

**WOLVERLEY & COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Held at Cookley School, Cookley on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Mr R Drew (Chairman)  
Mr T Botterill  
Mr D Cox  
Mr J Hart  
Mr M Hart  
Mr D Jones  
Mr C Sherrey  
Mr S Sherrey  
Mr P Smith  
Mr W Southam  
Mr J Wood

County Councillor: Ian Hardiman  
District Councillors: Ian Hardiman / Marcus Hart  
West Mercia Police: PCSO Kate Easthope

201. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Councillors Mrs L Jones, Mrs C Lewis and Mr C D Nicholls.

202. **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 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;

203. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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;**

204. **West Mercia Police Report**

PCSO Kate Easthope reported;

Wolverley - Fairfield Lane, notification of 4 shed/garage thefts and damaged gates, Car stolen garages Sebright Road, Car theft Sebright Road, valuables were left on show.

Cookley - Woodlands Road, van broken into and tools stolen, JCB stolen Wolverhampton Road but have had some information on this, Causall - New Road - 3 Shed breaks ins, Lionfields Road - dashcam stolen, Westhead Road, coat and wallet stolen from car.

Memory lane café next Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, Schools are participating in Junior PACT and Tag Rugby.

PACT, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 10am - 11am, outside Queens Head, Wolverley.

Traffic lights Wolverhampton Road have been intermittently out of action resulting in chaos and numerous accidents.

Inspector Jake Wright is leaving, offered promotion, no idea of replacement.

10<sup>th</sup> March doing a mobile crime prevention roadshow, Kate will forward details to Clerk which will be advertised in Wolverley and Cookley Matters.

205 **To receive Councillors Reports.**  
**District Councillor reported;**

Councillor M Hart advised Cabinet will be considering a report on the future of the Lionfields site, they are still in lengthy talks with Caldwell's regarding a Multiplex cinema, they are also looking at proposals for Bromsgrove street carpark redevelopment, they want to open the empty shops to Worcester street to link the area. A bid is being put in to a pot of money from High Streets fund, the District Council want to make the area attractive, linked into public realm and opening up Worcester street. Crown House - conversations are still ongoing, Green Street Depot redevelopment is progressing, budget proposals, 500 people responded, the district propose a 2.39% increase in Council Tax Band D property and will seek approval

at meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 19. They have put in money to tackle rough sleeping in town and have a contract with other districts in Worcestershire regarding night shelters but there are practical implications for people in Kidderminster. They are trying to get a shelter in the Horesfair in Kidderminster. Car Parking charges are being frozen for 19/20 and offering annual pass cheaper and trying to market this. Locally Councillor M Hart has dealt with lots of emails re litter, street furniture, signs that need removing, made Localism grant to Wolverley Memorial Hall for £2,500 towards repairs to the children's play area, met with Parish Council representatives re grass cutting and litter picking and hope a deal can be done which is mutually beneficial. WFDC have done a deal with Kidderminster Town Council and the Town Hall will be transferred over 4-year period.

Councillor D Cox advised of damage to road furniture Caunsall - Councillor M Hart will investigate.

**County Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;**

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

Nothing much further since the report in January. The only changes as a result of the budget consultation, which are good news is that the reductions proposed for the library service, archive and archaeology service and highways have been reduced and some budget allocations reinstated as a result of some one-off money. It is not the intention to close any libraries. It is also proposed that each county councillor will have circa £43,000 to spend on capital highway schemes within their division to be spent over 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, which is excellent and much welcome news.

### **Local Issues:**

#### **Quarry Concerns:**

An application has still not yet been received by the County Council.

Cookley, Staite Drive Gritting: I have now received clarification: Staite Drive is a Secondary Route rather than a Primary Gritting Route and as such is treated after the Primaries have been treated but sometimes, when we are experiencing incredibly prolonged cold spells the Gritters don't manage to do both each time!

Cookley, Gaymore Road highway: The Highways Engineer has confirmed that necessary road surface repairs have been scheduled for during this year.

Cookley, A449, 40mph Request: I have again reminded Highways that a response is still awaited.

Cookley, Bridge Road Residents' Parking Scheme: The formal consultation is to be considered shortly and hopefully will be arranged by the Autumn.

Wolverley, Approach to the Primary School- Safety Lining and Signage: This work, despite funding being in place is overdue and I have expressed my disappointment; I have been assured that the works will soon be carried out.

Wolverley, Brown Westhead Road Brambles: I have received an apology from Highways for the delay in cutting back the brambles which are preventing safe parking here; and have been assured that this will be attended shortly.

Councillor D Cox advised drains still blocked in Castle Road, Cookley, Ian will chase up.

Councillor Botterill advised footpath from Sebright Road to Franche Road which is used by the school walking bus is dangerous, tree roots are causing the tarmac to break up.

Councillor Cox queried whether we still have a footpath warden - confirmed Paul Mills is still registered.

### 206. **Financial Matters:**

- a) Accounts for Payment - agreed the following schedule of cheques to be signed.

70	Mrs B J Drew (Salary January 19)	892.76
71	T & A Dale (Lengthsman Fee January 19)	No Invoice approved
72	Thursfields Solicitors (Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease)	1224.00
73	TG Hardwicks (T Botterill) (Grit)	183.53
74	WFDC (Black Sacks)	94.50
75	Wolverley Memorial Hall (Annual Grant)	1399.30
76	Cookley Village Hall & Playing Fields Association	1399.30

(Annual Grant)

77	Mrs B J Drew (Stamps / Ink)	16.03
78	Oakvale Nurseries (10 Troughs / 6 Rail mounted planters)	790.00
79	Mrs Y Biggs (Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure)	93.30

b) Neighbourhood Plan Bank Account

Chairman and Clerk are to arrange meeting at bank to ascertain what further information is required and then make a formal complaint.

207. **Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry and Restoration Scheme at land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley.**

Councillor D Jones reported following recent engagement meeting held with Mr R Smithyman, agent for applicant and parish Councillors;

Mr Smithyman has 25 years' experience in this area. Three Geology studies have taken place, results are awaited. The house on the site has been purchased for a site office. The phases were explained and five maps showing how it will progress in stages. Benefits to the area were outlined eg creation of jobs. Trucks used will be clean and environmentally friendly. Issue of Air Quality was discussed - this will be monitored to check there is no effect on the local environment. Operating Hours will be 7am - 5pm Monday to Friday, 7am - 12.00pm Saturday.

An application should be submitted by the end of March.

The Clerk has provided Mr Smithyman with contact details for CCAG and Lea Castle Barns residents.

208. **Cookley and Caunsall Neighbourhood Plan.**

Launch Day 27<sup>th</sup> January was a huge success with 160 people attending. Feedback both positive and negative was well received and the plan will now be taken forward.

209. **Street Lighting Column 90, Kinver Lane, Caunsall.**

The Chairman outlined that a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> October was received by the Parish Council, signed by all residents of Kinver Lane, Caunsall complaining about the brightness of the new light and requesting it to be removed. Councillor Cox did a site visit and reported that indeed the new light was very high and bright and did shine into properties opposite. The Parish Council agreed to request the light be switched off.

Following this an e mail has been received by a resident complaining about the light being turned off and very concerned about security. The resident, although included in the original letter, claims no knowledge of the letter 24<sup>th</sup> October and most definitely did not agree to sign it.

Councillor M Hart stated that the Council do need to comply with data protection and GDPR but felt that if the resident felt so strongly about the street light, they should be prepared to give their name and address. He suggested the Clerk write to the 7 residents, enclosing a copy of the letter, asking if they were aware of it and what their views are on the light in question. The Parish Council received the letter, members of the public came and spoke in public question time and the Parish Council acted on the integrity of local residents and that is why the course of action was taken. The Parish Council will not get involved in neighbour disputes.

The Clerk will re agenda next month to consider when responses will have been received.

210. **Wolverley Memorial Hall Lease.**

Councillor Smith advised that although the Parish Council thought the lease was about to be finalised, information has been obtained from the Memorial Hall Committee that the Solicitor has now suggested an extension to the original lease rather than a new lease. It is thought this is due to costs with surrendering the current lease. After discussion it was resolved to inform the Parish Council Solicitor that we have been made aware of the correspondence and instruct him to not to proceed with a deed of variation and a reversionary lease but with a new lease.

211. **Bin Emptying / Litter Picking Contract.**

Councillor C Sherrey reported that a meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February between himself, Chairman and Tim, Ellen and Adrian Dale to discuss the issue of litter picking and any areas of concern.

A meeting took place with Wyre Forest District Council on 24<sup>th</sup> January the main area of difficulty being the District Councils position on litter picking and that of the bin emptier and the Parish Council. This will need to be resolved before a new contract is signed.

This will be presented to March meeting for consideration.

212. **Grass Cutting Contract.**

Councillor C Sherrey reported a meeting took place with Wyre forest District Council on 24<sup>th</sup> January 19 and the Parish Council had hoped to reach agreement on a deal at that time but this was not the case.

Meetings are scheduled with the two preferred contractors later this week to clarify various points and then the sub committee will decide how to move forward.

Any deal offered by the District Council will be presented to the March meeting by the sub committee with recommendation. The final decision will be taken by Full Council.

213. **Litter bins, Gaymore Road, Cookley.**

Councillor Southam has been asked for additional bins in Gaymore road, Cookley.

Councillor C Sherrey advised that firstly, the Parish Council do not have any additional bins, secondly extra bins mean increasing workload for contractor who empties the bins and thirdly bins create rubbish. After discussion it was agreed Cookley councillors will see if there are any current bins that are under used that could be relocated.

214. **Entry to Parish Games Quiz, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 7.00pm, Kidderminster Town Hall.**

Councillor D Jones will organise a team.

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

**PC No    WFDC No/Details**

3382    19/0006/PNH    Proposed single storey extension at 18 Fairfield Lane, Wolverley,

For Information Only

3383    19/0021/Full    3 Bay carport to side of property at Brooklands, Wolverley Village,

Application Withdrawn

3384    19/0027/CERTP    Lawful development certificate for a proposed domestic outbuilding at Cedarwood, Lea Lane, Cookley,

For Information only

3385    19/3003/PNH    Single storey rear extension at 4 Gaymore Road, Cookley,

For Information Only

3386    19/0040/Full    Construction of lean-to canopy to rear elevation at 2 Court Cottages, Wolverley Road, Wolverley. Approval

Recommend Approval

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

216. Clerks Report (Clerk). Closure Notice B4190 Franche Rd, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 5 days.

217. Update on Lengthsman Scheme. Councillor Cox requested a meeting to discuss a few issues prior to next contract.

218. Signage - Top of Castle Road, Cookley. Councillor Cox and Hardiman to liaise.

219. Additional Noticeboards. Ongoing

220. New Issues / Items for Next Meeting. Cookley Bus, Cookley Post Office, Elections.

221. Dates for Meetings:

Parish Chairmen Meeting, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 6.30pm, Wyre Forest House.

CALC Executive Committee, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

222. Date of Next Meeting - to confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 7.00pm, Wolverley Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chairman - 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Adrian Carlross expressed thanks to the Chairman for attending the Neighbourhood Plan launch day and thanks for the further information gained from the meeting with Robin Smithyman, agent for the potential Quarry application. He expressed concerns that the meeting was not held in a formal manner and felt this compromised the integrity of the Parish Council. The Chairman responded that at this stage, Robin Smithyman purely wanted an informal meeting with members of the Parish Council. The meeting was not a formal Council meeting, a report on the meeting will be provided later in the agenda. Mr Smithyman has offered to meet with CCAG, also Lea Castle Barns residents' group. A formal planning application has not yet been submitted, if it is there will be public meetings to discuss parishioners concerns and give plenty of opportunity for comment.

Mr Steve Rushton asked that when a meeting is held, it is in the village. Councillor M Hart advised that as a Parish Council we have no control or influence how the public engagement will be held but can obviously offer suggestions. He reiterated the meeting held with the applicant's agent was to engage with the Parish Council, as he is trying to do with others so this should reassure members of the community. Councillor D Jones re-iterated the information gained will be shared to keep everyone fully informed.