

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12th January 2015 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr P Whatley, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A Grieve, Cllr B Kearley, Cllr L Devenish

Apologies: Cllr A Lewis

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, Co Cllr P Tuthill.

Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other Disclosable Interests falling within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct

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

Public Question Time/Participation - Mrs A Capper gave a short presentation to the Council on her proposals for four dwellings on land owned by Stocks Farm.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that work had started on the incinerator plant at Hartlebury. The cost of building this incinerator was around £190M. It was essential that this work was undertaken as the Council had to comply with new waste disposal regulations coming into force. The Council was also looking to expand schools in the North Malvern area, and consultations were taking place with Leigh & Bransford School, Somers Park School and North Lea School. Cllr Liz Devenish agreed to speak to Suckley School about any extra available places, but the general view was that Suckley School was running at full capacity. The new Fire Station in Malvern was now open. Fire Station closures had been reviewed again, and now only one Fire Station was being closed. Bromsgrove Fire Station was now a joint operation with Fire and Police combined. This amalgamation was being considered for other areas. The Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with Worcs County Council Legal Department regarding the ownership of the Suckley Playing Fields, and this matter had now been resolved, with the County Council deleting the “ownership” mapping information they had held.

Report from District Cllr – Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton confirmed that depots would be set up around the County area for waste collection, and the waste would be taken directly to Hartlebury Incinerator overnight. Planning applications from developers were still over-riding the Area Plan, with 20-40 houses being approved in Kempsey which were not part of the Area Plan.

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green - no problems to report.

Footpath Wardens – No Report. The Clerk had not received any letters of interest regarding the vacancy. The Clerk to put the advertisement into the News Letter again.

Local Police – Cllr Peter Whatley reported that an increase in violent crime had been reported in November. This was due to one or two families in conflict in Woodland Road.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Council Planning Meeting held on 5th January 2015 were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths

02/15 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Drain outside The Batch, Suckley (Ref 5709836) - This had now been designated “ongoing” i.e. no time frame. Cllr P Tuthill reported that the Ref No held by the Clerk was not recognised on the Highways system. The Clerk to report it again.
- (b) Potholes in Birchwood Lane. The 75 metre of road East of ByWays needing repair was still outstanding. Co Cllr Tuthill to follow this up with Highways.
- (c) Boulders on verges - the boulders at the White House had not yet been removed. The Clerk reported that Gerry Brienza had apparently spoken to the owners of The White House, informing them that they needed to remove the white boulders. County Highways would then replace the boulders with white/reflective marker posts. The Clerk and Cllr P Tuthill to follow this up with Highways.
- (d) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082). County Highways had done some minor pothole repair work, but we were still waiting for the “midi patcher” to carry out more major repairs. Cllr P Tuthill reported that this work would be carried out in March
- (e) Ditch silted up opposite Rose Cottage (near to the bus shelter/junction at top of Longley Green). Tom Palmer had sent a request asking County Highways to clear the ditch. Unfortunately, he could only request action be taken and it was then up to County to decide whether or not to do the work.
- (f) The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident about overhanging branches/hedges along the Knightwick Road. The Clerk had contacted Gerry Brienza and letters had gone out to owners requesting action. On County Council owned land the overhanging branches had been cut back. The Clerk and Cllr J Green to look into any outstanding work needed to be done by other landowners and compile a list.
- (g) Blocked ditch at Parsleys Patch – work on this had now been done.
- (h) Fly Tipping – a report of fly tipping at Grittles End (a bed had been left on the verge) had been passed to MHDC Fly Tipping Team. Ref 6432991. Hedge/Tree cuttings tipped along Birchwood Lane had also been reported by the Clerk Ref 6499522.
- (i) Blocked ditch opposite Woodland Road (owned by Severn Trent) had been reported to Severn Trent by Tom Palmer.

03/15 SPEEDING/VAS CAMERA

No stats available until 23rd February. The VAS camera would then move to Alfrick.

04/15 CHARITY REPORTS - no reports

05/15 WIND TURBINES

Cllr B Kearley reported that a recommendation had been put to the Company concerned to put up balloons plus some photomontages. However, this had been ignored. A decision was expected by the end of the month.

06/15 COMMUNITY GROUP

- (a) **Defibrillator** – no report
- (b) **War Memorial** - Cllr C Luton had managed to source a suitably large piece of granite (owned by the Madresfield Estate) who had generously agreed to donate it to the Parish for the memorial. Cllr P Whatley and the Clerk had visited a memorial site in Pensax where local granite boulders had been used as a memorial. This was a much larger memorial than the one planned for Suckley, but the Parish Council might incorporate some of the layout ideas from Pensax. Cllr P Whatley produced an outline plan of the memorial site. He would be liaising with Co Cllr P Tuthill/Gerry Brienza & County Highways re access/road works etc. and would put together a potential budget. From his present estimates, this looked to be a maximum of £3K. The Council agreed to allocate funds up to this amount for this project. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Council also agreed that it would be sensible to form a Memorial Committee initially comprising Cllr P Whatley, Cllr A Grieve and the Clerk. Other members might be added as and when needed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green. Cllr A Grieve reported that the History Society were working on finding out details of all those who had given their lives in the two World Wars.

07/15 FINANCE

The following cheques were authorised for payment:- Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr B Kearley.

- (a) **General Fund** – Clerk's expenses November/December 2014 £54.12; Lengthsman – November 2014 £192 & VAS £17.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman – December 2014 £150 & VAS £29; Lengthsman January 2015 (to be advised). HMRC PAYE (Oct/Nov/Dec 2014) £291.00
Playing Field Account - Severn Trent Water £30.73; DJR Services – Mowing Playing £60.00.
- (b) **Accounts to 30th November 2014** were approved. Proposed by Cllr B Kearley and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.
- (c) **Precept 2015/16.** The Council unanimously agreed to freeze the precept at £13,859 (the same as 2014/15) Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.
- (d) **Pension Scheme** - The Clerk had received information from the Pensions Regulator re the Council's "Staging Date" which was January 2016.
- (e) **Natwest Bank** - The Clerk reported that the Council's Bank Account would be moving at the end of January to NatWest in Great Malvern. She had received confirmation that all papers held by the Bank in safe custody would be transferred to Malvern. The Clerk to send the Bank a list of the documents held and to get a confirmation of this list.

08/15 COUNCIL POLICY

The Clerk had printed out a Policy regarding Filming/Photographing/Audio Recording & Social Media Reporting of Public Parish Council & Committee Meetings. The Council agreed to adopt this Policy. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr B Kearley.

09/15 PLANNING

The Council noted the following information/refusals/permissions/appeals via MHDC Planning :-

- (a) App Ref No: 14/1347/FUL
Location: Suckley School, Church Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DE
Applicant: Mrs Sheila Fellows
Proposal: Hall Store Room
APPROVAL granted

- (b) App Ref No: 14/01510/HOU
Location: Rectory Cottage, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DF
Applicant: Mr J Bennett
Proposal: Amendments to the extensions approved under 10/00284/CPU
(Retrospective)
APPROVAL Granted
- (c) App Ref No: 14/00169/OUT
Location: Land adj Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley WR6 5DU
Applicant: Mrs J Peplow
Proposal: 2 no detached dwellings
Permission Refused – An Appeal against this decision has been dismissed – Appeal Ref: APP/J1860/A/14/2222266

10/15 ELECTIONS 2015

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Elections date would be 7th May. Nomination papers had now to be handed in at the electoral offices (to be checked), not sent in the post.

11/15 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green - everything was okay.

12/15 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr J Green reported that the mole problem was still continuing despite some work having been done to try and resolve it. Cllr C Luton to contact the pest control service again. Damage had also been caused on the all weather pitch at the goal mouth. Cllr J Green to get Duncan Reynolds to secure both ends of the pitch. Cllr C Luton had obtained a quote from Sovereign for new playing field equipment – the guide price was £33K. The first quote she had obtained was in the region of £44K. She would be looking for sources of funding, i.e. Lottery Fund, as well as local fund raising. As reported earlier in the meeting, the Clerk had received confirmation from Worcs County Council Legal Services that they had accepted they did not own the Playing Fields. It was Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr J Green that the Clerk arrange for the Playing Fields to be registered with the Land Registry.

13/15 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr L Devenish reported that the Bishop of Worcester had offered the post of Team Vicar in the Worcestershire West Rural Team (with special responsibility for Leigh & Bransford, Suckley, Alfrick & Lulsley) to the Revd Anne Potter. This offer had been formally accepted.

14/15 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr L Devenish reported that the new Head was doing very well and had made some changes. The School now had 83 pupils on the roll. A small extension had been provided for the children to eat their school lunches.

15/15 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

16/15 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Transparency Code for Parish Councils

Lengthsman Contract 2015/16

Clerks Holiday – 23rd June to 17th July 2015

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.00 pm