

**SUCKLEY
PARISH COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2015 – 2016

As in previous years, 2015/16 has been a busy and interesting year for your Parish Council.

Although our local roads have generally been improved, we are still experiencing some pothole problems, especially in Blackhouse Lane. However, we have been assured by our County Councillor that this Lane will be resurfaced by the end of the summer 2016.

I am pleased to report that we now have a new Lengthsman – Rob Lambert – who was appointed in June last year. However, due to the lack of training courses available, Rob has only been able to start tackling our drains and gullies since October. We now have a fully marked up and numbered Parish “Drains Map” for him to refer to, which is proving very useful.

The Community Group of the Parish under the Chairmanship of Cllr Andrew Grieve has maintained its presence in our Parish life. Due to family commitments, Hilary Pitt had to step down as editor of our very popular and widely read Suckley Newsletter. Hilary has done an outstanding job, and it is a great loss to our community that the Newsletter is on “hold” until a replacement editor (or editors) can be found. If you are interested or know someone who could take on this role, please contact any member of the Council or our Clerk – Diana Taylor. Our Defibrillator Team under the guidance of Dr Anne Lewis is going from strength to strength, and is now able to run its own BHF training courses, complete with a blow-up mannequin! However, new recruits are always welcome!

The Memorial site at the Old Quarry in Longley Green was completed in time for the Dedication Service on 27th June (Armed Forces Day). Pupils from Suckley School – the British Legion – Parish, District & County Councillors – our MP Harriet Baldwin – Ringway workers – families of those who gave their lives in War and many residents of the Parish all took part in a very moving service conducted by the Revd Anne Potter. Displays from Suckley History Society, Bromyard History Society, Birmingham University and Suckley School were on show at the Nelson pub after the service, where refreshments were available. The Trench Choir provided First World War songs which added to the occasion. A small Remembrance Service was held later in the year on 11th November at 11.0 am and this will continue to be an annual service for the future. Two oak benches are now in place on the site, one purchased by the Parish Council and the other generously donated by Cllr Pearl Griffiths and her husband Tony. The Council has received very favourable feedback about the Memorial – it has certainly given the Old Quarry a new purpose.

With the help of Duncan Reynolds, Cllr John Green, Carol Luton and the Playing Fields Committee, maintenance work has continued throughout the year on the Playing Fields. The Council succeeded in obtaining a Lottery Grant of £9,140 towards the cost of new play equipment. With donations from Co Cllr Paul Tuthill (£2K), our two District Cllrs Anthony Warburton & Sarah Rouse (£1K), Suckley Charities (£538) and an anonymous donation (£1K), the Parish Council added £3,824 to bring the total funding to £17,500. This was the best quotation for the project provided by Ludus which means work can start immediately on upgrading the play area.

We are building up our Footpaths Team, and now have four reporting walkers and bridlepath riders, with Helen Philpotts attending our Council Meetings on a regular basis. Our Clerk has applied for a small grant to help with replacing waymarkers and signage for our footpaths in Suckley. Other items such as steps, stiles, footbridges remain within the remit of the Countryside Department – which means we are on the waiting list! However, we are looking to recruit more volunteers, so if you enjoy walking the footpaths, please contact our Clerk or any Council member.

Despite the best efforts of Cllr Peter Whatley, who has been closely monitoring BT's "Super Broadband" roll-out – the broadband speeds for Suckley are lamentable. Co Cllr Paul Tuthill has, therefore, invited Cllr Whatley to attend a Scrutiny Committee at County Hall to look into the delivery (or non-delivery!) of this project.

The Council considered 11 Planning Applications during the year, one less than 2014/15. The Council takes into account the type of housing development, and the impact of any application on the landscape, especially in known flood risk and AONB areas. However, the final decision on any application rests with Malvern Hills Planning Department.

The Council froze its Precept again for the year 2015/16, as it has good reserves to draw on. Because of this the Council was able to create the new War Memorial in Longley Green and assist in the funding of the Playing Fields Project (with the help of grants and donations).

Due to Councillor Barry Kearley not seeking re-election in May last year, the Council was looking to co-opt a new Councillor to replace him. Three excellent candidates put their names forward, but the

Council finally selected Mrs Victoria Bradley, who was co-opted onto the Council in September.

All Councillors give their time and services on a voluntary basis, and I would like to thank all of them, past and present, for their unfailing support to me in over 50 years as Chairman. I have now decided not to seek re-election as Chairman, and I hand over to our new Chairman – Cllr Peter Whatley – who I am confident will ensure the Council will continue to work for the best interests of Suckley not only in the coming year of 2016/17, but for many years in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk – Diana Taylor – for all her support and hard work during the year – keeping the Council informed of changes in legislation and dealing with the ever increasing load of e-mails and paperwork landing on her desk.

A WALTER HUBAND – Retiring Chairman

Last Monday, my predecessor Walter Huband unexpectedly announced his decision to stand down as Chairman of Suckley Parish Council. Walter has given over 50 years of service to this community. His knowledge of, and love for, this Parish runs more deeply than words can describe. Thankfully, Walter has agreed to remain as a member of the Parish Council – allowing us to continue to benefit from his experience. I regret greatly that I cannot be in the Village Hall this evening to convey my thanks on your behalf to Walter, but I hope you will join me in applauding his half-century and more of dedication to Suckley

PETER WHATLEY - Incoming Parish Council Chairman

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS 2016/17

Chairman: Mr P Whatley Tel: 01886 884126
 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 A W Huband Tel: 01886 884379
 Mr A Grieve Tel: 01886 884795
 Dr Anne Lewis Tel: 01885 884552
 Mrs V Bradley Tel: 01886 884001

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 2016
 (internally audited)

GENERAL FUND	2014/15	2015/16
Income	17,392.54	26,305.18
Expenditure	<u>13,411.68</u>	<u>30,587.42</u>
	3,980.86	- 4,282.24
Unpresented cheques	<u>291.00</u>	<u>550.50</u>
	4,271.86	- 3,731.74
Cash Register		
Balance b/fwd	<u>22,549.87</u>	<u>26,530.73**</u>
<u>Bank Balance in hand</u>	26,821.73*	22,798.99 *

*Includes £2K ringfenced for Flood Scheme maintenance
 **excludes unpresented cheque £291 from 2014/15

PLAYING FIELD FUND		
Income	1,390.00	16,483.46
Expenditure	<u>1,872.50</u>	<u>2,440.01</u>
	- 482.50	14,043.45
Unpresented cheques	-	-
Cash Register		
Balance b/fwd	<u>8,171.11</u>	<u>7,688.61</u>
<u>Bank Balance in hand</u>	7,688.61	21,732.06