

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr J Green, Cllr R Hill, Cllr A Lewis,
Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A W Huband

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mrs Helen Philpotts (Footpaths), Co Cllr P Tuthill,
Dist Cllr S Rouse

Apologies: Cllr C Luton, Cllr R Hooper

One member of the public attended the meeting.

Cllr L Devenish signed her Acceptance of Office of Councillor.

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

A member of the public attended the meeting and raised a number of points re Planning Application 19/01134/S106 on the Agenda. These included the potential for a future change of use for the site in question, and the importance of preserving the rural character of the land.

Cllr P Whatley informed the Council that as a District Councillor he would not vote or express any opinion on any planning application in case it was sent to MHDC Northern Area Planning Committee. He would, however, Chair the meeting.

With the consent of the Council, the Chairman brought forward the Agenda item 13 to the beginning of the meeting. Planning Application 19/01134/S106 – Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WQR6 5DJ. Proposal: Application under Section 106A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the requirement relating to the legal agreement dated 5th April 2000 associated with Planning Permission Ref 99/014450. After a considerable discussion, the Clerk was asked to send the following comments to MHDC Planning Dept :-

Suckley Parish Council has no objections to this application.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported to the meeting. A consultation re bus services was taking place, looking at the whole business of public transport. A new service would be starting in September with a link up to Dyson School. Primarily funded by Worcs Co Council. In his view the Chief Executive of Worcs Acute Hospital Trust was the most difficult role in the whole of Worcestershire. The hospital was in a very critical state, and was still in special measures. The recently appointed new Chief Executive had to go into hospital for an operation, so his deputy was running the Trust. However, the Ambulance Service had been very highly rated. Progress was being made on the Southern Link Road where virtually 10,000 lorry loads of stone will be moved onto the site very shortly. There will be a bridge on the Ham Way

for cyclists and pedestrians. A consultation was taking place re the Fire Service, as some arrangements for fire service cover did not comply with the EU Working Time Directives.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr S Rouse reported to the meeting. The next Parish Conference would be held on 21st October. It would be focusing on climate change and the environment. The District Council was working together to agree priorities for the next five years, with a consultation document going out in September. The review of the South Worcs Development Plan (SWDP) would be coming out in October. This would be looking at new sites for development up to 2040. A community transport event would also be taking place in October.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green and the Clerk to liaise regarding Lengthsman work schedules and invoicing. The Clerk to send a reminder to the Lengthsman re cutting back at the White House Cross Roads.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts - no problems to report.

Local Police – No report

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Hill and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 5th August 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Hill and seconded by Cllr J Green.

60/19 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Outstanding repair for drain cover – Blackhouse Lane. Clerk had chased this up with Hannah Davies yet again. Ref: 636955. *(E-mail from WCC Highways – contractors have been instructed to try and raise the drain level within 4 weeks)*
- (b) Sign for Longley Green (opposite the bus shelter). *(Clerk had e-mailed Hannah Davies about this – action ongoing – Clerk to chase).*
- (c) Damage to 30 mph signs. This has now been resolved.
- (d) Blocked drain No 57. Clerk had reported this to WCC Highways Ref: 688543. *(Gully on the list to be jetted – Clerk to chase).*
- (e) Damaged drain No 106 (broken slab on top). – Knightwick Road. Ref 704439. This has been resolved.
- (f) 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).*
- (g) Drains 111 and 112 (opposite Wells Cottage) Reported to Lengthsman for clearance and inspection. Lengthsman has now reported back that the brick headwalls were damaged on both drains. *(Clerk reported this to Highways Ref 743662)*
- (h) Fence at the lower car park/field at the Bruff in need of repair. *(Clerk reported this to Highways Ref 787833 – e-mail from Highways dated 01/08/19 – map and photo have been sent to the repair section)*
- (i) Overhanging trees – Knightwick Road. Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the worst place for overhanging trees was at passing places along the Knightwick Road. One of the passing places was by the Old Railway Station where the land belongs to the WCC. He would speak to Hannah Davies at WCC Highways. He asked the Parish Council to speak to landowners re creating more passing places.
- (j) Blocked drain/ditch at Stocks Cottages. *(Clerk reported that Jack Adams was taking action to serve a Section 25 Notice on BT)*

- (k) White House Cross Roads - the Clerk was asked to write to the owner of the White House with a request to cut back the hedging on the north side of the Cross Roads to improve visibility problems.

61/19 VAS CAMERA

Geoffrey Brewin the Clerk of Alfrick & Lulsley had taken over the scheduling and stats analysis for both parishes. The Clerk had circulated his most recent August summary.

62/19 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr P Whatley reported that the Suckley Charities would be meeting in October. A discussion then took place re The Brookes Memorial Fund Charity. Cllr R Hill suggested that perhaps the Council could have a local representative on the Board of Trustees, and to request a list of pupils from Suckley who have directly benefitted from this Charity. It was agreed that a Trustee of the Charity be invited to attend the November Parish Council meeting.

63/19 COMMUNITY - Future Projects

- (a) New Parish Information Pack – This project was still a work in progress by Cllr A Lewis.
- (b) Let It Bee - The Clerk had received further information from Wetheral Parish Council about their Let It Bee project, which she had circulated to all Cllrs. This would tie in with the MHDC Forum on the Environment on 21st October so she would be forwarding this on to Dist Cllr S Rouse.
- (c) Bench at the corner of Damson Way/Knightwick Road. After some discussion about this bench, which was becoming an eyesore, it was agreed that it should be removed, but not replaced.
- (d) Dog Waste Bins – Cllr P Whatley had investigated the cost of providing bins but they were prohibitively expensive, plus there were problems re emptying them. No further action to be taken.
- (e) Cllr P Whatley reminded the Council of the Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November. He had arranged for the bugler to attend and the service would be conducted by the Revd Anne Potter.

64/19 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Chairman drew the attention of the Council to the cost of the May elections which would have an impact on the precept for 2020/21.
General Fund – Clerk's expenses July/August 2019 - £50.55; Lengthsman July 2019 £216.00 (paid but to be approved); HMRC PAYE July/Aug/Sept 2019 £327.60; MHDC Election Expenses for 2nd May 2019 Elections £1,386.41; Space/BFG £250.00 (donation from Co Cllr P Tuthill via Suckley PC Account) – paid but to be approved; J Green – Risk Assessment/Lengthsman Management Apr-Sept 2019 - £144.00 (subject to the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regs 2003); Came & Co Insurance 2019/20 £1,059.61 (2nd year of Agreement);
Playing Fields - D Reynolds (DJR Farm Services) £84.00 (paid, but to be approved);
For information – Npower Direct Debit Apr-Aug 2019 £38.36; Severn Trent Water (Water Plus) Direct Debit £10.99 (adjusted amount up to 19/08/19)
- (b) **Accounts to 31st July 2019** were approved. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr R Hill.

65/19 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr J Green reported that the mole problem was still in evidence by the swings. The Clerk to contact Cllr C Luton. Someone had loosened the posts and driven round the Playing Field car park. Cllr J Green/Cllr C Luton to review the posts and see which ones need replacing.

66/19 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

67/19 PLANNING (for information)

- (a) App No: 19/01134/S106
Site: Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ
Proposal: Application under Section 106A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the requirement relating to legal agreement dated 5th April 2000 associated with Planning Permission Ref 99/014450.

As detailed earlier in the Minutes, the Council had no objections to this application.

68/19 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the BFG event would take place on 21st September. Another Ceilidh was being arranged for 18th January 2020. Fundraising continues.

69/19 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

87 children were now on the school roll, 3 over capacity. All the children from the local area had been found places. There was a waiting list for children to join the school next year. Car parking continued to be a problem.

70/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 11th November 2019 at 7.00 pm