

WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at Wolverley Church Hall, Wolverley on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)
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

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman
District Councillor: Ian Hardiman
West Mercia Police: PCSO Nikki Merson

Helen Selkirk - Senior Visitor Experience Officer - National Trust
John Sharkey - Secretary - Kinver Edge Committee

50. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillors T Botterill (Holiday), D Cox (Funeral), M Hart (Attending another meeting).

51. **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. Councillor C Sherrey, agenda item 10 as Allotment holder.

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;

52. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th June 2018 at 7.00pm. (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:

53. **To receive Councillors Reports**
District/County Councillor;

- Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry, Wolverley; Scoping Opinion - This refers to a proposal to extract 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel over a ten-year period. As your local County Councillor, I provided comments to County Planning, however, I have said that I have concerns regarding this application but because I sit on the County's Planning Committee, I have given my assurance that when the actual planning application is considered by the Planning Committee, I shall consider it with an open mind.
- Cookley & Caunsall Speeding Concerns - The Police recently carried out speed checks and issued tickets to those drivers who were well over the 30mph speed limit and gave advice to several drivers who were just over the legal limit. Additionally, in answer to my request to the Safer Roads Partnership, speed check officers were also carrying out speed enforcement last week; I look forward to their results. I have asked Highways to install speed monitoring cables to identify typical speeds and regularity of vehicle speeding in the villages.
- Blakeshall Speeding Concerns - I am continuing to chase Highways for them to carry out speed monitoring here.
- Franche Road Speeding Concerns - I have reminded Highways of their agreement to implement further speed reduction measures in Franche Road.
- Wolverley Village - Drainage Problems - I have repeatedly chased Highways who have yet to complete the re-routing of the drainage at the bottom of Church Bank.
- Wolverley Village Sunken Drains and Road, Blakeshall Lane - I have repeated my request for attention to this problem which affects driving of vehicles as they enter the village.
- A449 Pavement from Cookley entrance to Caunsall Lane and beyond - I have again expressed my dissatisfaction to Highways with the delay in properly siding out this overgrown pavement; it simply is not acceptable that this issue has been identified for many months without full resolution.
- Lea Lane Tarmac subsidence - I have been informed that this work should be carried out in early August.
- Gaymore Road and Kimberlee Avenue road problems - Following a site visit with Highways Officer, I have been informed that safety repairs are booked and a request has been raised for further surface work consideration.

- Wardle Way Safety Concerns - Subsidence in the grass verge has been reported as hazardous. Even though Highways fenced this off some time ago, the actual hazard has not yet been dealt with; I have chased Highways on this.
- Metal Bridge over the Stour in Causall - The County's Countryside Officer has determined the bridge is unsafe; the abutment requires underpinning and then the crack in the centre of the bridge can be repaired.
- Diamond Bus Service - I am continuing to forward residents' complaints to the County's Commissioning Officer and have twice met the officer to express the dissatisfaction in Wolverley & Cookley. I have been assured that the service is being closely monitored. ALSO - A Diamond Debate took place in Kidderminster recently; I have inquired with County Officers as to the outcome of this meeting but have been told that The Traffic Commissioner has 28 days in which to advise Diamond of the findings. A public release will hopefully be issued in early / mid-August.
- Lowe Lane Overgrown Hedge - Because the landowner has failed to cut back this hedge which is a hazard to motorists and cyclists, Highways have decided to carry out this work (and charge to the owner) but firstly the County's ecologist must be sure there are no birds nesting here.
- Wolverley Franche Road resurfacing - I have been informed that following many substantial patch repairs this road through to Franche will be resurfaced during the summer months.
- B4189/ A449 Walls safety concerns - Highways have inspected and are communicating with the landowners to advise them on the necessary repair work to ensure public safety.
- Wyre Forest Issues; No Final decision has yet been made on the future of the Ludlow Road Short Break Unit.
- Work continues by the County Council to set up a wholly owned company for Children's Social Care.
- The County Council is facing unprecedented pressure on its budget from Children's and Adult Social Care. This is already proving a financial challenge, working within it's approved cash allocations and we are for a tough rest of this financial year and certainly for 19/20.
- Wolverley Sladd Lane and Lowe Lane street name plates - The Name Plates have been replaced as requested by Councillor Marcus Hart.
- Drakelow Lane Sewerage Problems - Progress is being made and until the new system is installed the Council's Officers are monitoring the situation to ensure no seepage is occurring.
- Wolverley & Cookley Governance Review - At the District Council's Full Meeting in May it was agreed that a Community Governance review should be held; also, a further report will be considered at the Council's July meeting, following the agreed poll which will be held on 12th July. The outcome will of course depend on the Advisory Poll.
- New Local Plan Timetable - The next stage of consultation on the Local Plan will likely now take place in October. The District Council is disappointed that the Government has been unable to confirm the methodology that councils must use when they set the number of new houses in their Local Plans. It is important that the Local Plan is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Crown House Demolition - Weekly meetings are now being held to ensure swift progress towards actual demolition; The Environment Agency are happy for this work to be carried out.
- High Street / Worcester Street Property Purchase - The District Council has agreed to purchase these four retail premises for investment and boost regeneration in Kidderminster. This will add to the Council's investment streams that it can invest back into our local services.
- Land Acquisition Market Street - The next District Council's cabinet will be considering possible use of CPO powers to ensure that the former Heart Foundation occupied site is brought back into use as it is a long-standing eyesore in the Town.
- Cinema and Leisure Hub Project - This is progressing with Cordwells the developer moving closer to agreement with a Cinema Operator and Leisure and Food companies to occupy this site.
- Lionfields Future Parcel 4 Consideration / Opinions Appraisal - The District Cabinet will also be considering the best way forward for ensuring an appropriate mix of development on this Bromsgrove Street site, following its agreement to seek developer / partner interest for redevelopment of the (Parcel 2) former Magistrates Court site.
- New Kidderminster Rail Station - Landscaping work is scheduled to start during the next few weeks.

Questions -

Councillor Nicholls referred to comments about the quarry questioning why, when this is a huge issue for the Parish there is no detailed information on this. Councillor Hardiman re-iterated no additional information can be given at this time. Disappointment was expressed over the speeding in Cookley as it was reported in The Shuttle Cookley would have a permanent camera. Also disappointment that the A449 siding out has still not been undertaken. Councillor David Jones said Cookley is facing a storm of things at the moment namely Lea Castle Development, Possible Quarry, Problems with Bus service,

54. To receive report from Local Representative West Mercia Police.

PCSO Nikki Merson - reported;

Police have carried out speed enforcement in Cookley.

Not much to report - Burglary vans with tools in, distraction burglary in Cookley, Wolverley attempt break into to animal centre, criminal damage to boat.

55. Financial Matters;

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

24	Mrs B J Drew (Salary June 18)	904.83
25	Inland Revenue (Tax and NI - Apr - June 18)	190.66

26	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee June 18)	No Account
27	Mrs B J Drew (Ink) (Stamps) (Laminating Pouches/Card) (Stationary) (Land Registry Searches)	36.98 8.04 9.48 24.48 6.00
28	Mrs B J Drew (ICO Registration Fee)	40.00
29	Marvin Cox Lubricants (Works to Pound)	72.00
30	Oakvale Nurseries (Replanting Troughs / Barrier Baskets)	775.00

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

The Chairman advised that on site surveys are now being undertaken and once results gathered information will be presented to Worcestershire County Council then a full public consultation will take place, this will be prior to the planning application. The Chairman will keep on the agenda,

57. **Cookley and Causall Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor Wood reported that there was an article in The Shuttle, the application has been officially acknowledged and is now out for public consultation. The Community Land Trust Scoping Day was a success with agreement to form a Community Land Trust.

58. **Community Governance Review - Wolverley and Cookley.**

Chairman advised 12th July - Local Advisory Poll.

Information has been provided to Ian Miller, Chief Executive, Wyre Forest District Council regarding land, assets and finances. If the Poll favours a split, finances will be split by population. A final decision will be taken at Wyre Forest District Council Meeting 25th July 2018.

59. **Allotments - Wolverley.**

The Chairman advised that as the land used for Allotments in Wolverley was bought under compulsory purchase by Wyre Forest District Council, to protect the land, particularly if the split of the Council proceeds, they are prepared to offer that parcel of land for a sum of 1.00. The Cookley Allotments would automatically transfer.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor S Sherrey, seconded Councillor J Hart with 10 in favour and one abstention to proceed with the purchase subject to satisfactory checks regarding any covenant on the land for future use.

60. **To consider issues discussed at Wyre Forest Area Calc Meeting:**

- a) GDPR - it was re-iterated at the CALC meeting that Councillors should use a specific separate e mail address for their correspondence as Parish Councillors rather than a personal e mail. It was also suggested that Parish Councils minute a resolution stating that they adopt the GDPR requirements from 25th May 2018 but will not go back retrospectively. This was proposed S Sherrey, seconded C Sherrey and unanimously agreed.
- b) Grants to Churches - The Clerk explained that a lengthy discussion had taken place on Grants to Churches and Parish Clerks were told to advise their Council that they do not have the power to give grants to churches. The Local Government Act 1894 says that Parish Councils do not have the power to maintain or improve property relating to affairs of the church, or property held for an ecclesiastical charity, nor to contribute to the cost of doing so. In this context, property is what is called real property, ie land and buildings, fixtures attached to buildings and structures fixed to land.
- c) Enforcement - lack of enforcement - CALC are raising this.
- d) Local Council Award Scheme - Noted

61. **To discuss Cookley Bus Service.**

Councillor D Jones advised there are still ongoing issues and lots of complaints.

62. **To discuss Metal Bridge, Causall.**

Councillor D Jones reported that repairs are underway.

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

It was suggested not to discuss this until the outcome of the Community Governance review is known.

64. **To discuss acoustics in Cookley School for future Parish Council Meetings.**

Councillor Mr D and Mrs L Jones will investigate to see if an alternative room in the school can be used.

65. Notice of Appeal - WF/18/0138 Full: Proposed detached bungalow at land adjacent 3 Blakeshall Lane, Wolverley.
Noted.

66. Planning Applications for Consideration: -

PC No WFDC No/Details

3346 18/0180/Full: (Additional Plans / Revised Plans / Revised Description) Proposed replacement memorial hall, sports and social club, additional tennis court and associated external works at Wolverley Memorial Hall.

Recommend Approval

3347 18/0284/Full: (Additional Plans / Revised Plans / Revised Description) To construct a fishing pond, car park and modify existing access and associated development at land at Caunsall Road, Caunsall.

Recommend Approval

3348 18/0353/TREE: Reduce the crowns of two beech trees by 2 to 3 metres at Blakeshall Hall, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

3349 18/0399/Full: Conversion of existing barn to create residential accommodation as previously approved under 12/0468/Full at Starts Green Farm, Beacon Lane, Shatterford.

Recommend Approval

3350 18/0409/Full: Two storey and single storey extension and alterations and change of use of paddock to domestic garden at Greycroft, Blakeshall, Wolverley.

Recommend Approval

Parish Matters for Update Only - no decisions required

67. Clerks Report (Clerk). Housing Needs Survey Results, Showcase of Services for Older People - Thursday 5th July 2018, 9.30am - 1.30pm Kidderminster Town Hall, Volunteer Fair - Thursday 20th September 2018, 10.00am - 2.00pm Kidderminster Town Hall.
68. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Training Course booked Thursday 19th July 2018. Harvesting Season, also doing bins.
69. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Quarry / Lea Castle, Bus Service / Metal Bridge update.
70. Dates for Meetings: CALC Executive Committee - Wednesday 4th July 2018, County Council Parish and Town Council Conference - Tuesday 9th October 2018.
71. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 7th August 2018, 7.00pm. Cookley School.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman - 7th August 2018

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman welcomed John Sharkey - Kinver Edge Committee and he introduced Helen Selkirk who works for the National Trust.

Helen advised Kingsford Park was given to them by Worcestershire County Council and the National Trust and Kinver Edge Committee have big plans for it and are trying to engage the local surrounding community.

The National Trust are a big charity that look after special places for ever for everyone, trying to ensure conservation and access. The heathland at Kinver is about access - bringing it to the public, they want people to care about conservation access, woodland and heathland at Kinver and the rock houses. There is a lot of geology, lots in a small patch of land - important green space. They were delighted when gifted the land and to protect as green land, it cannot be sold or built on. They have 7 members of staff and 170 volunteers, half of the income comes from memberships, then donations and grants. Kinver is not rich, it works independently and is run by its own team. They worked on paths last year to help make it future proof, there have been more visitors to rock houses, vales rock new laser scanning, 3d images, horse riding and bike access also being looked at. The volunteers do a range of things - education, tea rooms, outside visits for school groups and some are members of the Kinver Edge committee,

John Sharkey has worked for the committee for several years, it was the centenary last year, 1917 land was handed over and they set up a programme, pulled in £61K which went into an appeal fund which closed with £175K collected. They are keen to develop links locally and John made a big plea for people to spread the word and get involved. There is one vacancy on the committee, next year there will be another vacancy, they would like a Worcestershire prospective on the committee, if anybody is passionate please get in touch,

Committee volunteer group do fundraising, work as community link, put posters up, run joint events, committee meet 3 times a year with national trust staff, there is a social aspect as well.

Councillor Smith congratulated the National Trust on an excellent job that they do, it has become noticeable land is now much better and land being sorted.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Southam and team for Cookley in Bloom, also thanks to Councillor Drew for filling up the water containers in the troughs - a great team spirit.

Concern was expressed that a lot of bins in the Parish were very very full, any chance of emptying more often? the Chairman advised that this will be monitored.

Speeding in Cookley was raised following the recent speed camera presence in Cookley - any plans for a permanent camera in the future? Councillor Hardiman advised nothing permanent planned, safer roads partnership was there Saturday morning, he is pushing for cables to be put down to check the number of vehicles and speed passing the wires.

A question was asked whether Wolverley Councillors forced the election in Cookley. Councillor C Sherrey advised that it was not Wolverley Councillors, 10 parishioners from Cookley signed a petition and forwarded to Wyre Forest District Council and requested an election. Councillor D Jones advised that at the initial co-option Cookley Councillors had identified John Wood to be involved with the neighbourhood plan, it was voted and Bill Southam was co-opted, another vacancy was created so it was decided to have election to try to ensure John Wood got on,