**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 1st August 2017 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)

Mr T Botterill

Mr J Hart

Mr M Hart

Mrs L Jones

Mrs C Lewis

Mr C Nicholls

Mr C Sherrey

Mr S Sherrey

Mr P Smith

West Mercia Police: Apologies

District / County Councillor: Ian Hardiman

78. **Apologies**

Councillor Mr D Cox, Mrs J Cox, Mr D Jones and Mr G Yarranton.

79. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of need to update their register of interests.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None Declared.

To declare any Other Disclosable Interests (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) in items on the agenda and their nature.

Councillor M Hart – 17/0205/Outline as on District Council Planning Committee and Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review – preferred options consultation as Leader of the Council.

Public Question Time

 The Chairman welcomed members of the Public who were invited to speak.

 Several members of the public spoke on the Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation.

Having attended the drop in session at Cookley on Friday 28th July and discussed the potential development at the former Lea Castle site many questions had been answered but since seeing sight of a flyer produced by the Offmore / Comberton Action Group many more questions remain unanswered about the possibility of substantially increased development on the Cookley site.

Councillor M Hart advised that he has seen the many comments on facebook and the 2 page flyer by Offmore / Comberton Action Group which wants development of up to two/two and a half thousand homes on the Lea Castle Site. Under the District Council consultation there would be 600 homes on the core site and additional development potentially depending on whether Option A or B was chosen however this would not be two thousand homes on this site as there would need to be a lot more land submitted into the plan for this. All residents were encouraged to resist a large scale application.

A question was asked about schooling and whether an additional school would be built? There has to be a contribution per dwelling towards education and Worcestershire County Council do have a statutory responsibility, if needed, any new school opening must be a free school.

Several parishioners spoke in support of some development on the Lea Castle site but have concerns over infrastructure, schooling, doctors, access, wildlife, countryside etc and all spoke in total opposition to development of the Green Belt that would see Cookley joined onto Kidderminster. They felt that the level of development was very disproportionate on Lea Castle to other sites within the District and asked what the Parish Council were going to do to oppose the development.

Councillor C Nicholls said the Parish Council are vehemently opposed to Option A that would see Cookley joined onto Kidderminster. Most are in agreement that there needs to be development on the Lea Castle site but nobody wants it to be excessive and to become a satellite village.

The Chairman advised that the final drop in session is on Friday 4th August at Broadwaters, copies of response forms are available tonight and residents were urged to respond to the Consultation and that the Parish Council response will be discussed and agreed later in the agenda and the public are welcome to stay.

80. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th June 2017 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 as such by the Chairman.

**Matters for Discussion / Decision;**

81. **Velo Cycle Race – 24th September 2017**

 The Chairman welcomed;

 Mr Jonathan Fraser – Worcestershire County Council - Highways

 Mr Matt Hodgson – Events Operations Manager – CSM Sports & Entertainments

Birmingham City Council approached Worcestershire County Council approximately two years ago to discuss carrying out a mass cycling event that would pass through several rural Counties. Worcestershire County Council are pro cycling and were therefore very pro the event. There have been lots of discussions and CSM Sport and Entertainment company were engaged to run the event which will start and end in Birmingham, be 100 mile route and have 15,000 participants. The event is a large charitable event which raises a lot of funds and boosts the local economy in terms of visitors to the event.

The event will be held on Sunday 24th September 2017.

The original route was launched in November last year and would see the race come down the Stourbridge Road, turn right at The Park Gate, down past Brown Westhead Park up to the island, left and along the Franche Road. This was published in March 2017 and a letter drop was done to local residents. People started to get interested in the event and several comments and concerns were raised over the proposed length of the road closures due to the large number of competitors at various standards. These were discussed at a meeting and a change of route was proposed.

The new route alters the route through Wolverley which now comes along Gypsy Lane onto Blakeshall Lane, through Wolverley Village, onto the B4189 up to the island, around the wrong way up past the Wolverley Memorial Hall to the Bridgnorth Road, left and up to The Three Crowns roundabout. At certain points along the route certain mitigations have been proposed to keep traffic flowing, eg traffic lights from TG Hardwicks to the Island to keep traffic flowing also possibly keeping access to Wolverley Memorial Hall carpark as they have a Beer Festival on that weekend. They are also looking into possibly going the wrong way up Church Bank to keep access to the lower road. There will be a new leaflet drop going out in the next two weeks. Clerk has circulated e mail from Jon Fraser received yesterday detailing new route, road closures and public notices. Worcestershire County Council need to give formal notice for roads to be closed for the event to go ahead. The road closures will be from 7.30am until 2.30pm however roads will be opened earlier if all riders have passed through.

 The speakers then invited questions / discussion.

Councillor M Hart welcomed the presentation and outlined that the biggest concern is that the temporary traffic restriction has now been published so there are only 14 days to comment and no letters of communication have been sent to residents and businesses in the village affected by the road closures. The Village Stores and Queens Head Pub knew nothing about the changed route. He added that the Bike Ride is welcomed and supported provided that CSM make the village aware before the final road closure order is made and that the village will be accessible.

Much discussion followed and all were very keen on the Bike Event seeing it as a positive for the Parish. CSM are in the process of speaking to the two businesses in the village, also the organisers of the Beer Festival, Bodenham Arboretum, Bishops Farm and anyone else that may be affected. The Clerk will ascertain if there are any football games planned for Sunday 24th at Wolverley High School. There are 600 Stewards along the route and once the fastest riders have passed through pedestrians should be able to cross with the aid of the Stewards.

 Emergency Services will take priority over the event if needed.

 Clerk will put the revised route on the Parish Noticeboard.

82. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

**District / County Councillor**;

1. The drain problem by Sleepy Hollow and Brook Cottage in Wolverley Village has been inspected. The Highways Engineer has agreed to upgrade the drain in question,
2. Regarding re surfacing of pavements, I have contacted Highways to identify when Westhead Road/Westhead Road North and Woodlands Road, as these are not shown on the schedule, when I receive a reply I will inform the Parish Clerk,
3. Cookley Primary School, a) Worcestershire County Council have agreed to provide a replacement window and funding, b) Asbestos will be dealt with and funded, both should be completed by March 2018,
4. Gaymore Road, Cookley – Potholes have been reported,
5. Hayes Road junction with Lowe Lane, Wolverley – crumbling pavement reported – has been repaired!,
6. Lea Lane safety concerns at bend by canal. Worcestershire County Council have installed chevrons and signs, however they are still considering my request (prompted by Councillors Mrs L Jones) to install a safety barrier,
7. A449 overgrown verge affecting pedestrians. I am still awaiting Highways agreement to resolve this matter,
8. In Caunsall, I am arranging inspection of a large tree which is causing safety concerns to neighbours,
9. Wolverley Village road surface dressing is failing – Highways Engineers are going to inspect,
10. A449 collapsed wall – Highways are still chasing the land owner to repair this wall,
11. B4189, collapsed and bulging wall – Highways have been asked to investigate,
12. Castle Hill bridleway (up from near Kinverdale) is severely damaged by rainwater flow. Highways Engineer has inspected and is recommending the provision of stone materials to rectify the problems,
13. Sebright Road pavement unevenness and pot holing – reported as a safety hazard for the elderly to Highways for repair,
14. Caunsall Lane / Kinver Lane corner land – ownership of land has been queried. I am awaiting Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officer response,
15. Honeybrook residents concerns regarding bonfires and motorbike events – I am chasing Regulatory Services to whom this has been reported,

Re District Cabinet Meeting 11th July – Cabinet agreed the next steps towards establishing a Local Authority Trading Company,

Cabinet agreed the adoption of the Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan for 2017 -2020, Cabinet agreed to proceed to the next stages of establishing a Kidderminster Improvement District (Bid) – for the benefit of local businesses in Kidderminster town and Cabinet agreed to introduce enhanced enforcement measures to tackle “Rogue Landlords”.

83. **Report from West Mercia Police**

Apologies received – written report circulated.

84. **Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid;

23 Mrs B J Drew 909.06

(Salary July 17)

24 Mr T Dale 508.80

 (Lengthsman Fee July 17)

25 Marvin Cox Lubricants 72.00

 (Works to maintain Pound)

26 Broxap 115.20

 (Tespa Banding Kit)

27 Eurosigns 139.55

 (Magnetic Chevron)

28 Wyre Forest District Council 90.00

 (Black Sacks)

29 Worcestershire County Council 12,000.71

 (Street Lighting 16/17)

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

**PC No** **WFDC No/Details**

3279 WF/17/0205 Outline: Outline planning application to include up to 600 dwellings (C3), up to 3,350sqm of Class

B1 employment uses, 150sqm of Class A1/A3/D1 uses (local shop/café/community space), public open space, ecological mitigation, drainage works, infrastructure and ancillary works. Detailed approval is sought for access arrangements, to include the main access from Park Gate Road, secondary access from The Crescent and limited access to a small number of properties from Axborough Lane, with all other matters reserved at former Lea Castle Hospital, Park Gate Road, Kidderminster.

There was much discussion on this Outline Planning Application. Concerns were expressed over the infrastructure to support development on this site as there is no information on this. Local schools and doctors surgeries are already oversubscribed. Pedestrian access across the main A449 to Cookley Village would be dangerous. The secondary access through The Crescent will be very dangerous. There is no provision for Shops, Care Home, Open Spaces. It was agreed that that this site needs developing but with the proper infrastructure in place to support it.

Councillor M Hart emphasised that the application is Outline and is for Up to 600 dwellings. There will be pressures whatever level of development there is, Infrastructure is key and there will have to be appropriate provision for schooling etc but the more houses the better the infrastructure will be.

 It was proposed Councillor C Nicholls, seconded Councillor C Sherrey and carried with 7 for, 1 Against and 2 Abstentions;

Recommend Refusal

Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council are not opposed to development on the Lea Castle Site however the current Outline Planning Application for up to 600 dwellings does not come with any detail or information on the infrastructure that will need to be provided to support this level of development.  The Parish Council have concerns that the existing local Primary Schools and Doctors Surgeries do not have the capacity to expand to support this development.  In addition the Parish Council have concerns over access to the development, the proposed secondary access through The Crescent will be very dangerous and access to the main village via crossing the very busy A449 will put pedestrians at risk.

3288 WF/17/0404/Full: Proposed replacement roof over existing rear extension at 42 Lionfields Road, Cookley.

Recommend Approval

3289 WF/17/0424/Full: Erection of freestanding steel framed barn (Amendments to Planning Permission

 16/0746/Full) at land at Honey Top, Bridgnorth Road, Kidderminster.

 Recommend Approval

1. **Consultations;**
2. Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation.

Councillor S Sherrey opened up the discussion. He had attended the drop in session at Cookley and discussed the preferred options consultation at length with officers. It had not been made very clear that you can mix and match the options and comments on these and on the Core. You can also suggest other sites that have been offered up for development. There are concerns over all Options however strong concerns were expressed over Option A Lea Castle Hospital Extension (South) which would see Cookley joined up to Kidderminster. Officers outlined that only some of this land would be used to fund improvements to the junction at Park Gate Road/Stourbridge Road. The South of Stourbridge Road (inc Hurcott) has already been subject to Planning. The Parish Council are vehemently against any development on this site and the linking of Cookley to Kidderminster.

There were various different views expressed on Option B Lea Castle Hospital Extension (East) some in favour which would see 360 extra dwellings which if developed may create more finance to develop a better infrastructure and school possibly. Other views were that this would make Lea Castle a separate satellite development and residents want Lea Castle to be part of Cookley.

It was agreed that Lea Castle is crying out for development but this needs to be as sustainable as possible. If Core and Option B were developed there would be much more infrastructure funding and sustainability and should get a one form entry school. The rule on affordable housing is not 30%, it is up to, this is an aspiration but depends upon the financial viability of each and every site.

All agreed that the three Areas of Development Restraint should not be developed as there is enough put forward.

After a very lively discussion and debate it was proposed Councillor S Sherrey, seconded Councillor C Sherrey and carried with 5 for, 2 against and 3 abstentions to respond as follows;

Agree with Core (Red) if infrastructure is there

Vehemently oppose Option A (Blue)

Oppose any developments on three Areas of Development Restraint

1. Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2017 – Statutory Consultation.

Any comments to Clerk

1. Worcestershire County Council Rail Investment Strategy.

Noted

1. **To receive update on Dementia Awareness/Friends Launch and next actions.**

An update was given on Dementia Workshops which are currently taking place in Wolverley and will be held in January in Cookley. There are 4 sessions, organised by the Alzheimers Society.

Friday September 22nd is the awareness event at Cookley Village Hall, Clerk to put reminder in Wolverley & Cookley Matters.

A daytime coffee morning is being organised in October for anyone unable to get to the evening event.

1. **To discuss Localism Application 2017/18.**

Clerk to draft application for 2017/18 to include;

3 additonal gateways for hamlet of Blakeshall together with signs and planters

Octagonal tiered self-watering planter on main island in Wolverley by doctors surgery

Barrier Baskets for railings in Wolverley Village

Tourist Board for Cookley

1. **To update on progress with Localism Projects 2017/18 and agree any action required;**
	* 1. Gateways – awaiting highway approval – Refer to Rachel Benson as Alex on Sick Leave
		2. Planters – thanks were expressed to the three District Councillors for transferring £200 each from their CLF fund towards the maintenance of the planters. This matter was discussed and the possibility of advertising in Wolverley & Cookley matters for a volunteer or part paid individual to maintain the planters. Councillor Drew is looking into self- watering troughs, a decision will be made once the planters have been purchased.
		3. Tourism Boards – Councillor Smith will progress this.
2. **Report following Wyre Forest Area CALC Meeting 15th June 2017.**

Councillor Mrs Jones attended the meeting and reported in issues discussed;

Neighbourhood plans, capping on Parish/Town councils budget, Training, Local Plan Consultation. Councillor Mrs Jones was put forward as a representative on the CALC Executive committee, at this meeting there was a presentation from John Campion regarding the proposed merger with police / fire service.

**Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required**

1. Clerks Report (Clerk). Clerks & Councils Direct. Noted
2. Update on Lengthsman Scheme (Councillor T Botterill). Mr Dale back working in Parish following Harvesting
3. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. VELO Bike Event, WFDC Housing Needs Survey
4. Dates for Meetings;

County Parish Conference – 12th September, 6.00pm, Worcester

Chairman’s Meeting – 13th September, Wyre Forest House

Parish Forum/CALC – 18th September, 6.30pm, Wyre Forest House

1. Date of Next Meeting – to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5th September 2017, 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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