

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st August 2023, 7.00pm, Cookley School.

Present:

Mr D Cox (Chairman)
Mrs V Bordewich
Mr R Drew
Mr J Hart
Mr D Jones
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr W Southam
Mr A Webber
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: Apologies
County Councillor: Councillor I Hardiman
District Councillors: Councillor R M Drew and I Hardiman

63. **Apologies**

Cllr Mr B Brookes, M Hart, B McFarland and C Nicholls all due to holiday.

64. **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 Public Questions.

65. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th July 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;

66. **Police Report**

Police report had been circulated;

COOKLEY

Anti-Social Behaviour - Community book stall vandalised

Burglary - Lea Castle building site - substantial amount of copper stolen from the work sites

Burglary - Lea Lane - a residential property was entered by a male in this locationUPDATE ...
AN ARREST HAS BEEN MADE AND THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING

Vehicle Crime - Elm Place - A BMW was stolen from a driveway in this location.UPDATE ...
VEHICLE HAS BEEN FOUND IN WEST MID'S AREA

Vehicle Crime - Albrighton Drive/ Podmore (new builds off Hurcott Lane/ opp park gate) - number of vehicles have been entered and items stolen

WOLVERLEY

Burglary - Wolverley High School had their new building broken into and contractors tools stolen

Burglary - Franche Road - Between 22.00hrs 25th July and 07.40hrs 26th July rear patio doors were forced and entry gained into the property, although nothing stolen. We believe thieves may have been after an Audi on the driveway

Criminal Damage and Theft - reported to us 30/7/2023 - St John the Baptist Church Yard - The church are currently fencing their boundaries around the church yard and up to the woods. This is due to ongoing reports of vandalism to some of the graves in this location, criminal damage to the church and buildings, litter and dog mess. This is private land owned by the diocese and there is no public right of way. Unfortunately we have had reports of abuse from adults, given to the workers installing this and then fencing damaged and stolen. The warden is aware we are reporting this to the parish council.

AOB

We attended a meeting just before the schools broke up for the summer holidays, in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour that is still ongoing within the church yard at St John the Baptist, Wolverley. Along with others present was the head teacher of Wolverley Secondary School. It has been decided that Bryn will send an email to parents and give a talk to all pupils on their return after the summer. Once done the church will unlock the gates into the church yard at school times, with the hope that the anti-social behaviour stops. If not, then they will be locked again. Some of the anti-social behaviour includes swearing at the cleaner and parishioners inside the church, graffiti inside the church, spitting inside the church, and the finding of a large knife on one of the pews. We are not sure who took the knife into church, but are monitoring the situation, as some of these things can be considered a hate crime! We are also looking to support the church with installation of cctv if necessary. The church, police and all in attendance appreciate this is a minority not a majority who were doing this, but hopefully working together we can nip this in the bud at the start of a new school year.

Although not reported officially to us we have also been made aware that 1) a push bike has been dumped near to the doctor's surgery (not called into police). 2) That 3 males dressed in black were in the village by the queen's head, and then walked through the car park up into the woods at 3.30am on 26th July (not called into police), 3) and that a property under renovation in the village has had its window smashed and entry gained, and copper stolen (not called into police).

Patrols have regularly been made with regards to ASB in Cookley. We have encountered children on electric scooters from the village and have taken them home to parents, who have then argued with officers about the legality of having them. A large group 10-15 of children were spoken to as they walked down lea lane last Friday evening by myself. They were a mixture of boys and girls and most were from the village, having got fish and chips and were going to the playing fields to hang out. Words of advice given about noise/ vandalism etc. We have not received any calls in relation to this group.

We attended Cookley Primary Summer Fayre where the team engaged with families and took the police car.

We have conducted speed enforcement along Franche Road in Wolverley - no offences captured. This took place 26/7/23 between 15.15 and 15.45hrs facing traffic coming from Kidderminster and have done speed enforcement along Kinver Lane. We have also met with resident and a member of our road safety team.

67. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

District Councillor Report; Report previously circulated.

Local Issues:

The nameplate sign for Badland Ave which was destroyed when a car went through the wall will be replaced shortly.

Enforcement; Regarding K9 Pawfection on Drakelow Lane, Wolverley; They have been issued an enforcement notice. The inspector has amended our "time for compliance" on the enforcement notice from 3 months to 6 months, the new date for compliance will be the 26 th of December.

Cookley Post Office has been prepared and we await a court date.

Dog bin posters. A Caunsall resident requested some dog fouling posters which Cllr Robin Drew has supplied.

Wolverley Road B4189. WFDC have cleared much of the overgrown vegetation on the path from the Wolverhampton Road to Lea Lane. Our Parish Lengthsman then followed up and cut back all overhanging vegetation that has been funded by WCC.

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

Wyre Forest Issues:

Worcester Street transformation project. Residents, shoppers, retailers, and workers are invited to visit us in Exchange Square, opposite the Town Hall on Thursday 3 August between 2pm and 5pm to see the new design proposals which will see the regeneration of Worcester Street, Kidderminster town centre. The transformation of this area of town is being made possible through the government's Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). The project is focused on improving the appearance and connection of this area of town with Bromsgrove Street and the wider Lionfields development site. It will also create improved access to the new Creative Hub currently being created in the former Magistrates Court. Stakeholder Event. Wyre Forest District Council is carrying out a consultation to find out what people's views are on what the council does now and what it should be doing over the next four years. This is to help us develop our new Corporate Plan. The Plan will direct the council's focus and energies up to 2027. We would value your organisation's input and we would like to invite you and/or a member of the parish/town council to our stakeholder event. A stakeholder event is taking place on Wednesday 9th August 2023 10am until 12pm Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY10 7WFFree on-site parking is available.

Beales Corner Full Closure. We have been notified by Beales Corner, Bewdley Flood Risk Management Scheme that Severn Trent Water will be undertaking their next phase of the utility diversions from Monday 21 August. These works are to enable the main construction works of the Environment Agency's Beales Corner flood risk management scheme. The works will require the full closure of the Bewdley Bridge to vehicles. Severn Trent Water have received a traffic management permit for a duration of 4 weeks.

County Councillor Report:

Written Report circulated;

A449 & Park Gate Re-configuration works/30mph Requested:

Unfortunately, I have now been informed that County Highways do not consider it appropriate to install a temporary 30mph limit for this location; in reaction I have challenged why it is taking so long for an agreed scheme of re-configuration to be actioned and received a response that the District Council Planners should be pushing the Developer at Lea Castle Village to get on with it! I have therefore emailed the Head of Planning on this point.

Lea Lane Landslip: Unfortunately, the County Council have not yet been successful in obtaining permission to proceed with the necessary works; I am constantly chasing senior officers to find a way of resolving this.

Cookley, Woodlands Road Sunken Roadway: Disappointingly, Severn Trent Water are failing to give this issue the necessary attention; I have therefore asked Highways to attend to it and send STW the bill for doing so. I am awaiting a response.

Sunday Parking Brown Westhead: I have now been informed by the senior Highways Management that they will not agree to install a yellow line as I have requested as this would likely push the cars parking onto the main B4189 highway with serious safety concerns resulting. They have referred the issue back for the Police, Parish Council and Football Association to resolve.

Caunsall Kinver Lane Vehicle Speeds: I have ordered the provision of a pole on which the Parish Council's VAS may be installed. Highways Inspectors will assess suitability of its location before confirming agreement.

Wolverley, Drains by Hardwicks: Highways Engineers will commence pipeline repairs later in September, then together with STW and the EA, Gullies will be repaired/upgraded also.

Wolverley / Cookley Requests for 20mph Zones:

I have been informed that The requests for 20mph are not eligible because current WCC policy states that 20mph limits are only pursued in the following circumstances:

. at injury cluster sites / in association with new development / as part of a capital improvement scheme / advisory signage outside schools.

Unfortunately, WCC will not proceed further as explained.

Notwithstanding this, County Highways have agreed for the introduction of 20mph Flashing Signs near to the High School with additional warning signage in Blakeshall Lane to prompt drivers of children's presence; this will be at a cost of approximately £7,000 which I am prepared to cover from my Divisional Fund. I am awaiting the Parish Council's agreement on this.

Ian verbally reported the A449 junction improvements are more likely to be done at the beginning of 2024, not this year as promised. Brown Westhead Park IH will try and get some engagement via District Council as FA are still tenants. 20mph zones - whilst WCC will install the flashing lights IH has agreed to finance the installation of additional signage for Blakeshall Lane, near to the two bridges in the village. It was proposed Simon Sherrey, seconded Charles Sherrey and agreed to proceed with this as it is at least some deterrent however there was much discussion on WCCs failure to offer any solutions.

Cllr Cox asked IH to pursue the dog bin transfer licence and overgrown hedges Austcliffe Lane.

68. **Financial Matters:**

Agreed the following accounts be paid;

20	B J Drew – Salary July 23	£1,190.60
21	Keith Basketfield – 4 th Grass Cut June 23	£756.80
22	WCC – Street Light Conversions	£1479.78
23	B J Drew – Ink/Paper	£10.00
24	Shaw & Sons – Minute Book	£174.00
25	Mrs B J Drew Personalised Hi Viz Lengthsman 2 x Signs	£8.48 £27.20
26	Lengthsman – July 23	£372.60

Councillor C Sherrey requested agreement for £20,000 to be transferred from HSBC to Lloyds and the HSBC accounts be closed before the next meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

69. **Request from Stop Lea Castle Quarry Campaign for funding.**

All Councillors had been circulated with a request from the Stop Lea Castle Quarry Campaign group for funding. Councillor C Sherrey advised that the Clerk had confirmed with Worcestershire CALC that the Parish Council can legally give funding however they had recommended that the Parish Council know what the money has been spent on rather than give a sum to a general pot. After

discussion it was proposed C Sherrey, seconded R Drew and unanimously agreed to offer funding of up to £1500 to be paid on receipt of invoices from a solicitor that specifies what work has been done.

70. **Defibrillators in the Parish.**

Cllr Webber is looking into opportunities for funding for further defibrillators in the Parish. He will liaise with Cllr D Cox, Cookley and report back in due course.

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

PC No WFDC No/Details

3684 23/0488/HOU: Demolition of existing garage to be replaced with carport at Bay Cottage, New Road, Caunsall,

Recommend Approval

3685 23/0506/PNR: Conversion of existing agricultural barn to form 5 dwellings at building at Os 383464 279339, Brown Westhead Park, Wolverley,

Recommend Approval subject to North Worcestershire Water Management being satisfied with further information requested and condition attached requested by Highways.

3686 23/0507/FUL: Extension of existing surgery to form enlarged dispensary with covered waiting area and extra consultation room at Wolverley Surgery,

Recommend Approval subject to the Highways Authority being satisfied with parking provision.

3687 23/0509/CLP: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Proposed single storey extension at 1 Westhead Road, Cookley.

3688 23/0547/PNH: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Single storey rear extension at Old Rose Cottage, New Road, Caunsall.

Planning Decisions:

23/0327/FUL:

REFUSAL - Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of a dwelling at barn as Castle Hill Farm, Castle Hill,

23/0339/S73

OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION - Variations of conditions 11 and 14 attached to 19/0750/S73 former Lea Castle Hospital Site,

23/0386/HOU

PERMIT - Installation of driveway and dropped kerb at 10 Caunsall Road, Caunsall.

21/1002/PIP

PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE - Construction of a new dwelling (permission in principle application) at Cattery, 2 Webbs Cottages, Caunsall Road.

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required.

72. Clerks Report. (Clerk) WFDC Consultations, Update on Dog Bin Transfer, Cookley Allotments, Dog Fouling Posters Caunsall.

73. Update on Lengthsman. (RD/WS) Jason Hull has now commenced work in the Parish.

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

75. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th September, 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed by Chairman - 5th September 2023