed.

9	Mrs B J Drew (Salary May 2022)	1081.36
10	Keith Basketfield (Second Grass Cut)	688.00
11	Revive Exterior Maintenance (Gateway Cleaning)	315.00
12	Mr R Drew	63.93
	(3 x Padlocks for Speed Sign)	9.98
	(4 x brackets to secure bench)	3.60
	(Concrete bases for bench)	14.35
	(Hammerite Black/White Masonry Paint for Railings)	36.00
13	Bill White Nurseries (Wolverley/Blakeshall Planters x 13 plus compost)	292.20
14	Norton Security	94.99

15	Mrs B J Drew (Paper/Ink/File & Punchpockets (Accounts)/Envelopes)	20.04
16	Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman May 22)	267.50
17	Allen Hughes (Internal Audit)	200.00
18	EtchComponents (Brass Plaque - Caunsall)	150.00
19	Mr M R Atkin (Caunsall Phonebox)	154.97

\*\*\*\*\*  
Worcestershire County Council 3132.44  
(Energy Costs - Parish Lighting Initiative 21/22)

(Clerk has requested further information from WCC on the Street Lighting Inventory to confirm the number of columns charged for is correct.) Cllr C Sherrey explained that WCC have split energy costs from maintenance costs but these will rise.

**b) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/2022**

- i) To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022, Proposed Cllr J Hart, seconded by Cllr C Sherrey, all in favour.
- ii) To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/2022, Proposed Cllr J Hart, seconded by Cllr C Sherrey, all in favour.

Thanks were expressed to Allen Hughes and Councillor C Sherrey.

**35. To discuss UK Shared Prosperity Fund.**

Noted

**36. To discuss the 20's Plenty for Worcestershire campaign.**

The Clerk had circulated information from Cllr Mike Rouse included in the CALC bulletin asking for Parish Council's to support a 20mph motion for Worcestershire on streets where people live, work, shop, play or learn.

There was much discussion on this with the consensus being to support the campaign as reducing speed does dramatically reduce accidents however it was agreed it is not suitable for all locations so should not be implemented as a blanket exercise across the whole county, police will not enforce any of these 20mph limits so it should be proceeded with caution. It was agreed to support the 20s for plenty campaign but for selected locations.

**37. To discuss Cookley Millennium Clock and agree action on:**

- a) Key - Clerk advised current key is not working, Cllr D Cox to arrange for locksmith to change.
- b) Painting of Clock - Cllr D Jones will arrange for 3 quotes for painting of clock.

**38. To discuss Cookley Christmas Tree and Lights.**

Cllr D Jones requested support for £500.00 for Christmas Tree and £100.00 for new lights for Cookley Village Centre, supplied and erected safely by Nathan Turvey.

There was much discussion on whether the Parish Council are able to get someone else to quote. It was stated that the Parish Council do not have to take the highest or lowest quote but should endeavour to get more than one.

Cllr Mrs L Jones will provide Cllr D Jones with details of who Kidderminster Town Council and Bewdley Town Council use.

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

**PC No WFDC No/Details**

3621 22/0404/OUT: Outline application to include up to 800 dwellings (C3), around 7ha for employment uses (mix of Use E(g) uses), a two form entry primary school/education uses (F1), retail floor space (E), community uses (F1/F2) and care home provision (C2) as part of a mixed use village centre (E/F1/F2), three vehicular accesses from Wolverhampton Road, one vehicular access from Lea Castle Drive, public open space including play provision, outdoor sport / recreation, orchard, additional green infrastructure, sustainable drainage systems and the provision of associated infrastructure and works. Detailed approval is sought for the six means of access, with all other matters reserved for future determination at land at Os 386487 279040, Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle.

Cllr Southam advised that Cookley Councillors do not support this application of building on Green Belt, Cllr Nicholls seconded this re-iterating they don't want 800 further houses, with 6 accesses. There are no Highways comments and no mention of a doctors surgery.

Cllr M Hart stated that this is a major planning application which will go before WFDC planning committee and the Parish Council will need to provide some serious grounds for refusal if they wish to do that. WFDC progressive alliance agreed that the land is no longer green belt, therefore that cannot be a reason for refusal, there will be houses on that land, if the Parish Council want all the facilities to be provided, the outline permission will come back as a full detailed application and detailed comments can be made at that time. The accesses are shown on the WFDC website.

Cllr J Hart said that Wolverley Councillors are supportive of the Outline permission as part of the Local Plan but have serious reservations about the road accesses and as there are no comments from WCC Highways on the Portal more information would be needed on this.

Much discussion followed on this application with various different points being raised such as concerns regarding the infrastructure, accesses, name of development and highway issues.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that he, Cllr D Jones and Cllr V Bordewich had attended a meeting with the developers prior to the Outline application being submitted where they showed detailed maps of the proposals and discussed access points. Concerns were expressed regarding road safety.

Following further discussion Cllr. W Southam proposed Recommend Refusal. This was seconded by Cllr. D Cox. The vote was carried by 8 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions. (MH/RD)

Cllr B McFarland challenged that Cllr Mrs L Jones, who is also a District Councillor that sits on WFDC voted against the proposal of refusal so has therefore predetermined her view and cannot vote at WFDC Planning Committee. Cllr Mrs L Jones stated that she meant to clearly state this was her pre-disposed view and she has not pre-determined the application.

Clerk asked for reasons for refusal to be clarified for input to Planning Portal. Cllr D Jones will forward.

3622 22/0443/OUT: Outline application for the proposed development of one dwelling on land at Cedar Wood, Lea Lane, Cookley. Recommend Refusal - inappropriate development in Green Belt.

3623 22/0449/FUL: Change of use from agricultural land to secure dog walking facility to include: erection of field shelter, creation of 4 car parking spaces and associated access and fencing of field at field at 81753 79633, Shatterford Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Refusal. Concerns over the change of use from agricultural land to recreational which leaves it open for many other uses. Hours of Operation 7am - 7pm, 7 days a week totally inappropriate so close to residential dwellings causing noise nuisance. No details / limits on the number of dogs able to use the secure compounds at a time or adequate means of disposing of dog waste. Inadequate provision for parking particularly on change overs. It will cause cars to back up on the B4189 whilst waiting for previous dog walkers to leave.

Recommend Refusal. Concerns over the change of use from agricultural land to recreational which leaves it open for many other uses. Hours of Operation 7am - 7pm, 7 days a week totally inappropriate so close to residential dwellings causing noise nuisance. No details / limits on the number of dogs able to use the secure compounds at a time or adequate means of disposing of dog waste. Inadequate provision for parking particularly on change overs. It will cause cars to back up on the B4189 whilst waiting for previous dog walkers to leave.

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

40. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Decision Notices, Code of Conduct, Minerals Local Plan, Footpath Diversion 628. Noted.
41. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Chairman re-iterated all work requests or issues with the Lengthsman should be directed through Cllr Southam for Cookley and Cllr Drew for Wolverley in the first instance.
42. Westcotec Speed Indicator Device. (RD) The sign has been on the Franche Road in Wolverley for 2 weeks and has shown 27% of motorists going over 30mph, the sign is now on Castle Road, data will be shared.
43. Village Projects. (RD/DJ) Cllr R Drew advised Swan carving is due to be started within next 2 weeks, bench for Sebright Road has been received and will be erected, plaques for 2 benches to be purchased.
44. Austcliffe Footbridge. (DJ/RD) All agreed what a superb job of the bridge had been undertaken. The path from the bridge to the road is going to be resurfaced. The Parish Council have been offered surplus cast iron left over from the renovations, these will be stored at Cookley Club and use for this discussed at a future meeting.
45. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Notify Clerk.
46. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th July 2022.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm