

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Parish Church

Present: Cllr M. Savage, Cllr H. Ormerod, Cllr A. Mansell, Cllr R. Lewis, Cllr B. Roper.

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk),

Eight members of the public attended the meeting.

99/24 Election of Chair

Cllr S. Gray's resignation as Councillor and Chair has been received by the Clerk. Cllr Savage initially took the Chair and expressed thanks to Steve Gray for all his hard work especially with the Playing Fields. Cllr R Lewis agreed to be nominated as Chair. He was proposed by Cllr Roper, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimously appointed Chair. He took the position of Chair and has signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Lewis re-iterated on behalf of the parish council its thanks to Steve Gray. Cllr Savage continued that even though he was not at the last meeting in June, he was appalled at what he has heard and is resigning immediately from the Parish Council. Following which he remained at the meeting and joined other members of the public.

100/24 Apologies for Absence

Were received from Cllr Philpotts and DistCllr P Whatley.

101/24 Declarations of Interests

- (a) Cllrs are reminded of the need to complete/update their Register of Interest form.
 - (b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.
 - (c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.
- Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

There were none.

102/24 To consider Written Requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the Agenda.

None were received.

The Meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation. (The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chair). Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chair.

Members of the public are reminded that by doing this, the matters for discussion may be included in public Minutes and should give their consent to this prior to any discussion. The Chair will give members of the public the chance to withdraw from the meeting if they so wish.

Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council Meeting itself.

103/24 The Chair will invite members of the public present to make short presentations to the Council.

(a) Public presentation(s) (including planning applications representatives)

Planning (if on Agenda):-

- (1) The Council Chair will ask the applicant/s or their representatives (if present) to put forward any points he/she wishes to make regarding their application
- (2) Other parishioners are then invited to put forward their comments
- (3) The applicant/representative then has the opportunity to respond to any points raised if he/she wishes to do so

Mr R Holloway updated the Parish Council on the application at the Hopkilns to say that the application has been scaled back a bit.

Other Public representations:

Mr R Luton – stated few members think they can do better than the previous chairman and that he's disappointed with the previous council. Mr Luton asked if this meeting was valid because there are so few councillors, Clerk stated with four councillors in attendance the meeting is quorate.

Brad - The Nelson is committed to staying as an Inn. We're doing it up but it's a big undertaking getting it to be sustainable. Hoping it will be on the Parish Map.

Mike Savage – there has been a communication attack, there is an email trail of letters to the vicar and I feel Steve Gray was pushed to resign.

Roger Luton and Mike Savage both left the meeting.

(b) Report from County Councillor – Cllr Karen Hanks

Not available

(c) Report from District Councillor

Not available

(d) Lengthsman Report (*Clerk*)

With the Lengthsman in attendance this is covered under item 108/24

(e) Footpaths Report (*Cllr Helen Philpotts*)

Not available

(f) Local Police Report (update previously circulated)

Circulated update noted.

(g) School report (*Cllr Helen Philpotts*)

Report not available but Sports Day is this Thursday, 11th July.

The Chair re-opened the Meeting

104/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th June 2024 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous.

105/24 CO-OPTION

There remain no candidates. It was agreed to discuss again at the next meeting at which point it was noted that three councillors would be submitting apologies for the September meeting meaning the meeting would not be quorate. Cllr Ormerod proposed and Cllr Roper seconded that a meeting should be arranged during August. Monday 12th August was agreed and there would not be a September meeting.

106/24 PLANNING - MHDC

a For Consideration:

App Ref: M/23/00635/CU

Location: Hopkilns at Suckley Court, Suckley, Worcs, WR6

Proposal: Revision of floor plan, site plan, section details and materials, details of new build element in light of MHDC Archaeology and Planning Advisor's comments.

The Parish Council agreed to support the amendments to this application

b Decisions (for information only):

App Ref: M/24/00138/FUL

Location: Stocks Farm, Suckley, Worcs, WR6 5DR

Proposal: Installation of a roof mounted photovoltaic solar array on the Tractor barn

Application has been approved

Decision noted by the Parish Council

The Clerk has been notified by the Clerk to Cradley parish council of two planning applications at Upper Barrow, Hop Kiln Barn to convert two barns to residential use. This site is in Cradley but on the border with Suckley. There are three neighbouring properties identified as being in Suckley so it was agreed the Clerk should write a courtesy letter to them advising of the intended development.

107/24 PLAYING FIELD

All items and issues relating to playing field, pavilion, astro turf, play equipment etc.

(a) Contract with Worcester Utd for consideration.

There needs to be a conversation with Worcester United before the next meeting. There is a problem with drainage and it could cost £3,000 to rectify. Funding may be available.

(b) Formation of Playing Field Committee.

Members are needed to make a committee. Cllrs Lewis and Roper will speak to people who might be interested. Cllr Mansell will also speak to Carol Luton for her advice.

(c) Online booking system

Cllr Mansell has found a system and will send a link to Cllrs to evaluate.

(d) Playbark

Matting would be a better option for the play equipment. R Wilks installs matting so it was agreed he should supply a price.

108/24 LENGTHSMAN

Suckley's Lengthsman Mr Rob Wilks was in attendance to update the parish council on the work he has been doing in the parish. Strimming and clearing drains and gullies remain ongoing. He was asked about the White House crossroads but said he can only cut back one metre into the corner. Any resident can report road problems to Worcestershire CC via the online portal on the Worcestershire.gov.uk webpage.

109/24 COMMUNITY - Projects/items for discussion/update:-

(a) Village Show

Will now come under the auspices of the Playing Fields.

(b) Parish Survey

Is now concluded. The results are published on the website.

(c) Notice Boards

The board removed from the bus shelter is not weatherproof so a new one is needed for the Memorial Ground, where it will be fixed to the rails. Another board is needed for The Cross Keys. Clerk to circulate some details of boards and prices.

(d) Newsletter

To be discussed at the October meeting.

(e) Parish Map

With thanks to Cllrs Mansell and Roper, further progress had been made with the map. There were 16 entries which had been agreed in principle although in the

event of another potential entry becoming known, it would be possible to create headroom by combining two existing ones. Cllr Ormerod said that of the 16, all but 3 were completed, and of these, 2 (The Hop Shed and Lower House Dairy) had only recently been invited to contribute. The remaining 1 (The Bruff) had recently been hastened for a reply. The next steps, to update the credits on the board, could now be taken and a final version presented to the council before discussing with the artwork designer.

Cllr Ormerod was thanked for his work on the map.

- (f) **Defibrillator, training & Buddy system**
Anne Lewis – needs health professionals to provide training and take forward to provide support. Lisa checks the one at the school. The Bruff – bought it themselves and do their checks and maintenance. The Dairy have agreed to site a new defibrillator. Proposed by Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell to follow up the recent email to provide a defibrillator. Cllr Lewis will speak to Alfrick to consider one on Crews Hill.
- (g) **SPACE/BFG email**
An email has been received from Catherine Armstrong, Chair of the Suckley Festival (previously BFG). They have declined the PC's offer to use the Playing Field and have rescinded their offer to hold the festival on alternate years. Also the three SPACE marquees and marquee erecting party will not be available to assist the Suckley Show. They also give notice that they intend to continue holding the festival as an annual event.
Anne Lewis will feed back to the Suckley Festival that the PC is happy to work with them.
- (h) **Correspondence including Facebook**
Suckley Parish Council 2024 is not the parish councils official Facebook page. It's thought to be linked to the previous chairs private account. The PC does not have it's own page so Cllr Mansell is going to create a PC account and link a page to it and use the parish map as a logo. He will also email Steve Gray and ask him to remove Suckley Parish Council 2024.

110/24 FORWARD PLANNING

The councils recent objectives have mainly been for the Playing Field so Cllr Mansell thought it would be good to consider 2, 5 and 10 year plans for other items. Agreed to leave to a later meeting.

111/24 FINANCE

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) Gen Fund:

SmartCut Ltd £240.00 – cutting on 14/06/2024 & 27/06/2024

RDL Transport Solutions £60 – rolling playing fields

L Butler £579.82 – clerks salary June 2024

PCC of Suckley £30 – room hire

(b) Playing Field A/c

WaterPlus D/D for June - £11.65

Above accounts paid on proposal of Cllr Roper, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous.

(c) Bank signatories

Following the resignation of Steve Gray it was agreed that he is removed as a bank signatory and that Cllr R Lewis, Cllr R Roper and Cllr A Mansell be added as signatories.

112/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Newsletter frequency – October meeting

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Next meeting: Monday 12th August 2024, 7:30pm in Suckley Primary School