

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 1st JULY 2019 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr C Luton, Cllr J Green, Cllr R Hill, Cllr R Hooper
Cllr A Lewis, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A W Huband

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mrs Helen Philpotts (Footpaths)

Apologies: Co Cllr P Tuthill, Dist Cllr S Rouse, Cllr L Devenish

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

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

Two parishioners involved in the BFG event in September at Suckley Church gave a presentation to the Council, requesting help to fund the children's play area and associated activities on the day of the event (21st September). The Council agreed to a donation of £250 from their community fund.

Report from County Councillor - Cllr P Whatley updated the Council on behalf of Co Cllr P Tuthill. WCC Highways would be looking again at the visibility problems and the speed limit at White House Cross Roads, also the overhanging trees along the Knightwick Road.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr P Whatley reported that since the elections in May a lot was going on. The MHDC 5 year plan needed to be re-assessed, with the emphasis on “green” and community agendas. The SWDP (South Worcs Development Plan) also required review as a 5 year housing supply was essential to keep development under control. Most of the targets MHDC had to achieve were driven by central government at Westminster. Dist Cllr Whatley had been nominated to the Review Body for the Police & Crime Commissioner. Dist Cllr S Rouse was following through with her community transport plan. However, new licensing rules being proposed for community drivers might delay the project. As far as Broadband was concerned, Dist Cllr Whatley had established contact with the WCC team liaising with BT. A roll-out across the county would be taking place in the next 6 months. After that Not spots such as Longley Green/Alfrick Pound would be identified. Dist Cllr Whatley had asked that all Not spots be classed as community projects. Full Fibre Broadband would be the default standard. There would be a cost per house or business location, but substantial grants were available to offset those costs. If sufficient numbers of residents/businesses committed to take fibre broadband the grants available might well reduce the actual cost to zero. A consultation was needed regarding the Fire Service reduction in personnel at Malvern. At the moment, this area was being covered by Worcester City. Cllr C Luton repeated her request to reduce or allow free parking after 4.0 pm at the car parks near to the Splash in Malvern. Dist Cllr P Whatley agreed that a review of all car parking fees/machines was needed as it cost £25K to replace vandalised machines.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman had carried out all tasks as requested. The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had now signed his contract, and had given the Clerk a copy of the drains map updated with a large number of new drains he had found. The Lengthsman to be asked to cut back vegetation along Woodland Road to Church Lane.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts reported that the gate problem at Grove Hill had resurfaced. She would be asking Jon White at WCC Countryside Dept for his help to resolve this ongoing issue. One or two new volunteers had come forward at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk to get another copy of the Footpaths Map printed

Local Police – Cllr Rosemary Hooper had contacted the PCSO who had reported “No Crime” in the area since the beginning of the year. As this appeared very unlikely, she would be looking into this again.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

47/19 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Blocked drain/ditch at Stocks Cottages. *(Clerk had e-mailed Hannah Davies who has now referred this to Jack Adams at Land Drainage – Clerk to chase)*
- (b) Outstanding repair for drain cover – Blackhouse Lane. Clerk had chased this up with Hannah Davies yet again. Ref: 636955. *(This is on the list for jetting – a cone has been placed on the drain)*
- (c) Overhanging trees – Knightwick Road *(Co Cllr P Tuthill liaising with WCC Highways on this)*
- (d) Sign for Longley Green (opposite the bus shelter). *(Clerk had e-mailed Hannah Davies about this – action ongoing – Clerk to chase).*
- (e) Damage to 30 mph signs. This has now been resolved.
- (f) Blocked drain No 57. Clerk had reported this to WCC Highways Ref: 688543. *(Gully on the list to be jetted – Clerk to chase).*
- (g) Damaged drain No 106 (broken slab on top). – Knightwick Road. Ref 704439. This has been resolved.
- (h) Cllr P Whatley had reported a flooding issue at the bottom of Birchwood Road to WCC Highways - Ref 681084 *(this is on the list for jetting – Clerk to chase).*
- (i) Drains 111 and 112 (opposite Wells Cottage) Reported to Lengthsman for clearance and inspection *(Clerk to check with Lengthsman)*
- (j) Drain No 138 (Crews Hill End) Ref 695706. *(Clerk to liaise with Cllr J Green)*
- (k) Cllr R Hill reported that the fence at the lower car park/field at the Bruff was in need of repair. It appeared to be a Highways fence. *(Clerk to report this to WCC Highways.)*

The Clerk was asked to write to Hannah Davies expressing the dissatisfaction of the Council with the time it takes to resolve some of the above older highways issues, especially the jetting of gullies, which has now been taken out of the remit of the Lengthsman.

48/19 VAS CAMERA

As requested at the previous meeting Cllr P Whatley had contacted Darran Findlater to see if he was still willing to analyse the VAS stats. However, he was not prepared to do this. After some discussion of alternatives, Cllr Whatley was asked to approach the owners of the post office to see if they would be interested in taking on this task.

49/19 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr P Whatley reported that Mrs Dunns Charity had been wound up in the last month. The assets would be split equally between the three beneficiary local charities, one of which is The Suckley Charities. Cllr R Hill reported that he had contacted Mr Brooks of Brookes Memorial Fund who had offered to send a Trustee of the Charity to speak to the Council. It was too late in the year for 2019 applications, but Suckley School and other local pupils could apply for the school year starting in September 2020. He agreed to obtain further information regarding the Trust Deed and trustees and let the Clerk have a copy.

50/19 COMMUNITY - Future Projects

- (a) New Parish Information Pack – Cllr A Lewis agreed to look into the costings of a new pack (around 500).
- (b) Let It Bee - The Clerk reported on a project launched by Wetheral Parish Council in Cumbria to involve residents and schools in planting wildflowers in gardens and verges throughout the parish. The Council had provided wildflower seeds, insect houses and educational information to schools and groups in the Parish, including a “bee hotel” in its woodland cemetery. The Clerk to find out more information about this project.

51/19 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr R Hill and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses April/May 2019 - £67.83; Clerk’s expenses Annual Parish Meeting 20th May £69.48; M Griffiths payroll services 2018/19 £75.00; Lengthsman April/May/June 2019 - £662.40; HMRC PAYE April/May/June £327.60
Playing Fields - D Reynolds (DJR Farm Services) £357.00 (paid, but to be approved)
- (b) **Grants/Donations**
 - (i) Friends of the Chase School, Malvern - £100.00 (from the Community Budget) Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr R Hill
 - (ii) BFG (SPACE) request (as previously minuted) - £250.00 (from the Community Budget) Proposed by Cllr R Hill and seconded by Cllr C Luton
- (c) **Accounts to 31st May 2019** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr J Green. .

52/19 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that the see-saw had now been repaired – thanks to Cllrs R Hill and J Green. A small bolt sticking out after the repair would be covered with a rubber hose. Cllr J Green reported that the mole problem had re-appeared – Cllr C Luton to deal with this. The Lengthsman to be asked to strim round the all weather pitch, the posts at the front and the three benches on a regular basis. DJR would be reducing the amount of Playing Field mowing from previous years.

53/19 RISK ASSESSMENT

All risk assessment forms had been completed – no problems (other than those raised re Playing Fields)

54/19 PLANNING (for information)

- (a) App No: 19/00325
Site: Baston Hall, Crews Hill, Alfrick, Worcs WR6 5HF
Proposal: Internal alterations to modify existing W/C, form additional shower room and remodel existing shower room
This application has been **Approved** by MHDC Planning
- (b) App No: 19/00510/FUL
Site: Land at (OS 7120,5053) Suckley
Proposal: Proposed access and track to residential dwelling
This application has been **Refused** by MHDC Planning

55/19 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the next step would be a water supply to the church. No heating system yet. The Space group were hoping to get a telephone and internet connection so that the community room could be up and running and available for wider use by more people.

56/19 SUCKLEY SCHOOL - No Report

57/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7.00 pm