

Suckley Parish Council – 2022 – 2023 Report

During the past year your Council has met on six occasions, with comprehensive and wide-ranging agendas and plenty to discuss and decide. In between these general meetings there have been meetings to review planning applications and to act as Council representatives on other bodies, such as the Alfrick Educational Trust, the Hill Trust and Suckley School, as well as plenty of work to do behind the scenes.

As in previous years the Council has spent considerable time and effort on highway issues. We have regularly reported defects with road surfaces and drains, and progress chased these when action was not forthcoming from the County Council's team. Whilst there has been some success with minor improvement schemes at Sindon's Mill, Birchwood Road and Longley Green there are still a number of outstanding problems elsewhere in the parish to be resolved in the future.

The other road-related challenge, as in previous years, is speeding. The Council-owned speed recorder is regularly moved around the parish, but just as regularly finds motorists exceeding the 30mph limit. Other persuasive measures to encourage drivers to comply with the law are under discussion. The Council is also a member of Worcestershire's 'Twenty's Plenty' lobby group, which is campaigning to get a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph, and we supported the petition signed by residents of Suckley Knowl and Knightwick Road to create a 30mph zone in that area too.

Since the beginning of 2023 the Parish Council has been meeting at the Church, taking advantage of the recently-completed refurbishment and enjoying the space and warmth that it offers. This has allowed a comprehensive scheme of repairs and upgrading to take place at the Village Hall. Now finished, this has enabled Fledglings Nursery School to be based in the building as the prime daytime user. This arrangement will still allow for other bookings to be made in the evenings and weekends, as well as occasional alternative daytime use, such as the Polling Station earlier this month.

In September 2022 our long-serving Clerk, Diana Taylor, retired after some 18 years in Suckley. We wish her well. We have been very fortunate in recruiting an experienced local replacement, Lynn Butler, who has settled in quickly.

Finally, this month's elections saw the retirement of six members of Council, with an impressive record of over a century of collective service behind them. On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank them for their efforts on our behalf over many years, and wish their successors well in the future.

Robin Hill,

Outgoing Chairman, Suckley Parish Council.

May 2023.