

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7.00pm, Cookley School.**

Present:

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

West Mercia Police: PC Ryan Bridgewood  
County Councillor: Apologies  
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew and M J Hart.

**JAKE HAMMOND - FULL FIBRE INSTALLATION**

The Chairman welcomed Jake Hammond to the meeting.

Jake works as a Community Engagement Officer for Full Fibre. They are installing Full Fibre in Cookley from the distribution points to homes and business premises. They intend to use existing poles where possible but may, in some cases, need to put in new poles. They are only putting in the infrastructure so are not trying to sell. The installation provides greater speed, 116mbps (megabits per second) and charges start at £25.00 per month. They suggest opting for the basic package to start as you can upgrade but cannot downgrade.

Cllr Nicholls questioned why the green box at the top of Castle Road says superfast broadband and yet the speed is very slow. Jake responded that the distance away from the cabinet can have an effect. Jake was also asked who the providers would be, and he advised there will be a choice of different providers that use their network such as IDNet and Squirrel Internet Ltd.

Chairman thanked Jake for attending.

31. **Apologies**  
Cllr D Cox, Holiday, Cllr J Hart, Holiday, Cllr W Southam, Holiday, Cllr I Hardiman, Holiday.
32. **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. None declared.
  - c) To declare any Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None declared.

Public Question Time  
No members of Public Present.

33. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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:**

34. **Police Report**  
PC Ryan Bridgewood was in attendance. Written report had been circulated:

Wolverley  
Shipping Container broken into and Power Tools stolen in Wolverley

Police Ref 0061\_i\_04052023 Between 18.30 3/5 and 7am 4/5 a shipping container located at Wolverley Secondary School has had the locks broken and power tools stolen from within. The tools include Stihl Strimmers, Hedge Cutters, Leaf Blowers and other gardening equipment. These items are all orange and black in colour. Damage was also caused to the school barrier

Theft - Brown Westhead Park - police ref 00342\_I\_22052023 - On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May a fence panel has been pulled out and offenders have gained access into a garden. They have then entered an unlocked shed and stolen a strimmer and leaf blower

Vehicle Crime - Shatterford Lane - Police ref 00399\_I\_29052023 - A red range rover sport has been stolen from the junction of Lowe Lane and Shatterford Lane. The vehicle was parked on the grass verge at the side of a field. The car was last seen at 1pm on 29th May. When the owner returned to the vehicle at 6pm it had gone.

Ryan advised of a break in at Cookley sports club

Police Priorities;

Existing priorities are Speeding, Parking around schools, Antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Drew questioned why, when the Parish were asked to provide Policing Priorities, these do not seem to be actioned. For example, there has only been one speed check on the Franche Road, Wolverley in the last 12 months, why are we not getting more speed enforcement? Also, police presence around the local schools at drop off and pick up times. Ryan will make a note and look into this.

Cllr M Hart suggested emailing to request having an undertaking for a minimum service level of when they patrol around schools, and ask about commitment to speed enforcement,

Cllr Nicholls stated that they are not enough police to do the job we want. He raised the flytipping opposite the church should be a priority, Cllr Drew advised this is not a police matter and should be reported to WFDC.

Cllr Jones commented that there is a blurred line between Police and WFDC and it is not always clear who to report to. Cllr M Hart clarified that both authorities have different powers. WFDC have 5 civil enforcement officers that enforce parking on double yellow lines but if a car is causing an obstruction blocking a pavement that is a Police matter.

Cllr Webber agreed with the above comments and said that normally it is the local community that cause the issues.

Thanks were expressed to WFDC for their prompt dealing with flytipping.

It was agreed priorities to remain the same.

### 35. To receive Councillors Reports:

District Councillor Report: Report previously circulated.

Please find herewith our District Councillors report to the Parish Council. We would be grateful if you could circulate this report to the Parish Councillors and we confirm we will be attending the meeting to answer any questions.

Local Issues:

The nameplate sign for Sion Hill we reported last month as damaged has now been replaced and the fly tipping of two sofas on Fairfield Lane has been removed Monday afternoon by WFDC operatives.

Enforcement; Regarding K9 Pawfection on Drakelow Lane, Wolverley, we have been informed that the inspector visited last week and we await his report. Cookley Post Office, a case is being prepared with a view for prosecution.

Lea Castle Village highways improvements update...A449 / Park Gate Rd junction work will be completed before the 346th house is occupied, and this will see work started this summer. The work will take approx 20wks, we are currently talking to WCC to ensure the public footpath from the new site joins and is made good down to the traffic lights. A451 Stourbridge Rd will be completed before the 599th house is occupied and The Crescent junction will be improved before the 450th house is occupied. All these junction improvements will include enhanced safe pedestrian havens and "Puffin Crossings" which are pedestrian user-friendly intelligent control systems.

We continue to deal with casework including reporting litter and fly-tipping in the Parish.

Cllr Drew also advised that the path from the entrance to Lea Castle Village will be joined to the path adjoining Park Gate Road. There was much discussion over the proposed works with all glad to see some progress but all agreed pressure needs to be kept on.

County Councillor Report:

Written Report circulated;

Local issues:

I am still awaiting progress with:

Caunsall: Request for signage within the village to prevent large HGVs drivers from attempting to drive over the Canal Bridge. Woodlands Road, Sunken Roadway.

Cookley Bridge, Additional gully to prevent flooding on the bridge itself.

Brown Westhead, Inconsiderate Parking, Sundays.

Wolverley Kerb & Flooding by Cost Cutter.

Lea Lane Landslip / Incomplete Removal of Vegetation in Wolverley Village / No waiting Sign by Wolverley Bus Stop / Drains Flooding by Hardwicks.

A449 & Park Gate Rd Section 278 Improvement Works:

I am aware of the present concerns of the Cookley Primary School Governors. Indeed, I have requested an update on the "Safer Routes to School" County Council project; Unfortunately I haven't yet received this.

In my January Report to the Parish Council, I explained how I had been chasing both County Highways and Wyre Forest District Council Planners as the highway improvements were not yet being actioned; I was informed that Homes England were providing the technical design details of the re-modelling which had been agreed by County Highways / WFDC and that actual works are likely to commence around June/July 2023.

I also agreed to request meanwhile that a temporary 30 mph speed limit be introduced until the works were completed. Unfortunately, I was told by County Highways that this couldn't be agreed!

I fully support the need to have these highway safety improvements prioritised and accordingly have made senior County Council Officers and the Cabinet member for Highways fully aware of the deep concerns held locally.

I am aware that my Colleague, Parish & District Councillor Robin Drew is engaging with the Planning Manager of WFDC on this important issue.

Cllr McFarland expressed disappointment in the lack of action with many key matters.

36. **To discuss letter received from Chair of Governors - Cookley Primary School regarding child safety concerns on A449 crossing.**

The letter had been circulated to all by the Clerk.

Cllr S Sherrey proposed the Council send letter to chair of governors in support of their comments and outlining the latest timescales we now have. Also advise that the Council will still pursue through district and county councillors to push for an improvement on timescales. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed.

Cllr M Hart asked if there is any data on how many pupils there are at the primary school that live in the new development.

Cllr Nicholls advised he did not know the exact number, but it is in double figures. Clerk to ascertain.

37. **Financial Matters:**

a) To discuss progress with online banking. Signatories are now set up online, payments this month will be made by BACS. Clerk's access to be changed to delegated user rather than full access.

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

c) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/2023  
Councillor C Sherrey provided an Income and Expenditure report for the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and explained figures contained therein.

i) To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 - Unanimously agreed.

ii) To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/2023 - Unanimously agreed.

d) Urgent Business - Streetlights - Cllr C Sherrey advised that last month the Parish Council agreed to upgrade 30 lights in Wolverley. These have now been identified and will cost £1,100 plus Vat, which is as per budget. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with order.

38. **Lengthsman Contract.**

Councillor C Sherrey reported that the sub-committee had met and conducted interviews. They recommend to Full Council that Jason Hull be appointed as new Lengthsman. He lives in Cookley. This was unanimously agreed. Jason will be on a contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 23, £16.20 per hour, for 19 hours per month. Prior to commencing work, he needs to undertake the mandatory training supplied by WCC. He has just missed the last course therefore Clerk to ascertain the date for the next one. Councillor M Hart is assisting with arrangements for dealing with work in the interim period.

39. **To discuss 20mph Speed Limit in Wolverley & Cookley.**

Following discussion on this at the last meeting Councillor C Sherrey proposed for Wolverley the Parish Council request Blakeshall Lane from the Wolverley Road junction to the village gateway beyond Wolverley Secondary School be a 20mph zone. The village can be a very dangerous place for both school children and residents/pedestrians alike and this would improve the safety of all concerned as well as addressing one of the issues raised at our village residents meeting some months ago.

Cllr Jones discussed proposals for Cookley including Bridge Road to top of Castle Road and through Caunsall by the Anchor Pub. Cllr M Hart questioned if the residents would support this and advised Cllrs living on the road to consider if they have an interest.

After much discussion it was agreed Cookley Councillors will consult with residents and email the Clerk with their proposals.

40. **To agree signing of Heads of Terms - Cookley Allotments.**

Clerk advised that Roger Hill, Solicitor has advised the Heads of Terms Agreement can be signed, Unanimously agreed Chairman to sign.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3677 23/0224/HOU: New build orangery in the traditional style with kitchen/living space, bathroom and bedroom. Alterations to the existing driveway and a new pathway to the orangery at The Old Vicarage, Wolverley Village.  
Application Withdrawn

3678 23/0338/NMA: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Removal of a single detached garage to Plot 213 and creation of a parking place in situ at Former Lea Castle Hospital, Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle.

3679 23/0339/S73: Variation of conditions 11 and 14 attached to Planning Permission 19/0750/S73 to suit revised access arrangements and timings due further development within the vicinity (C.11 to be varied to consider revised junction arrangements and delivery of A449 completion of works by 346th occupation and C.14 to be varied to consider completion of works by 599th occupation) at Former Lea Castle Hospital, Lea Castle Drive, Lea Castle.

Recommend Approval

3680 23/0347/TCA: Fell fir tree at Wolverley Vicarage, Wolverley Village.

Recommend Approval subject to Arboricultural Officer comments.

Planning Decisions:

23/0238 Permit

Reservoir at Gipsy Lane

23/0241 Permit

Highfield House, Solcum Lane

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

42. Clerks Report. (Clerk) Dog Bin Transfer, Review of Standing Orders, PCC Newsletter, Armed Forces Flag Flying Ceremony, Road Traffic Order, Road Closure Order, Funding Newsletter.
43. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) No update
44. Austcliffe Footbridge Iron. (JW/DJ) Cllr Wood advised options are being considered, Cookley want it to remain in the Parish.
45. Cookley/Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan. (DJ) Cllr Jones advised the committee are waiting to see if NRS aggregates lodge notification for a judicial review for the Quarry before any decision is taken on the future of the Neighbourhood Plan.
46. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. (All) Replacement bins, Church Bank, Caunsall (by towpath)
47. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 4th July 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.08pm

---

Chairman - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023