

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.15 pm

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr R Hill, Cllr R Hooper, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr C Luton,
Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green (via phone)

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

Apologies: None received

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. (None made)

No requests had been received by the Clerk for any Dispensations relating to items on the Agenda. (Sec 33 of the Localism Act 2011)

Cllr P Whatley informed the Council that as District Councillor he would not vote or express any opinion on Planning Applications in case they had to be sent to MHDC Northern Area Planning Committee. He would, however, Chair the meeting.

The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation

A short presentation was made to the Council explaining the reasons for a future planning application for extra storage space at Tundridge Stud.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported to the Council. The Chief Fire Officer would be retiring next year. The Fire Service was preparing to operate the second phase of Covid which would cover three areas - delivery of PPE, acting as a standby to drive ambulances and dealing with the aftermath of a higher number of deaths if other services became overwhelmed. A high level meeting re drains (across the rural areas of the county) was planned. Cllr L Devenish felt that although Suckley drains problems were being constantly reported by the Clerk and others, nothing appeared to be resolved, and it appeared to be a management/efficiency issue. Co Cllr P Tuthill confirmed that unfortunately three drains maps were being used - the Suckley drains map, a digitalised WCC Highways drains map and yet another map compiled by Ringway, the contractors. For policy reasons at the moment WCC Highways would not release any copies of their map, but he was hopeful that the newly appointed Associate Director would be tackling these issues. The timescale for action would be incorporated into next year's budget. Cllr R Hill pointed out that action should be taken now before the winter weather sets in, as there was a high likelihood of flooding in the parish. Cllr P Whatley reported that there had been no development at all on the Broadband front. Cllr L Devenish reported that information had been submitted to Open Reach re Crews Hill area, but so far BT had not produced a quote.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. The District Council was now back into a Covid lockdown situation. As in the previous lockdown, community support was the key, and the Council was trying to build a community strategy. Track & Trace had now moved back down to local level. The District Council was supporting school meals funding and local Food Banks. Despite the problems, the Splash was still being re-

vamped. She was pleased to report that a resident survey revealed that the majority of Malvern residents felt that the Council was good value for money.

Lengthsman - The Clerk reported on the activities of the Lengthsman during September. (No information available for October). In September the Lengthsman had strimmed out gullies, cleared leaves and gravel from gullies in Longley Green. Strimmed the Whitehouse Cross Roads, and cleared gullies along Suckley Road.

Footpaths – The Clerk reported that as requested she had written to the landowner re tree branches blocking footpath No 555. He had responded very positively and had arranged for the blockage to be cleared. In his letter to the Clerk he pointed out that the public footpath sign indicating the direction of the footpath was rotten and falling down. Councilors commented that a number of signs in the parish were in a similar state. The Clerk was asked to write to the countryside department to see if Metposts would be a more economic way of preserving footpath signs, or even all metal signs instead of wood.

Local Police – Cllr R Hooper had circulated the Jan – October 2020 Police Crime Stats to all the Cllrs. There were 332 incidents across all the 11 parishes covered. As reported at the September meeting Suckley had 4 incidents of theft, 1 each in February, March, May, July and 1 incident of anti-social behaviour in July 2020. No incidents in Suckley to report since July 2020.

58/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom Meeting held on 14th September were read and approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Hooper and seconded by Cllr R Hill.

59/20 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The Clerk had circulated an update to Cllrs re Parish Highways issues still outstanding up to the end of October, which had also been sent to Co Cllr P Tuthill and Hannah Davies at WCC Highways. Following on from the previous update (August) Cllr P Whatley and Cllr R Hill had a meeting on site in Longley Green with Hannah Davies, when it was agreed that :-

- (a) Gully outside Bridge Cottage to be lowered
- (b) Small drainage scheme for Birchwood Road - with attention to four gullies on right of the road between Mosewick Farm entrance & Upper Mosewick Farm. Gully immediately before footpath on right before Upper Mosewick Farm to be completely dug out/restored. Grid to be installed at entry to 450 mm drainage pipe between depth gauge and Upper Mosewick Farm.
- (c) Grit Bin – to remain in its “moved” location
- (d) Ice sign on approach to Batchelors Bridge to be repositioned higher up closer to the Bruff Business Centre.

The timeframe for action on the above was likely to be at least 12 weeks – not before the end of January 2021.

60/20 VAS CAMERA

Stats to be advised as Alfrick was waiting for new batteries for the VAS camera. The Clerk had e-mailed Geoff Brewin the Alfrick Clerk about re-instating the VAS in Longley Green opposite the Nelson Inn. His response was to request that Suckley delete one of the other VAS locations to keep the sites to three in each parish. The Council was not prepared to agree with this, as originally there had been four sites in Suckley. The Clerk to write back to Geoff Brewin suggesting that we reduce two sites to a week rather than a fortnight, so we could include the Nelson site in the schedule.

61/20 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr P Whatley reported that Suckley Charities had held a meeting in October. There were no requests for funds. The next meeting would be held in April 2021. Cllr L Devenish reported that Alfrick Educational Charity had held a meeting – but no Minutes were available yet. Cllr A Lewis reported that Suckley School had used nearly £1K from the John Palmer Trust to fund a phonic project.

62/20 COMMUNITY

- (a) **Superfast Broadband** – As reported previously by Cllr P Whatley, no recent communications had been forthcoming from Worcs Co Council or BT.
- (b) **Parish Information Pack** - Cllr A Lewis reported that through the Crowdfunding project £493 21p. had been raised. 500 folders had been printed at a cost of £290.00 + VAT. She was now collating information to go inside the folders.
- (c) **Remembrance Service** - 11th November 2020 - Cllr P Whatley reported that a very much scaled down Remembrance Service to comply with Covid regulations would be held at the Old Quarry Memorial site.
- (d) **BFG event** – Cllr P Whatley reported that he had been contacted by Catherine Armstrong asking for donations towards the purchase of marquees for BFG future events (bearing in mind that this event could not take place this year). Both he and Sarah Rouse as District Cllrs had agreed to each donate half their Ward budget to this project, but the request also included the Parish Council. After a short discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to donate £300 from the Community budget. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr R Hill.

63/20 FINANCE - The following cheques were approved :-

- (a) Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L Devenish
 - Gen Fund** – D W Taylor, Clerk’s expenses September/October 2020 - £38.51 R Wilks – Lengthsman September 2020 - £172.80; R Wilks Lengthsman October 2020 – to be advised; ICO – Data Protection Fee 2020/21 - £40.00
- (b) **Playing Field** –D Reynolds – DJR Services - (Mowing & Topping Playing Field) – £105.00 (paid but to be approved); Water Plus (Severn Trent) Direct Debit – September 2020 - £27.34
- (c) **Accounts to 30th September 2020** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

64/20 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) **Security** - Cllr C Luton reported that a security gate had now been fitted across the Pavilion door. There had been an increase in the use of the Playing Field by football teams, with 2 teams per night on Mon/Tues/Wed and 1 team on a Thursday. She had thoroughly cleaned inside the Pavilion, and each team was responsible for their own Covid compliance. She had put up notices stating the Play Area was closed, but these had subsequently been removed. However, it was now permissible to use the Play Area. Paul who mowed around the Play Area was also weeding the all weather pitch. Unfortunately, people had removed posts to get onto the Playing Field, and she was asking Duncan Reynolds to quote for erecting a post & rail fence. Cllr J Green reported that he had in the past dug out posts and nailed pieces across the bottom to stop people lifting them up. The Clerk to check with insurers re fencing.

65/20 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr P Whatley had been undertaking the Risk Assessments as Cllr J Green was in a Covid high risk category. Nothing adverse to report at the moment.

66/20 PLANNING – MHDC (for information)

- (a) App No 20/01121/HP
Location: The Bye Ways, Birchwood Road, Suckley, WR6 5DT
Proposal: Erection of two storey and single storey rear and side extensions.
MHDC Planning has **Approved** this application.
- (b) App No: 20/01176/HP
Location: Pump Cottage, Suckley Road, Knightwick, WR6 5QQ
Proposal: Change of use of existing double garage to ancillary accommodation for use as an annexe. MHDC Planning has **Approved** this application.
- (c) The Clerk had received a Listed Building Application for Threshers Barn, Suckley, Worcs (App No 20/01397/LB) for installation of replacement windows and patio doors to the southern elevation. The Clerk to send a “No Comment” to Malvern Hills Planning.

67/20 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that thanks to the new Smart TV in the church the Annual PCC Meeting had been a hybrid one. It was planned to still hold The Tree of Light Festival as usual, but with social distancing. The new space in the Church was also helping the school to set up Covid “Bubbles”.

68/20 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr L Devenish reported that she had not yet met the new Head Teacher Helen Field, so nothing to report at the moment. Cllr A Lewis reported that a Rags to Riches event to raise money for a sensory room for the school was being organised – The Hop Shed Brewery was the collection point for clothes/linen donations.

69/20 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA -

Precept 2021/22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 11th January 2021.