

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11th JULY 2022 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Hill (Chairman), Cllr P Whatley, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr C Luton,
Cllr R Hooper, Cllr H Ormerod, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A Mansell
Dist Cllr S Rouse, Co Cllr K Hanks

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mrs H Philpotts (Footpaths Warden)

Apologies: Cllr L Devenish

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

Co-option of new Councillor - Mr Andrew Mansell signed his declaration of Acceptance of Office and was co-opted onto the Council. The Chairman Cllr R Hill welcomed Mr Mansell onto the Council.

- (a) Cllrs were reminded of the need to complete/update their Register of Interests
- (b) Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) in items on the Agenda – or -
- (c) Declaration of Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda falling within the terms of para 12(4)((b) of the Code of Conduct. (*none made*)

No requests had been received by the Clerk for any Dispensations relating to items on the Agenda. (Sec 33 of the Localism Act 2011)

The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation (including planning applicant/s or their representatives)

(a) Concerns were raised by two parishioners about the high speeding levels in the narrow country lanes in the Parish, particularly along Suckley Road in the Knowl area. Increased traffic numbers, especially delivery vehicles/lorries and minibuses were speeding along roads not designed for this level and size of traffic. A speed limit of 20 mph should be put in place by the Parish Council along these roads. It was only a matter of time before a serious accident occurred. Attention was drawn to the Quiet Lanes & Home Zones Regulations which might be applied to roads in the parish. The Chairman and Dist Cllrs pointed out that speed restrictions and highways matters were the responsibility of Worcs Co Council (WCC) Highways, not the Parish Council, who had been lobbying for years to try and get the 30 mph limited extended along Knightwick Road (one of only two roads in the parish with a speed limit) to the White House Cross Roads. All requests had been refused by WCC Highways, despite endless statistics of traffic numbers and speeds being compiled and sent to Highways. It was suggested that parishioners should write in/e-mail to Co Cllr K Hanks who would liaise with WCC Highways on this issue. Cllr P Whatley suggested to Co Cllr K Hanks that rubber strips measuring vehicle numbers be placed by Highways along the roads in question as a first step to engage Highways to take action.

(b) **Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr K Hanks reported that 297 Ukrainian guests had been matched with 119 host properties in the Malvern area. Over 180 guests had arrived into the area, the remaining guests were waiting for either visas to be issued or to travel. She had set up a meeting with Cllrs R Hill and P Whatley, together with the WCC Highways Liaison Officer

Kieran Waldon and his successor Tanya Crake on 12th May to look at five key highways issues in the parish. A Bus Travel Task Force was being set up to review current bus provision. This would include bus operators, passenger groups and the individual constituency MP's for Worcestershire. Co Cllr Hanks had also funded the replacement defib cabinet for the defib at Suckley School at a net cost of £395.00 from her parish budget.

(b) **Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllrs P Whatley and S Rouse reported to the meeting. Mental health support was being offered to traumatised Ukrainian refugees who were being settled in the Malvern Hills area, together with help with accommodation/transport, finding jobs and appointing two Ukrainian translators. A very successful Malvern Food Festival had been held in Priory Park over the weekend. The Parish Council's new notice board in the Suckley Knowl area had been funded by both Dist Cllrs. The Boundary Commission had published a revised report for the MHDC parishes/wards in the area, which was close to the suggested plan submitted by the Independent Councillors. The economy in the MHDC area was rebounding fairly strongly at the moment. People were tending to stay at home this year which was a plus for Malvern tourism and car parking revenues had increased. The Council was still looking for charging sites for electric cars.

(d) **Lengthsman** - The Clerk reported that gully clearance of grates and general clearance of vegetation had been undertaken by the Lengthsman in May and June. Areas of work were Suckley Road to Longley Green, Birchwood, Mousehole, Blackhouse Lane, Crews Hill, The White House Cross Roads, Church Lane and Acton Road.

(e) **Footpaths** – nothing to report on footpaths, but a fly tipping issue was still outstanding, despite Helen Philpotts reporting it to MHDC. Dist Cllr S Rouse to investigate.

(f) **Local Police** – Cllr R Hooper stated “nothing to report” on the crime front.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting

57/22 MHDC Model Code of Conduct 2022

The Council agreed to adopt the MHDC Model Code of Conduct. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr H Ormerod.

58/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr H Ormerod and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. The Minutes of the Extraordinary & Planning Meeting held on 30th May 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr C Luton. The Minutes of the Extraordinary & Planning Meeting held on 20th June 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr H Ormerod. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 4th July 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Hooper and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths..

59/22 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The Clerk had circulated an update to Cllrs re Parish Highways issues up to 8th July 2022. This update had also been sent to Co Cllr K Hanks. At the PC Meeting on 8th November 2021 the Council agreed to focus on the following three areas for the time being, which were :-

- (i) **Ref: 1079646** – Drains/flooding Scheme in Birchwood Lane
- (ii) **New Ref No – 1256851** - following a meeting held on 16/10/20 with Hannah Davies, the gully outside **Bridge Cottage** had been earmarked to be lowered. Hannah Davies/WCC

- Highways had reported this as having been completed on 15/10/21, but this was incorrect, and it was still outstanding.
- (iii) **Ref No: 982598** – road erosion between Blackhouse Lane and Lower Tundridge Farm. Concrete posts do not appear to be fully supported. WCC Highways have marked the site with tape and cones, but this is becoming a hazardous situation with the onset of winter weather/flooding.

As previously reported, a meeting had been arranged for Cllr R Hill, Cllr P Whatley, Co Cllr K Hanks, the Liaison Engineer Kieran Waldron and his successor Tanya Crake for 10.0 am on 12th May to meet at Lower House Farm in Suckley Knowl to enable the Liaison Engineer to see the above three problem areas. Two further highways issues would also be looked at – Suckley Knowl (road surface erosion Ref No 124908) and Sindons Mill (future surface erosion/ice risks Ref No 1257805). A parishioner from the Suckley Kowl area was also be present regarding the road surface and erosion problems. Following on from the above meeting, only one highways problem out of the 5 items raised had been looked at which was 125805 (Sindons Mill) – water dribbling across both Sindons Mill Lane and the main lane into Longley Green, which could become an issue in the winter months. This problem had been sent to Severn Trent Water for resolution. The Council was aware that this was not a Severn Trent water problem, it was a spring under the road. The Council stressed again to Cllr K Hanks the urgency for work to be done on the road erosion between Blackhouse Lane and Lower Tundridge Farm – Ref 982598. Other reported issues after December 2021 – Ref 11824379 (drain No 31) and Ref No 1235015 (drain nos 35 and 36) had still not been jetted (according to the Lengthsman).

60/22 VAS DETECTOR

- (a) **VAS Stats** - The speeding stats for April/May had been compiled by Richard Ashton (Alfrick parish) and had been circulated to all Cllrs. Mr Ashton had asked the Clerk for the Council's comments or suggestions re the presentation of the data. The Council felt that there was too much duplication of data, but they would like to see a more detailed breakdown of actual speeds rather than 30 – 40; 40 – 50 etc.
- (b) **20's Plenty for Worcestershire** - The Clerk had circulated details of this nation wide campaign for a speed limit of 20 mph to be normal on residential streets, towns and villages, unless full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit. The Council agreed unanimously to support this campaign, and the following motion was approved – proposed by Cllr R Hill and seconded by Cllr A Lewis:-

“Suckley Parish Council supports the 20's Plenty for Worcester campaign and calls on Worcestershire County Council to implement 20 mph in Suckley Parish. The Clerk will write to Worcestershire County Council on behalf of the Parish Council to request 20 mph speed limits on streets and roads throughout Worcestershire where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30 mph as the exception on those roads where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.”

61/22 CHARITY REPORTS

Two Reports still outstanding – Brookes Memorial Fund and the John Palmer Trust. The Clerk to chase again on both of these.

62/22 CLERK'S RESIGNATION

The Chairman reported that he had accepted the Clerk's resignation letter dated 20th June, giving three months notice with effect from 1st July. The Clerk explained that this resignation was mainly because of a family bereavement and personal health reasons. It had not been an easy

decision to make as she had been the Clerk for 16 years, with Suckley and the Council being a very large part of her life over that time. The recruitment of a new Clerk would be taking place. Cllrs C Luton and H Ormerod offered to form an interview panel together with the Chairman Cllr R Hill and with the Clerk assisting. Details of the vacancy would be posted onto the Council website/Facebook/Notice Boards in the parish and in the Sphere Magazine and on Worcs Calc website/regularly e-mailed updates..

62/22 COMMUNITY

- (a) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2022** - An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022 had been set aside to celebrate the Queen's seventy years of service to the country. The Chairman reported a very successful tea party at Suckley School on 27th May, with a good turnout of the 1952 pupils. All pupils, including the 1952 cohort, received a porcelain Jubilee Mug purchased by the Parish Council. The Jubilee Beacon and Pig Roast event and the Jubilee Wood planting scheme organised by the Hammonds had also been very successful projects. Cllr A Lewis drew the Council's attention to the Jubilee daffodil planting scheme which would take place in the Autumn. Bulbs had been donated, but she was still seeking suitable areas of the parish for planting.
- (b) **Suckley Post Office & Shop** - This item to be removed from the Agenda for the time being.
- (c) **Parish Council Notice Board** - The Chairman reported that the new Parish Council Notice Board was now in place on the wall of Mr Roper's dairy building at Lower House Farm. Thanks to Dist Cllrs P Whatley and S Rouse who had donated the net cost of the Board from their parish budget.
- (d) **Village Hall** - Cllr R Hill reported that negotiations were still in progress with the pre school nursery re the 4 – 5 year lease and their plans for the building. The Trustees were still waiting to hear from the Charity Commission,
- (e) **Broken bench seat** - Thanks to Helen and Derek Philpotts who had arranged for the damaged concrete bench seat to be removed at the corner of Damson Way.
- (f) **Future projects** – The Chairman asked Mr S Gray (a member of the public who was in attendance at the meeting) to let the Council have a couple of suggestions from a number of points he had raised with the Clerk in a recent e-mail.

63/22 FINANCE - The following cheques were approved :-

- (a) **Gen Fund** – - proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Lewis :-
D W Taylor, Clerk's expenses May/June 2022 - £108.82; D W Taylor – Repayment for purchase of Notice Board (Discount Displays) - £190.44; D W Taylor – repayment for purchase of defib pads (HCE) - £59.93; Graham Signs - £90.00 (paid, but to be approved); Safety Tec (defib cabinet) - £395.00 (paid, but to be approved; HMRC – PAYE – April/May/June £423.40; R Wilks Lengthsman – May/June 2020 - £648.00
- (b) **Playing Field** – Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr C Luton :-
D Reynolds (DJR Farm Services) – topping Playing Field - £216.00 (paid, but to be approved); Water Plus Direct Debit April/May £10.39.
- (c) **Accounts to 31st May 2022** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

65/22 BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Cllr P Whatley reported on the revised proposals for the new MHDC Warding patterns. The Commission had received over 40 complaints (including from Suckley PC) relating to its original proposals. He was pleased to note, however, that the new revised proposals (which the Clerk had circulated to all Cllrs) exactly mirrored those proposed by himself and the Independent Group many months previously. There was no parish split of Alfrick & Lulsley nor of Leigh &

Bransford. However, in the revised proposals Knightwick & Doddenham would be moving to a new Martley Ward. Alfrick & Leigh Ward remained intact with the addition of Rushwick. The Clerk to write to the Boundary Commission stating the support of Suckley PC for the new proposals.

66/22 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton had asked Suckley School to employ Paul for any work they required on the Playing Field. She had changed electricity supplier for a cheaper day rate.

67/22 REVIEW OF DEFIB RESUSS FACILITIES

Cllr A Lewis reported that a new defib cabinet had been purchased (with thanks to Co Cllr K Hanks) and also new pads. Barry Kearley had offered to install the new cabinet on Suckley school wall, free of charge. New signs for the defib were also needed, as the old ones had been destroyed by hedge cutters. Cllr R Hill suggested that signs were also needed to show where the nearest defib was situated i.e. at the Bruff, as well as Suckley School. Cllr A Lewis to look into this.

68/22 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr R Hill reported no issues re risk assessment for the bus shelters, trees in quarry, Map Board. Cllr C Luton reported all was well with the Playing Field.

69/22 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that work on the toilet and kitchen facilities had started and she was hopeful it would be completed in time for the BFG event on 10th September. Suckley Church was now in a group of 14 churches. Work to recruit more clergy to help the Revd Anne Potter was under way.

70/22 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The Head Teacher Helen Field had sent in a report to the Clerk re Suckley School (which is attached to the Minutes). This had been circulated to all Cllrs.

Date of next meeting – Parish Council Meeting – Monday 12th September 2022 at 7.00 pm