

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th April, 2023, 7.00pm, Cookley School

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: Kate Easthope
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillors: Councillor M Hart

207. **Apologies**
County Cllr Ian Hardiman, Councillor Simon Sherrey and Councillor Adrian Carloss due to other commitments.

208. **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. 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 disclosed.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature. None disclosed.

The meeting will now be adjourned for PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

A Parishioner expressed concerns over dumped rubbish in Drakelow Lane causing cars to have to mount the verge to pass. Cllr M Hart will report this to Wyre Forest District Council to be cleared as a matter of urgency.

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

209. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th March, 2023 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.
210. **Police Report.**
Written Report circulated.

Firstly, we would like to make you aware that we have another PC join our East and North Team. PC Ryan Bridgewood is our second officer working alongside PC Jamie Guest. However we have lost PCSO Alice Owen Jones until Autumn/ Christmas at the earliest, as she has been asked to assist another area, who have a staff shortage

COOKLEY

Vehicle Theft - Castle Road, Cookley - Police Ref 00051_I_13032023 - Between 22:00hrs and 04:30hrs on the 13th March a white FORD TRANSIT TIPPER has been stolen without keys from a from a driveway.

Theft - Police Ref 00235_I_08032023 - Elizabeth Bache Corner - A black metal obelisk has been stolen and damage caused in the process. It's believed 3 male teenagers were seen with it in their possession walking along lea lane. If you live in this area and have any CCTV that can assist with this theft enquiry, please let us know quoting the reference number above.

We have also been made aware of vandalism of shrubs and flowers around Elizabeth Bache corner and lea lane, which have not been reported via 101 - we need to encourage residents to report this to us either on 101 or online whereas we believe this has only been shared on social media.

Lea Castle building site has had a numerous amount of properties broken into - once inside the property they are stealing the boilers from within. We have made this a priority for the forthcoming months and have put this onto our briefing pages for patrols throughout the night time

Good News of Note

A car going through the village causing danger to other road users was stopped by PC Bridgewood - the driver was arrested and charged.

Cookley school have been visited by our policing team and have given inputs to various year groups.

211. **County / District Councillor Reports.**

County Cllr Ian Hardiman's Report; Written Report Circulated.

Blakeshall, Snake Lane Pooling: Although several months ago, County Highways resurfaced the roadway approximately 100 metres into Snake Lane, frequent pooling following rainfall continues to cause a hazard for vehicles here. Highways had been informed by their contractor that whilst a soakaway exists behind the hedgerow the gullies and drainage leading to it are in need of attention. However, meanwhile, I am pleased that work has been carried out to reduce the height of the banked verge adjacent to the highway thus allowing water accumulation to drain away into the field where the soakaway exists. I am checking with the Highways Engineer as to when the Gullies & Drain servicing will be done.

Brown Westhead Sunday Football Parking: My optimism that a Yellow Line will be installed along this road has unfortunately been thwarted as County Highways officers have rejected my request! I am unhappy with this response and have made clear that I want further consideration to reduce the weekly impact on local residents caused by double parking by footballers and their supporters each Sunday morning.

Cookley, Bridge Road, Flooding on Bridge: Pleasingly, the Highways Engineer has confirmed that investigation has found that it should be possible to install an additional gully at the low-point on this bridge; hopefully this will be carried out in June.

A449/Pedestrian Difficulties: Further to my Report last month, Highways officers have responded, disappointingly rejecting the request for a temporary 30mph limit until the re-configuration works have been completed by the Developer.

Kingsford Lane County Boundary Signage: County signage has been designed and will soon be produced and provided for attachment to the new gateway here.

A449 Resurfacing requirements between Castle Rd and Island Pool: I have received assurance that the poor surface of the highway here will be dealt with this Spring-Summer.

Caunsall, Damaged Railings on Canal Bridge: I have been informed that the repair works for here are the responsibility of the Canals & Rivers Trust.

The Crescent/ Bus Route?: I have been informed that it is intended for there to be a Bus Route running through the new Development including the Crescent.

Woodlands Road Pavements: I have agreed with Highways that pavement resurfacing will be carried out during the 2023/24 programme.

Woodlands Road Sunken Roadway: Highways officers are concerned that Severn Trent Water are not dealing with the sunken highway problem which relates to the STW Waste system here; they are chasing the company seriously.

I am still awaiting update responses on the following Issues: Drains By Hardwicks / Pedestrian Crossing, Castle Road / Lea Lane landslip / Wolverley Flashing signage/ Incomplete vegetation removal in Wolverley Village / No waiting Signage for by Bus Stop Wolverley / Caunsall Lane Void issue.

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. We have recently reported litter on the A448 between Castle Road and Austcliffe Lane which is very bad at present.

Regarding the K9 Pawfection business in Drakelow Lane, the applicants as you may be aware have appealed the enforcement notice and there has still be no decision from the planning inspector to date.

Regarding Six Ashes, Castle Hill, we have been liaising with officers regarding this enforcement issue and enforcement action will now be taken.

We have been liaising with WFDC regarding additional car parking at Brown Westhead Park due to the excessive cars from the use of the football pitches.

There is no update as yet as to when the 800 homes planned for Lea Castle will be determined by WFDC following the submission of the planning application some months ago.

As per the update Marcus sent to the clerk after the last meeting, we have reported the lack of the litter bin outside the Former Post Office in Cookley and officers from WRS are pursuing the licensee.

Regarding the breach of the enforcement notice and unauthorised sign, officers are preparing to prosecute in respect of these matters.

This is our last report before the elections on 4th May and it has been a pleasure working with the Parish Council for the last 4 years. Marcus and Ian are seeking re-election and Lisa is stepping down due to new work commitments.

Wyre Forest Issues

There are 'all out' elections on 4th May for all 33 seats, plus elections for all Town and Parish Councils save for Kidderminster.

Cllr D Jones raised the issue of poor broadband provision in Cookley. This will be referred to County Councillor I Hardiman to pursue with County.

212. Financial Matters:

a) **Unanimously approved the schedule of cheques to be signed.**

98	Worcestershire County Council (Street Lighting Initiative Quarter 4)	3607.09
99	Mrs B J Drew (Salary March 2023)	1190.60
100	Lorraine Neal (Lengthsman)	708.40
101	Boston Seeds	130.98
102	Worcestershire CALC (Training)	30.00
103	Revive Exterior Maintenance (Installation of Gateways)	283.00
104	Stan Wall & Son (Bus Shelter)	1800.00 plus VAT
105	Mrs B J Drew (Expenses too 31st March 2023)	114.99
106	Cultivator Hire	40.00
107	HMRC (Tax and NI Jan - March 2023)	790.30
108	Mrs B J Drew (Stamps / Ink)	21.39

b) **Progress with On-Line Banking.** Completion of application in progress.

c) **External Audit**

The Clerk advised that the submission deadline for receipt of the approved AGAR and supporting documentation is Monday 3rd July 2023 therefore this will need to be approved at the latest at the June Parish Council meeting.

213. To agree re-location of bin Highfield Road, Cookley

It was agreed that the bin should be moved from outside residents' property to the grass verge area on the junction of Highfield Road and Gaymore Road. Clerk to ask Worcestershire County Council to display required notice before a licence to move can be obtained.

214. Informal consultation on proposed closure of the Kidderminster Base of the Beacon Primary Pupil Referral Unit.

Councillors to review consultation and provide comments to Chairman.

215. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

PC No	WFDC No/Details
3664	23/0165/HOU: Replacement garage at Wyre Mill House, Mill Lane, Wolverley, Recommend Approval subject to condition being added as requested by Kirsten Huizer, North Worcestershire Water Management that the new garage structure is not and will not be used as a habitable space.
3665	23/0189/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Single storey rear extension at 35 Westhead Road, Cookley,
3666	23/0191/OUT: Erection of 3 new dwellings and provision of 6 spaces for the adjacent development and Rock Tavern Cottage at Car Park adjacent Rose Cottage, Caunsall Road, Caunsall,

Recommend Refusal. No requirement or need for housing at this site and would generate excessive car parking and add to an already congested location.

3667 23/0193/FUL: Replacement dwelling at Sebright House, Blakeshall, Wolverley,
Recommend Deferral for further information as requested by Wyre Forest District Council.

3668 23/0207/HOU: Proposed single storey rear and side extension at The Cottage, 133 Lea Lane, Cookley.
Recommend Approval.

Planning Decisions:

22/0690/FUL Refusal, Horsbrook Cottage, Lower Kingsford Lane, Wolverley

23/0081/HOU Permit, Hildor, Castle Hill, Wolverley

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

- 216. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Noted.
- 217. Cookley Allotments. (Clerk) Roger Hill, Solicitor on behalf of the Parish Council is liaising with Charlotte Beswick, Solicitor at Wyre Forest District Council.
- 218. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Cllr Nicholls queried whether Lorraine should be referred to as "Lengthsman", Cllr C Sherrey advised that she had requested to be called this.
- 219. Unsafe Walking Routes - Wolverley CE Secondary School. (RD) No update.
- 220. Austcliffe Bridge Iron. (DJ/JW) Cllr Wood advised that the iron is safely stored away, and suitable sites are being investigated, one being the top of Castle Road.
- 221. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) 20mph zones - Cllr D Jones.
- 222. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for 22nd May 2023. (Annual Council Meeting)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman -