

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley.

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Apologies
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart.

69. **Apologies**

Cllr D Cox due to work, Cllr Mrs L Jones due to holiday, Cllr A Carloss due to family commitments, County Councillor I Hardiman due to other commitment and West Mercia Police.

70. **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.

A number of residents from Wolverley Village attended the meeting. Resident Julie Smith spoke on behalf of the residents and outlined their concerns which are Speeding, Parking, Vandalism and Overgrown Trees.

The Chairman advised that Speeding is the Parish Council's number 1 Policing Priority, and several measures are being undertaken to try and reduce speed. The Parish Council have purchased a portable VAS sign which has been in the village, are also looking into a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming. Parking - the residents can pursue the option of Parking Permits with the County Councillor. Vandalism is an ongoing issue and every incident needs reporting followed up by a statement and CCTV footage if available. Overgrown trees - in the first instance ownership of the trees will need to be identified.

After much discussion it was agreed to put these items on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council, also Clerk write to Police advising of issues raised and requesting attendance at the next meeting on 6th September.

Residents were also urged, if possible, to attend the Police Surgery on 24th August at Wolverley Memorial Hall to raise their concerns.

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

71. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th July 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.

72. **Police Report.**

Written Report circulated.

Police have received two reports of a rogue Traders in the Kidderminster area, one be in Drakelow- reference 756_I_20072022.

A male has approached the property stating that he has left over tarmac and has the offered to fill potholes on the properties at a rate of £3 per square meter, the male has then changed the amount to between £2400 and £4000 upon emptying shingle onto the driveway.

When this amount was questioned by victim the male has then become increasingly aggressive and threatening.

The male is described as in his 30's, short brown hair wearing dark shorts and a cap and a hi-vis vest, and goes by the name of Paddy, it is believed he arrived in a silvery grey ford estate.

Another male drove a 'small tipper lorry' with a white cab and blue and yellow striped back with the word's highway maintenance, this male didn't exit the vehicle at either property but was described as big and balding male.

Cllr R Drew advised that PC Jamie Guest has now joined the team as an additional PC.

73. **County / District Councillor Reports.** Reports circulated prior to the meeting.
County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report; Written Report circulated.

Lea Lane Landslip:

Despite my chasing of this Long-Outstanding Issue, unfortunately I still have not received a commencement date for the works.

Highlow Bank, Wolverley:

I am very pleased to report that the long-awaited Siding-Out of the pavement between Wolverley and Franche has now been carried out resulting in successful clearance of the severe overgrowth which was impeding safe walking (daily by school children).

Park Gate Road, Pavement Overgrowth:

Following my attention being drawn to the severe narrowing of this pavement caused by excessive overgrowth, I persisted with County Highways knowing that disabled persons have been upset by this situation, and thankfully Siding Out by the Highways Team has now resolved the issue.

Hurcott Lane, Resurfacing:

I am pleased that Highways recently carried out agreed resurfacing along this Lane.

New Highways Liaison Engineer:

Hayley Steele is now covering Highways issues in Wyre Forest; she has twice already joined me in my division to see many of the outstanding issues requiring attention. I have shown her such as: Defective Gully outside Hardwicks in Wolverley, Blakeshall Snake Lane Pooling, Lea Lane landslip, Cookley, Woodlands Road Sunken Road, Cookley Castle Rd Gully by No. 118, Caunsall 7.5 Tonnes signage "stolen".

District Councillors Report: Written Report circulated.

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.

Regarding the K9 Pawfection business in Drakelow Lane, the applicants as you may be aware have appealed the enforcement notice.

Regarding Six Ashes, Castle Hill, we have been liaising with officers regarding this enforcement issue and the residents have been given until 1 st December to vacate the land.

We have been pleased to support village events, such as attending the Wolverley Carnival.

Wyre Forest Issues

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

A number of larger planning applications are now flooding in for determination on land which has been removed from the green belt now that the WFDC local plan has been approved.

The outline application for the 800 houses has yet to go before the WFDC planning committee.

Full Council met on 18 th July and a motion was passed to force the Leadership to focus on keeping the District clean and tidy, emptying litter bins and cutting the grass, something of which is devolved to the Parish Council in this Parish.

There were also changes to the political balance following the election of a Conservative Councillor in the by-election in Franche and Habberley North on 16th June and now that the ICHC group has ceased to exist there has been a merger of two of the political groups to form one large Independent Group of 14 councillors (which includes the Green Councillor) and then the 2 Labour Group members make up the 16 strong Progressive Alliance, then with 14 Conservatives and 3 Liberal Democrats forming the two opposition groups.

Cllr Wood requested that reports are circulated at least 24 hours prior to the Parish Council meeting to ensure time to read information. Cllr M Hart responded that reports are sent as soon as possible however emphasised that prior to 2015 there were never written reports and there is no requirement for District Councillors to do these. A considerable number of DCs/CCs do not even attend meetings let alone give a written report. Cllr J Hart stated that although the system is not perfect it is much better than previously. After some discussion the Chairman brought the matter to a close.

74. **Financial Matters:**

- a) **On-Line Banking.**
Councillor C Sherrey is currently looking into this and will report back in due course.
- b) To agree the schedule of cheques to be signed.

Councillor C Sherrey commended on the increasing electricity costs (going up by 99%) for the streetlights and advised that the remaining old-style lights in Cookley need to be converted as a priority to save electricity.

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| 28 | HMRC (Tax and NI April - June 22) | 601.94 |
| 29 | Worcestershire County Council (Maintenance Fee 21/22, 275 lights@£30.11) (Energy Costs 1st Quarter 22/23 - 275 lights) (Maintenance Costs 1st Quarter 22/23, 275 lights@£33.13 divided by 4) | 8280.25 1557.14 2277.69 |
| 30 | Mrs B J Drew (Salary July 2022) | 1110.97 |
| 31 | Keith Basketfield (Fourth Grass Cut) | 688.00 |
| 32 | HP Inc UK Limited (Laptop) | 633.22 plus 126.84 (VAT) 759.86 |
| 33 | Leedan Packaging Limited (Black Sacks) | 88.70 plus 17.74 (VAT) 106.44 |
| 34 | Mrs B J Drew (Ink/Stationary) | 19.99 |

Councillor C Sherrey requested delegated powers be given, if needed, to sign a cheque for the Swan Carving at the entrance to the village which may be required before the next meeting up to a maximum of £1200. This project will be part funded by Wolverley Carnival Committee. All agreed delegation given to Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr C Sherrey.

75. **Cookley & Caunsall Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment Report.**

The comprehensive report has now been received, Cookley Councillors are reviewing and will advise action in due course.

76. **Litterbin - Highfield Road, Cookley.**

Request received from resident in Highfield Road, Cookley enquiring of possibility of moving litterbin at end of drive into the alleyway due to the dreadful smell. Cllrs D Jones and W Southam will do a site visit. Clerk to put on next agenda.

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

| PC No | WFDC No/Details |
|-------|--|
| 3630 | 22/0576/RES: Residential development for one 3 bedroomed single storey bungalow at land at Os 381904 279513, Wardle Way, Wolverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3631 | 22/0577/HOU: Conversion of roof space into second floor and two storey rear extension. Alterations to existing window openings and remodel of façade at The Cedars, Axborough Lane, Iverley, Recommend Approval. |
| 3632 | 22/0590/FUL: Proposed two bedroomed bungalow (resubmission of 22/0010/FUL) at 1 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval subject to Highways Authority comments supporting the change of access. |
| 3633 | 22/000032/RREG3: Demolition of existing single-storey temporary classroom block, erection of new replacement two-storey classroom building to accommodate 12 classrooms, 4 offices and ancillary space, relocation and reconfiguration of the existing carpark provision at Wolverley CE Secondary School, Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley. Recommend Approval. |

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

78. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Appeal 21/1200/OUT: Brown Westhead Park, Adoption of the Worcestershire Local Minerals Plan 2018-2036, Wyre Forest Area CALC, Decision Notices. Noted.
79. Vehicle Activated Sign - Data/Additional Sign. (RD) Data with Matt Ling, Chairman awaiting meeting.
80. New Key - Cookley Millennium Clock. (DC) Agenda next meeting
81. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Nothing to report.
82. Update on Cookley/Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan. (DJ/JW) Nothing to report.
83. Update on Iron Work (Austcliffe Bridge). (DJ) Cllr John Wood advised Cllr have some rough drawings, welder ready looking at planters and sculpture.
84. Update on Cookley In Bloom. (WS) 28th July - went well, waiting to hear.
85. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) VB speed on Sladd Lane and size of lorries, MH - Clerks Home working expenses.
86. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 6th September 2022.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm