

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 24th October 2011 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Mr Peter Whatley and Mr Barry Kearley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office & Code of Conduct undertaking before taking part in the meeting, and were formally co-opted onto the Council.

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr L Devenish,
Cllr A Grieve, Cllr R Harward, Cllr P Whatley, Cllr B Kearley,
Cllr C Luton

Apologies: Dist Cllrs David Hughes and Anthony Warburton, Co Cllr Clive Smith,
Mr Richard Harward & Mr Peter Markins (Footpaths Wardens)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

The Chairman, Cllr A W Huband, welcomed the two newly co-opted Councillors onto the Parish Council.

Declaration of interests – None declared

Public Question Time/Participation -

Report from County Councillor - No Report

Report from District Cllrs – No Report

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman was doing very well. No problems.

Footpath Wardens Report - Cllr Mrs R Harward read out a report from the Footpath Wardens. Since the September Report a new 4-way direction post at Upper House had been installed. The Wardens also checked the ditch crossing below Chapels Farm. Two Finger Posts had been sawn and snapped off at the base and stolen from Crews Hill in August. These have now been replaced. A query about field boundaries and directions of Rights of Way had now been investigated and re-signed where necessary. The boundary between Baston Hall and land owned by the Walker's at Knightwick did not seem to be clearly marked. The footpath that runs towards Winthill through a small piece of woodland needed clearing.

Local Police – No Report

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2011 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 3rd and 10th October were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

99/11 COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr A Grieve reported that the Community Plan teams now needed some money to move the Plan forward, and he was looking for funding from the Parish Council and from Co Cllr Clive Smith's Parish Budget. All the volunteers were very enthusiastic, with the Community

Newsletter now being self funded through advertising. Mark Malloy was now ready to do the survey work to create an appropriate Community Plan, based upon evidence and information gleaned from parishioners. The Clerk confirmed that she had budgeted £300 for the current year and £400 for 2012/13. Plans were in hand for a Diamond Jubilee Fete in June 2012, and it was hoped that perhaps the Parish Council could give the children of the parish a commemorative mug or coin to mark this event. After some discussion, it was Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr C Luton that the Parish Council allocate a budget to give a commemorative coin or mug to all children up to the age of 11 in the parish or attending Suckley School.

100/11 WOODLAND ROAD

The Clerk reported that work should be near to completion on Woodland Road. The pipe work draining water from the Woodland Road area and Edward Holloway's field now feeds into an 9" pipe, which means that although the water is now diverted from Woodland Road residents, it will now flood across the road and into the field the other side. Paul Bingham from Festival had suggested that part of the £2K held by the Council be used for the Lengthsman to widen and deepen the ditch on the other side of the road, which goes on to Severn Trent land and their ditch which is overgrown and filled with rubbish. Ideally, there needs to be a culvert under the road. The Clerk was asked to contact Severn Trent about clearing their ditch from Knightwick Road to the sewerage works. Highways to be contacted about the culvert, though it was felt unlikely this would happen. For the moment the Council agreed to keep the £2K in hand to cover Lengthsman costs and other future work that might be needed.

101/11 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Footpaths – no further items.
- (b) Lengthsman – no further report
- (c) Grit/Salt Bins – The Clerk reported that she had ordered three grit/salt bins from Worcestershire County Council, the order being confirmed on 3rd October 2011. The cost would be £135 x 3 (delivery charges of £40 have been dropped). Locations of Parish Council Bins were - Stocks Cross Roads and each side of the Knowl. Parish Bins will be green. WCC Highway Bins are yellow. Highways/MHDC Bins are located at The Bruff, Damson Way (by the village hall car park), 3 along Birchwood Lane, 1 at Suckley Green (Knightwick Road). Stocks of grit/salt had been delivered to Alistair Griffiths (A J Griffiths Engineering, Green Acre, Suckley) last year (unknown to Suckley Parish Council). We have around 8-9 tonnes of salt/grit stored under cover at this site (with the agreement of Mr A J Griffiths). However, we need to be able to refill the green bins as and when they run out. Mr Griffiths had agreed to refill three bins at a charge of £125 plus VAT (for each topping up/refill). We need to inform him when the bins are empty/getting low, possibly by the Lengthsman checking the bins, or local residents informing us.
- (d) Cllr J Green reported to the Clerk that a domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge) had been removed. This was a large heavy cage approx 2' wide and 3' long which stopped debris getting into the main drain. This had left a dangerous 4 foot hole at the side of the road. The Clerk had reported this to County Highways as a case for urgent action (Ref 4430212). Cllr J Green reported that the Council had placed a couple of slabs over the hole as a temporary measure. He had shown this Mr G Brienza, Worcs County Council Highways Engineer, who had asked to be kept informed if an appropriate cover was not fitted within 4 weeks, as a works order had been put in for a replacement grid.

- (e) The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Mr Steve Gray of Suckley Knowl regarding the top dressing of Suckley Knowl following road repairs. She had been in touch with Mr G Brienza of Highways, but it would appear that no top dressing would be done until 2012.

102/11 SPEEDING

Cllr J Green reported that he had met up with Mr G Brienza (County Highways Engineer) regarding the locations for the VAS camera. The only site he did not like was Grove Hill, and suggested that a better site would be almost opposite the Nelson pub, where there is already a post that could be used. As far as the other locations are concerned, we will not need to put it any new posts. The Clerk was asked to write to Co Cllr Clive Smith to try and get the VAS purchased as soon as possible, and put to use.

103/11 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr R Harward reported on a meeting of the Alfrick Educational Trust. The income the Trust received had dropped considerably which has reduced the grants to students, two of whom received £500 for this year. The situation will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Cllr R Harward reported on a John Palmer Trust Meeting held on 11th October. The new Academy status for Suckley School had been a challenge, but all had gone well. The Governing Body now has additional powers in decision making. There would be an open morning on 3rd November and a presentation at 11.30 am. Jim Griffin, the oldest pupil aged 92 and the youngest would be there. There were 58 children in the school and it could go up to 70. Mr Walker has left and Miss Williams his replacement has settled in well. The Play "Alice in Wonderland" was performed in Alfrick Village Hall and was a huge success. The School trip for 5-6 years paid for by the Trust at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, was also extremely successful. Mr Walter Huband had given an area of woodland for the use of the Forest School which was very much appreciated. There appeared to be only £250 in the kitty which Mr Kington would be investigating. The request for funds to take all the children to see the Peter Pan Pantomime at Malvern Theatre and the £120 would pay for the coach. A £1,000 in future would pay for remarking the playground where the present markings used for both games and education have almost disappeared. The extended classroom and play area have been enjoyed by the reception class. The next meeting would be held on 19th March 2012.

Cllr A W Huband reported on a Suckley Charities Meeting. There was approximately £6K in the kitty. A donation had been made to the Suckley School towards purchasing another violin.

104/11 CLERK'S SALARY REVIEW

The Council agreed that the Clerk be upgraded to SCP 23 in the year 2012/13 (£454 per month) commencing at the end of April 2012. This was proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr R Harward. The Council voiced their appreciation of the work done by the Clerk throughout the year.

105/11 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A W Huband and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. **General Fund** – Clerk's expenses September/October 2011 £142.09; Clement Keys (Audit Fee for 2010/11 Accounts) £162.00; Mrs M Griffiths (payroll services April-September 2011) £25.00; A Gillett (Quarry Sign) £49.00; Lengthsman September 2011 £195 (already paid, but to be approved); Lengthsman Oct/Nov 2011 (to be advised).
- (b) The Accounts to 30th September 2011 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr R Harward.

106/11 PRECEPT 2012/13

The Council considered the proposed budget for 2012/13 which had been prepared by the Clerk. This would be an increase of £732 from the previous year. However, the Council would be paying out considerably more for additional services (budget £1,025.00) covering the grit/salt bins refilling, purchasing stocks of grit/salt, Lengthsman extra costs for VAS camera on top of other ongoing costs. After considerable discussion, the Council approved the Precept of £13,859 for 2012/13. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr A W Huband.

107/11 RISK ASSESSMENT

- (a) Cllr J Green had completed all the Risk Assessment forms. No problems to report.
- (b) Broken concrete Memorial Seat – As requested, the Clerk had contacted Festival to see if they would replace the concrete Memorial Seat, but a definite “No” was the response. It was agreed to leave the Seat as it was for the moment.

108/11 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) Cllr J Green reported that a load of conifer cuttings had been dropped down onto the Playing Field, together with the remains of a post and on it was a footpath sign. Someone had tried to drive round the all weather pitch and had got stuck. Cllr Green agreed to repair a leaking water point in the Pavilion.
- (b) Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields Challenge - Cllr A Grieve reported a grant scheme of up to £25K to provide Playing Field facilities and to protect existing Playing Fields. However, it was felt that part of the process of applying for grant funding would probably require “matched funding” from the Parish, which would not make it a viable proposition.

109/11 THE OLD QUARRY

Cllr P Whatley had brought along the new Old Quarry sign for the Council to inspect. This had been arranged by Mr Tony Gillett who would be putting the sign up. The sign read “The Quarry – This land was restored in 1975 by residents of Longley Green with the co-operation of Malvern Hills District Council and the Department of the Environment. It is owned and maintained by Suckley Parish Council. Users of this facility enter at their own risk.”

110/11 PLANNING

- (a) Cllr P Griffiths reported on the Planning Training Session organised by MHDC Planning on 13th October 2011. This covered “Permitted Development” This could prove to be a minefield for future planning applications, with the Planning Department charging £26 for “advice”. Detailed information would be available on www.planningjungle.com
- (b) Tundridge Stud – Q & A Meeting. Cllrs A Grieve, L Devenish, and J Green had attended a Q & A meeting held on site by invitation of the new Land Agent. The approach appeared to be that with the “new” policy of favouring approval of development a new application would be successful. New landscaping had been identified as a key issue, with a log cabin being better than a caravan. They did not accept that the Stud could be run without someone being on site. The Parish Council was aware that Enforcement Action regarding the removal of the caravan had not yet taken place and the Clerk was asked to follow this up with MHDC Planning Department.

111/11 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had forwarded a copy of the title registered to Worcestershire County Council to Mr A G Duncan of Whatley Weston & Fox who had offered to look into the legal situation regarding the actions taken by the County Council. She had received a letter from him stating that what we need to establish is the core document produced by the County Council when they applied for registration to see whether it was

made under the terms of the School Sites Act 1841 to 1852 and contained a right of reverter to the seller. He would be making enquiries at the Land Registry and if necessary with the County Council (the pre-registration documents may have been destroyed). He will contact the Clerk as soon as he has any further information.

- (b) Cllr L Devenish felt that Cllr R Harward's report fully covered all the ongoing school activities.

112/11 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

- (a) Further Car park sign - The Clerk reported that she had ordered another smaller sign for the car park to read "All vehicles & their contents are parked here at owner's risk" The cost would be £35.00 + VAT

113/11 COUNCILLOR NOMINATIONS

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to outstanding vacancies to various posts. Cllr P Whatley agreed to represent the Council (together with Cllr A W Huband) on Suckley Charities. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr A W Huband.

Cllr B Kearley agreed to represent the Council on the Worcs CALC Area Committee (together with Cllr A Grieve). Proposed by Cllr R Harward and seconded by Cllr J Green. This still left open vacancies on the Hill Trust and special responsibility for Police matters, together with a possible project for Suckley Landscape Character Statement in conjunction with the AONB in Malvern.

Cllr P Whatley also offered (in consultation with the Clerk) to update and maintain the Parish Council Website posted on the Worcestershire County Council Website.

114/11 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

115/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None reported.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.00 pm Monday 9th January 2012.