

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Primary School

Present: Cllr S. Gray (Chair), Cllr M. Savage (Vice Chair), Cllr H. Ormerod, Cllr A. Lewis, Cllr H. Philpotts, Cllr A Mansell.

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk), Dist Cllr P. Whatley.

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

34/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Lewis, Cllr B. Roper, Dist Cllr S. Rouse.

35/24 Declarations of Interests

- (a) Cllrs are reminded of the need to complete/update their Register of Interest form.
- (b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- (c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

None were received.

36/24 To consider Written Requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the Agenda.

None were received.

The Meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation. (The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chair). Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chair. *Members of the public are reminded that by doing this, the matters for discussion may be included in public Minutes and should give their consent to this prior to any discussion. The Chair will give members of the public the chance to withdraw from the meeting if they so wish.*

Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council Meeting itself.

37/24 The Chair will invite members of the public present to make short presentations to the Council.

(a) Public presentation(s) (including planning applications representatives)

Planning (if on Agenda):

- (1) The Council Chair will ask the applicant/s or their representatives (if present) to put forward any points he/she wishes to make regarding their application.
- (2) Other parishioners are then invited to put forward their comments.
- (3) The applicant/representative then has the opportunity to respond to any points raised if he/she wishes to do so.

There were no planning representations.

Public Presentation(s)

The Chair Joe and Vice-Chair Adam from Worcester United attended the meeting. They are based in Broadwas and have been in the area for several years. During which time they have grown and now have a women's and girls team. They have built good relationships in the past and now want to discuss the use of the playing fields. They can bring grants to the facilities in return for use of the pitch and would create an opportunity for local kids to play. Their season is September to May with pre-season during August. They normally play Saturday and/or Sunday.

Cllr Gray stated that the all weather pitch is currently booked three evenings per week. It's likely there will be a second pitch where the current skateboard park is.

Joe went on to say they would hope to agree an annual fee, paid several times a year and that any school involvement is down to each school.

Cllr Gray thanked both for their input and would discuss more details with them in the next few days, following which they left the meeting.

- (b) Report from County Councillor – Cllr Karen Hanks
Not available
- (c) Report from District Councillor – Cllr Peter Whatley
The Malvern Hills budget includes an approximate £5 increase on the tax base for Band D properties. Cllr Whatley and Cllr Rouse were unable to vote for the 2024/25 budget for two reasons: firstly, the increase in car park charges and spend on grants to businesses. There's no payback to tax payers other than increased employment but this isn't confirmed if they are full or part time jobs. MHDC have sufficient funds and are unlikely to become bust. Secondly, the revised South Worcestershire Development Plan will not have additional rail stations. Malvern Hills have no power to provide public transport and Worcestershire CC have no intention either. WCC have admitted that traffic forecast is incomplete and will delay the SWDP by six months. The plan is unlikely to be ready until 2025.
- (d) Lengthsman Report (*Clerk*)
During January flooding was cleared on Suckley Road, Longley Green, Acton Road, Blackhouse Lane and Crews Hill. Gullies have been cleared on Suckley Road and at Longley Green.
- (e) Footpaths Report (*Cllr Helen Philpotts*)
A path near The Cross Keys has a missing sign and the gate is locked. Path 522 at Knowle Bank has a missing post. There is a hole in the bridge on bridlepath 609. Path 531 needs a gate. Bridlepath 776 by Webbs the fingerpost is missing and needs a new metal one. Path 557 – Whitehouse – is missing a post and the stile is difficult to get over. These issues to be taken up with Worcestershire CC.
- (f) Local Police Report
Not available
- (g) School report (*Cllr Helen Philpotts*)
The school continues to thrive. They now have a library in the church. The Police have been into school talking to children on how to stay safe online. The children have raised £154 for the Air Ambulance. They went to a football festival and as a small school with only one team they managed to come third. A great achievement.
- (h) Good Neighbourhood Scheme (*Cllr A Lewis*)
The use of the dedicated phone number had gone up to £12 a month. The company, TTNC will recognise Good Neighbourhood as a charity through the SPACE account. This has been approved so the phone line will cost £1 per month. No funding is required from the parish council.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

38/24 MINUTES

Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Monday, 12th February 2024 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous.

39/24 CO-OPTION

Following advertisement of the vacancy, the closing date was Friday 8th March. There were no applications so it was agreed to re-advertise for the meeting on Monday 13th May. Revised closing date for applications will be Friday 10th May. Notices to be placed on website, notice board and on social media.

40/24 PLANNING - MHDC

(a) For Consideration:

None

(b) Decisions – for information only

App Ref: M/23/01109/FUL

Location: Unit 4C, The Bruff Business Centre, Suckley, Worcs, WR6 5DR

Proposal: Revised plans to relocate the outlet flue, including retention of external doorway and maintenance walkway serving existing industrial enterprise (retrospective)

Application has been Approved

Above decision noted by the Parish Council

41/24 VOLUNTEERS

On the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous it was agreed the Parish Council recognise Michael Baldwin and Robert Chidlow as volunteers carrying out tasks on behalf of the parish council.

42/24 HEALTHY WORCESTERSHIRE

Cllr A Lewis has received an email from Jackie Barker about a source of funding. Christopher Wayman at Worcestershire CALC will be attending a Warm Welcome session and proposing an activity session.

43/24 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) The new benches have arrived and need assembling. Cllrs Ormerod, Gray and Mansell agreed to assist on Wednesday.
- (b) The cost for a gate and fittings would be approx. £150. The parish council agreed to go ahead and do it.
- (c) The path has been laid.
- (d) CCTV signs are £7.50 and will be put up on Wednesday.
- (e) Inside the pavilion needs decorating and a coat of paint on the outside.
- (f) Cllr Gray is looking to the Football Association for funds for the all weather pitch.

44/24 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

Cllr Gray is hoping to arrange a meeting with Highways department at Worcestershire CC. Nothing else to report.

45/24 COMMUNITY

(a) Village Show - there is to be a meeting on 18th March.

(b) History Society - An event was held at Alfrick Village Hall supposedly under the auspices of The Suckley Local History Society. This had apparently only been advertised in Alfrick Village as no one could recollect seeing an advertisement in Suckley. It was agreed that the safe currently located in Suckley Village Hall should be opened as soon as possible. The meeting scheduled for April 10th in Suckley Parish Church would be considered as the Suckley Local History Society

AGM and new officials would be elected so that the Parish Council could step away. An invitation would be sent to Sue Fellows who was the previous secretary.

- (c) Parish Survey - comments have been collated and circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Mansell would like the results to be reformatted into something more visual. Cllr Gray will take them back to Ian who has agreed to reformat them.
- (d) Notice Boards – Cllr A Lewis stated the parish council would be unable to use the Church noticeboard. It was suggested that a notice board in one of the bus shelters could be relocated to a site in Longley Green. Two wooden stakes would be required. Dist Cllr Whatley identified a site near the Memorial Ground.
- (e) Anonymous letter - a letter similar to the one recently received by the parish council has also been received by the church who wanted the parish council to agree they would do nothing with them. The Parish Council agreed to read each one and decide on merit any further action.
- (f) Newsletter - nothing to report.
- (g) BFG - the Chair of Suckley Festival 2024 has expressed thanks for the parish councils financial contribution which was agreed at the last meeting. Noted by the parish council.
- (h) Memorial Ground – Cllr Ormerod advised the parish council that it would cost £55.87 inc VAT to supply strimming cord for Mr Baldwin. Proposed by Cllr Ormerod seconded by Cllr A Lewis and unanimous that Cllr Ormerod order the cord. A quote for £145 has been received for power washing the stones at the memorial ground. This is best done in late spring/early summer. Cllr Ormerod proposed, Cllr Gray seconded and unanimous that this should go ahead and that Cllr Ormerod agreed to arrange for the cleaning.

46/24 FOOTPATHS

The Worcestershire CC Lengthsman Scheme now includes minor works on Public Rights of Way in the parish. Works could include vegetation clearance, clearing around signposts, stiles, gateways and re-fixing handrails. Clerk has contacted Rob Wilks and he will do any works identified.

47/24 FINANCE

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) Gen Fund:

R Wilks - £336.00 lengthsman Jan 2024
Suckley Wombles - £100 in cash for refreshments
L Butler £721.30 – clerks salary Feb 2024
HMRC – £272.32 tax Jan – Mar 2024

(b) Playing Field A/c

WaterPlus D/D for Feb - £7.50
Reimbursement to S Gray £1,085 – Picnic tables.
Clerk confirmed funds for picnic tables has been received from CoCllr K Hanks, Above six accounts paid on proposal of Cllr Philpotts, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous.

(c) Interim Accounts to 29/02/2024

The accounts and level of reserves is noted by the parish council. No big expenditure is expected at the moment.

(d) Flooding and £2k

Clerk has received more details from the previous clerk including the names of the eight residences who did not receive their grant money and which is now held in the parish councils bank account. It was agreed to ringfence £2k in the budget

48/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

Meeting closed 9:45pm

**Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30 pm,
Venue: Suckley Primary School.**