

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
Mr D Cox
Mr J Hart
Mr D Jones
Mrs L Jones
Mrs C Lewis
Mr C Nicholls
Mr C Sherrey
Mr S Sherrey
Mr P Smith
Mr W Southam
Mr J Wood

West Mercia Police: PC Derya Mustafa
County Councillor: Apologies - Ian Hardiman
District Councillor: Stephen Williams

31. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillors T Botterill (Holiday), M Hart (Attending another meeting) and 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.
- 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 - please see notes after the minutes.

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

33. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 1st May 2018 at 7.00pm and Extraordinary meeting held on 29th May 2018. (minutes previously circulated).**

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:

34. **To receive Councillors Reports;**

District Councillor.

Stephen Williams reported - Following the recent District Council Elections the make-up of the Council is 21 Conservatives, 4 Labour, 3 Independent, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Independent Community and Health Concern. The new Chairman is myself, the Leader Councillor Marcus Hart and the Deputy Leader Councillor Ian Hardiman remain. The new Chairman of Planning is Councillor John Hart and Chair of Licensing Councillor Jeff Baker.

Tenders have now been issued for the Depot 2020, project construction work bids must be in by 11th July 2018.

The technical investigations revealed the need to invest in upgrading the sites drainage to meet modern more stringent requirements. As a result the overall plans have been revised and the scheme will not now include business units for hire, work is expected to start on site in August/September 2018 and the depot will remain operational throughout the works.

In respect of Crown House the Councils legal team are liaising directly with Telereal Trillium and their solicitors, to finalise legal agreements that will affect the surrender of the lease and demolition, good progress is being made and it is hoped to be able to conclude the full agreement in the next few weeks.

County Councillor.

Apologies received from Councillor Ian Hardiman.

Ongoing Issues - Sewerage Issues, Planning TG Hardwicks, Wolverley, Planning Breach Lowe Lane, Wolverley, Fly tipping etc, Meeting 18th June re proposed Quarry.

35. **To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.**

PC Derya Mustafa provided a brief report.

It has been a quiet month, 2 vehicle crimes, antisocial behaviour, bikes round Beeston Rd, 2 separate speeding enforcement checks have been done in Castle Road, Cookley, 200 cars per day, advice was given if speed was just over but 4 tickets were issued, nobody local all were travelling through to get to Kinver. 15th September next PACT, Cookley Village, 10.00am.

Councillor Southam queried if the checks were done when people wouldn't be speeding but police confirmed they did it just after shift changeover from steel wheels, they can do at other times but not 10pm - can't use the equipment in dark, they could try for 6am.

36. **Financial Matters:**

Councillor C Sherrey discussed the Income and Expenditure for this year and compared to 2017.

The Precept increased however Shortfall Funding decreased. The VAT was refunded and a Localism Fund Grant received.

Unpaid bills;

2 Years lighting costs not invoiced - £22,751

2 Years light conversion costs not invoices - £27,630

By-election expenses paid after the year end - £5,563

Localism grant received but not spent until after the year - £5,835

Balance in bank £90K but £62K owed to other suppliers.

Councillor C Sherrey was thanked for all his work on the Accounts.

It was proposed Councillor P Smith, seconded Councillor C Nicholls and unanimously resolved to;

- a) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018 (Section 1 of the Annual Return).
- b) To approve the Accounting Statements 2017/2018 (Section 2 of the Annual Return).
- c) To approve the Annual Return 2018.

d) Accounts for Payment - unanimously resolved the following Accounts be paid;

12	Mrs B J Drew (Salary May 18)	904.83
13	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee Apr / May 18)	679.76
14	Smith of Derby (Clock Repairs x 2)	480.00
15	Office Outlet (Ink)	26.98
16	Currys PC World (Printer)	69.99
17	Wyre Forest District Council (Black Sacks)	94.50
18	Marvin Cox Lubricants (Works to Pound)	72.00
19	Allen J Hughes (Internal Audit)	200.00
20	Wolverley & Cookley Matters (Bi-monthly article)	300.00
21	BT Payphones (Sponsor a Kiosk - Bridge Rd, Cookley)	360.00
22	Worcestershire CALC (Training)	60.00

e) Lengthsman Pay Rise

Councillor C Nicholls, after discussion, proposed that the Lengthsman Pay be increased by 3% from 1st April 2018. This was unanimously agreed.

f) Request for donation from Dementia Action Group

This very well supported group are holding several events which require funding. The coffee mornings are hugely successful and are a benefit in the Parish. After discussion it was unanimously agreed a donation of £500.00 be given.

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

PC No **WFDC No/Details**

3327 WF/18/0163/Full: Full planning application for a residential development of 91 dwellings, public open space, vehicular and pedestrian access and associated infrastructure at land off Stourbridge Road, Kidderminster.

There was much discussion on this application with concerns raised that if allowed it will start to link Cookley with Kidderminster. It was resolved with 1 abstention to;

Recommend Refusal - inadequate highway infrastructure to support the development, ecological concerns and concerns over school provision as there is no capacity locally to expand schools even if financial contributions are made.

3341 WF/18/0284/Full: To construct a fishing pond, car park and modify existing access and associated development at land at Caunsall Road, Caunsall.

Recommend deferral in line with Planning Officer comments.

3342 WF/18/0290/Full: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of conservatory at Yew Tree House, Lea Lane, Cookley.

Recommend Approval.

3343 WF/18/0310/OUTL: Construction of 2 new detached residential dwellings with associated garaging, parking and amenity spaces at 63 Austcliffe Road, Cookley.

Recommend Approval.

3344 WF/18/0334/Full: Installation of new double-glazed doors to rear of property at 9 Castle Barns, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

3345 WF/18/0347/TREE: Fell 4 x English Yew, 2 x Elm and 1 x Elder at Westley Court, Austcliffe Lane, Cookley.

Recommend Approval subject to agreement from Arboricultural Officer.

38. **Consultations; Scoping Opinion - Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry and Restoration Scheme at land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley.**

The Chairman, having read through all the consultation documents stressed great concerns over the proposed quarry which will have a major detrimental effect on both Cookley and Wolverley, also very concerned that inadequate time has been given for all to fully examine the Scoping Opinion and relevant documents and complete lack of consultation with the Public.

All Councillors had major concerns over this proposal and it was proposed Councillor C Nicholls, seconded Councillor C Sherrey and unanimously resolved that a detailed response outlining these concerns and objections should be sent to Worcestershire County Council.

The Clerk advised the agent for the application has offered to attend a future meeting. It was agreed that once more information has been received then a Public Meeting can be arranged.

Councillors Marcus Hart and Ian Hardiman are meeting with County Council Planning Officers on Monday 18th June 2018 to discuss this and will report back at the next meeting.

39. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

The Clerk advised of e mail received from Planning Policy Officer regarding two options for the Parish Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan;

Option 1

If the Parish Council proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation after the Parish Council meeting on 5th June:

- a) Wyre Forest District Council will need to publicise the Neighbourhood Area Designation application with a six-week public consultation.
- b) From the day after the consultation commences Wyre Forest District Council will have thirteen weeks to determine if the Neighbourhood Plan Area is agreed, but Wyre Forest District Council could seek an amendment to the area following the consultation exercise.
- c) The public consultation would be taking place at a similar time to the July poll for the splitting of the Parish; this is likely to cause confusion to members of the public.

- d) There could be a mismatch of areas if the Neighbourhood Plan Area is designated, and the Parish boundary following consultation is not the same. This could mean that some of the area in the Neighbourhood Plan Area designation could be outside the parish of Cookley, meaning that the Neighbourhood Plan Area would need to be redesignated.

Option 2

- a) If the application for the Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation is after the parish of Wolverley and Cookley has been split (if this is the outcome of the Poll) on 1st December 2018, and the area applied for is the same as the new parish boundary of Cookley:
- b) The Neighbourhood Plan Area designation will be automatically accepted by Wyre Forest District Council.
- c) There is no public consultation for the area designation.

If the Neighbourhood Plan area is designated after 1st December 2018 it is still possible to start work collecting information and research for the evidence base for the Plan.

Councillor D Jones proposed the Parish Council proceed with Option 1, seconded Councillor J Wood and agreed.

Councillor J Wood reported that the Community Land Trust is forging ahead, grants have been received, a decision is being made for additional grant applications and consultants appointed,

Bank Account for Neighbourhood Plan - meeting at bank 7th June to start application.

40. **Community Governance Review – Wolverley and Cookley.**

A list of land and assets has been circulated, please advise Clerk of anything you would like added.

It was resolved the Council agree with the Terms of Reference for the Review.

41. **To discuss General Data Protection Regulations and adopt required policies.**

The Chairman advised that following a meeting with the Data Protection Officer a Data Protection Impact Assessment has been received. Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council need to action identified risks and complete approved solution.

Previously circulated had been draft copies of;

- a) Retention Policy
b) Privacy Policy
c) Correspondence Privacy Policy

It was unanimously resolved these policies to be adopted by Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council and all Councillors must consent to have personal details in the public domain. Councillors were also advised, as recommended by the Data Protection Officer to have their own Councillor specific e mail.

It was resolved Clerk register with the Information Commissioners Office, £40.00 fee to register.

42. **To discuss metal bridge, Causall and note emergency and temporary closure of footpath WC 602.**

The bridge has now been closed and awaiting County Council to action work. Clerk to re agenda.

43. **To discuss Grass Cutting in the Parish and agree any action to be taken.**

All agreed that grass cutting standards in the parish are not acceptable.

Agreed to defer to next meeting for discussion.

44. **To discuss Speeding – Castle Road, Cookley.**

Councillor W Southam advised that speeding at night around 10pm is quite bad and suggested perhaps as the Police are unable to use equipment at this time, wires are put down or a letter sent to Steel Wheels.

Councillor C Nicholls was pleased the Police checks had been around 2.00pm for Steel Wheels shift change. Wires have been put down previously and not shown any problem, it was agreed to send a letter to Steel Wheels.

Parish Matters for Update Only – no decisions required

45. Clerks Report (Clerk). Flag Flying Ceremony 25th June 2018, 10.00am, Stourport Royal British Legion, Temporary Closure Order U13212 Austcliffe Road, Cookley.
46. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Spraying, doing street signs, spraying Castle Road.
47. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Acoustics in building in Cookley, Cookley Bus Service,
48. Dates for Meetings:
49. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cookley Bus Service

Concerns were expressed over the bus service. Buses are unreliable, not to timetable, old and unsafe. Elderly people are having to wait at stops for hours, people are having to use taxi's. The public meeting with Diamond Buses was not well advertised and being in the evening people could not get a bus there or back.

There was much discussion on this, the County Councillor has taken on board residents' concerns and raised these at County level however it is a difficult situation as no one else was prepared to take on the service so it was Diamond Buses or no service at all.

Proposed Quarry

Concerns were expressed over the proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry at Lea Castle Farm and there was much discussion on this. It was explained that this consultation is not seeking views for a planning application as yet it is to form Worcestershire County Council's Scoping Opinion for an Environmental Statement that will accompany a planning application for this proposed sand and gravel quarry development. A formal Scoping Opinion will essentially define the scope of topics relating to the environment for this proposal that should be addressed by the applicant in what is called an Environmental Statement (ES). An ES will then accompany a planning application for the sand and gravel quarry proposal at some point in the future, which is at the discretion of the applicant (NRS Aggregates).

A huge number of issues were raised including Traffic /Access, Environmental, Noise, Air Pollution, Impact on wildlife, Impact on local schools, affect to the local economy, Health, Historical matters, potential land fill.

Both villages will be greatly affected if this proposal goes ahead. The District and County Councillor have a meeting arranged for Monday 18th June with Worcestershire County Council Planning Officers. The possibility of holding a Public Meeting was discussed. The Parish Council will discuss this later in the agenda.

Community Governance Review - Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council

A question was asked whether it had been decided yet whether the Parish Council would separate into two Councils.

The Chairman explained that a petition signed by over 300 residents within the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley was presented to Wyre Forest District Council requesting a Community Governance Review with a view to dissolving the current Parish Council and forming a new Council for Cookley and a new Council for Wolverley. Wyre Forest District Council agreed at its meeting on Wednesday 23 May to conduct this review. This means a Local Advisory Poll will be held on Thursday 12th July, 2018. The question will be "Should the villages of Wolverley and Cookley each have their own Parish Council?" and voters will be asked to respond with either a "yes" or "no" response. It is not for the Parish Council to decide it is up to residents. Information will be published in the next copy of Wolverley & Cookley Matters.

Grass Cutting

The overgrown state of all the grass verges was raised. They do not seem to be getting cut as often as they used to.

It was outlined that it is the responsibility of the County Council however they sub contract to District Council to do. It is something that the Parish Council could consider taking over responsibility for but obviously cost implications would need to be investigated.