

# **SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014 – 2015**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **2014 – 2015**

2014/15 has been a very busy year for the Parish Council and all your Councillors have put in a lot of time and effort to not only maintain but hopefully improve the quality of life for all who live and work in Suckley

With the help of our County Councilor Paul Tuthill a number of our local roads have been resurfaced and potholes filled in. We still have some outstanding problem areas, notably Blackhouse Lane and Birchwood Lane, but these are in the pipeline for resurface and/or repair.

Our Lengthsman Barry Bennett, under the management of Cllr John Green, has again done an excellent job for us – keeping our drains, ditches and verges in a good state of repair. Malvern Hills District Council Land Drainage Officer – Tom Palmer – moved on to another Authority during the year, but his place has been taken by Paul Green, who continues to keep up the pressure on landowners to unblock their ditches and drains. Unfortunately, Barry decided to give up his Lengthsman work in Suckley at the end of March, so we are now in the process of appointing a new Lengthsman to take his place.

The Community Group under the Chairmanship of Cllr Andrew Grieve continues to be a hugely successful part of our Parish life, with the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Suckley Newsletter being two excellent examples of our community spirit. We now have our defibrillator installed on the outside wall of Suckley School, with a team of trained volunteers thanks to the British Heart Foundation and Cllr Anne Lewis.

With the assistance of Worcestershire County Council Highways staff and their contractors – Ringway – and many other generous benefactors – the Parish Council has been creating a Memorial site at the Old Quarry in Longley Green for all Suckley men and women who gave their lives in war. A large piece of local granite has been donated and engraved, and the groundwork is now complete thanks to Ringway. As you may already know, the Dedication Service will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June (Armed Forces Day) at 11.0 am. and you are all welcome to attend.

The Council continues to maintain the Playing Fields, with the help of Duncan Reynolds, Cllr John Green, Carol Luton and the Playing Fields Committee. Plans are in hand to purchase new play equipment. Pupils from Suckley School have been consulted and have put their orders in! Designs and quotations are being drawn up, with the total cost looking to be in the region of £33 - £40K. The Council will be applying for grants and fundraising to reach this amount, but it is hoped we will gradually buy equipment as and when funds are available. We have already received a generous donation of £2K from County Councillor Paul Tuthill. Unfortunately, the Playing Fields are still suffering from vandalism and general rubbish dumping, together with the theft of a copper hot water tank from the Pavilion.

Our two stalwart Footpath Wardens – Richard Harward and Peter Markins – hung up their boots as our Wardens during the year. They have done an outstanding job for us over many years, and the Council is very grateful indeed for all their hard work. We are now looking for new volunteers to take their

place. There is a possibility of a small team of volunteers getting together to monitor bridleways and footpaths in the Parish, so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact our Clerk, Diana Taylor, or any Council member

Our upgraded VAS camera is now only shared with Alfrick & Lulsley and continues to monitor speeding vehicles at various locations in the Parish. As last years stats revealed, the Knightwick Road sites showed higher rates of speeding than others. The number of vehicles exceeding 40 mph was very low, with a very small number recording 55-60 mph, generally in the early hours of the morning. Speeds have reduced at Bruff Bank and the Nelson Inn locations. The Village Hall speeds give cause for concern with speeding here rising. Peak speeding times are 7.30 am – 9.30 am and 5.0 pm – 7.0 pm. We will be asking West Mercia Police to put their speed camera at the entrance to Damson Way at peak speeding times.

The Council considered 12 Planning Applications during the year, a slightly higher figure than the previous year. The Council is mindful of the need to consider the impact of any application on the landscape, especially in known flood risk and AONB areas.

The Council has kept within its budget for the year 2014/15 whilst managing to improve the facilities for the Parish with the aid of grants/donations. We have decided to again freeze the Parish Precept for 2015/16. We have a reasonable reserve in place to cope with any future demands as District and County Council budgets continue to be reduced.

We now have a vacancy for a Councillor, as Barry Kearley decided not to seek re-election in the coming year, and we thank him for all the work he has done during his term of office. We are looking to co-opt a new Councillor at our next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact our Clerk, Diana Taylor or any of our Councillors.

All Councillors give their time and services on a voluntary basis, and I would like to thank all of them who have given me so much support during the year, and for the most unexpected presentation this time last year – as 50 years of being Chairman of the Council. Many changes have taken place during that time, not the least being the ever increasing amount of responsibilities, administration and paperwork that the Council and the Clerk has to cope with. My thanks also to our Clerk, Diana Taylor, who manages to keep the Council working properly and efficiently.

We all look forward to the challenges of 2015/16 and we will all continue to work for the best interests of Suckley Parish.

**A WALTER HUBAND – Chairman**



## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: Mr A W Huband Tel: 01886 884379  
 Cllrs: Mr J Green Tel: 01886 884412  
 Mrs P Griffiths Tel: 01886 884354  
 Mrs L Devenish Tel: 01886 884787  
 Mrs C Luton Tel: 01886 884558  
 Mr Peter Whatley Tel: 01886 884126  
 Mr A Grieve Tel: 01886 884795  
 Dr Anne Lewis Tel: 01885 884552

Clerk: Mrs Diana Taylor, 9, Lambourne Avenue,  
 Malvern Link, Worcs WR14 1NL  
 Tel: 01684 569430  
 E-mail: dtaylorsuckley@msn.com

District Councillors: Ms S Rouse Tel: 01886 833653  
 Mr A Warburton Tel: 01886 832753  
 County Councillor: Mr P Tuthill Tel: 01886 832309

**Nine Parish Councillors are allocated to serve the Parish of Suckley. The Councillors all offer their services on a voluntary basis and work to protect, sustain and promote the Parish in all its aspects. Suckley Parish Council is a lively active Council with the needs of the Parish always at the top of their Agenda. They meet bi-monthly. The Parish Council believe in open government and although their meetings are formal, any Parishioner is welcome to come along to listen. There is a special time before the meeting commences for any of the electorate of Suckley to make a short presentation to the Council on any item on the Agenda. Please ring any of the Councillors above or the Clerk if you need any further information.**

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015

(internally audited)

GENERAL FUND	2013/14	2014/15
Income	16,680.20	17,392.54
Expenditure	<u>17,057.51</u>	<u>13,411.68</u>
	- 377.31	3,980.86
Unpresented cheques	<u>282.00</u>	<u>291.00</u>
	- 95.31	4,271.86
Cash Register		
Balance b/fwd	<u>22,927.18</u>	<u>22,549.87**</u>
<u>Bank Balance in hand</u>	<u>22,831.87*</u>	<u>26,821.73 *</u>

\*Includes £2K ringfenced for Flood Scheme maintenance

\*\*excludes unpresented cheque £282 from 2013/14

PLAYING FIELD FUND		
Income	5,528.15	1,390.00
Expenditure	<u>1,943.25</u>	<u>1,872.50</u>
	3,584.90	- 482.50
Unpresented cheques	-	-
Cash Register		
Balance b/fwd	<u>4,586.21</u>	<u>8,171.11</u>
<u>Bank Balance in hand</u>	<u>8,171.11</u>	<u>7,688.61</u>