

## **SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Green, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A Grieve, Cllr R Harward,  
Cllr P Whatley, Cllr B Kearley, Cllr C Luton, Dist Cllr A Warburton  
Apologies: Cllr A W Huband, Dist Cllr David Hughes,  
Mr Richard Harward & Mr Peter Markins (Footpaths Wardens)  
In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

**In the absence of the Chairman Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green (Vice-Chairman) Chaired the meeting.**

**Declaration of interests – None declared**

**Public Question Time/Participation -**

#### **Report from Mr Mark Molloy – Community/Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Mr Mark Molloy reported to the Council on the progress being made since his last report in July 2011. The Group were busy working towards an “Open Meeting” to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Flyers had been distributed to all households in the parish and he was hoping for a good response. Cllr A Grieve would be opening the meeting, and this would be followed by a presentation explaining what Neighbourhood Planning/Development was all about. The last Plan put together by the Parish Council was in 2001. Although the parish had moved on since then, many aspects highlighted in that Plan had been picked up again. Flip Charts would be placed around the hall for people to write on their comments and thoughts as to what is of importance to them in Suckley. This information would then be collated into a Questionnaire to be circulated around the Parish and form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan or “Business Plan” for the Parish Council. This would then enable the Parish Council to bid for new monies to be made available by Central/Regional Government, although no established figures had yet been released. It was hoped that a draft of the Neighbourhood Plan would be ready for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. All Councillors present fully supported Mark’s initiative and the Chairman thanked him for taking the time to attend the Parish Council Meeting.

**Report from County Councillor - No Report**

**Report from District Cllrs –** Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton reported that the South West Worcestershire Plan was currently being analysed. The core of the Plan was about Worcester City expanding into the peripheral areas around the City, including Newland in Malvern Link. In some areas the proposed numbers of houses was far in excess of requirements and infrastructure and would be met with considerable opposition. Another area being scrutinised was the role of the District Council – what services should the Council be providing? Would it be a good idea to put some services out to tender? He was asking all Parish Councils to send him their thoughts and ideas as to what they wanted from MHDC. The Parish Council felt that rural roads (potholes/resurfacing etc) should be given more priority; more Planning enforcement (though it was appreciated that this was already being tackled by the District Councillors); and to stop charging people for parking in Malvern. Cllr L Devenish felt that it might not necessarily be

cost effective to put everything out to tender. The Clerk was asked to forward these comments to Dist Cllr Warburton for inclusion in a policy document for local councils.

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

**Footpath Wardens Report** - Cllr Mrs R Harward reported that as Peter Markins had been away, very little work had been done re footpaths. However, Richard Harward would be meeting up with Peter later this week, and a work plan would be put in place.

**Local Police** – No Report

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

### **01/12 COMMUNITY PLAN**

- (a) Sport Relief – The Council noted the details of Sport Relief 2012 Worcestershire which were essentially fun-runs to take place nationwide on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
- (b) HM Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee – The Clerk supplied details of commemorative mugs and coins/medals for the Jubilee. The Council decided on a vote to purchase 80 38mm gold plated solid brass medals in a Perspex case to be presented to pupils at Suckley School and other children in the parish up to the age of 11. Priced at £4.99 plus VAT and carriage. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton.
- (c) The Council noted the details of Jubilee Beacons.

### **02/12 WOODLAND ROAD**

The Clerk reported that as requested she had spoken to Severn Trent and e-mailed Gerry Brienza at County Council Highways. Mr Brienza had promised to look into the question of providing a wider culvert under the road, but he was not hopeful of a positive result. Severn Trent, however, had promised to look at the ditch from Knightwick Road to the sewerage works and if it needed clearing then it would be done. The Clerk would be chasing this up in the next few weeks.

### **03/12 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Footpaths – no further items.
- (b) Lengthsman – Cllr J Green reported that we would be running out of hours and Grant money to pay the Lengthsman for the remaining 12 weeks @ 4 hours per week from January to March 2012. (although the Lengthsman would be taking two weeks holiday during this period). However, the Lengthsman had worked for 15.50 hours doing some ditch clearing along Knightwick Road to help alleviate any road flooding problems arising from the Woodland Road scheme (see Minutes October 2011 meeting). This amounted to £186.00 which Cllr J Green felt should be taken out of the Flood Relief Grant of £2K (see Minutes October 2011 meeting). The Council unanimously agreed with this and it was proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr C Luton that £186 should be taken from this Grant money held by the Parish Council. It was also proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths that the Parish Council should fund any hours not covered by the Grant to the end of March 2012.

- (c) Grit/Salt Bins – The Clerk reported that Graham Signs were able to produce plastic labels for grit/salt bins at a price of £8 each plus VAT. These had to be pop riveted onto the bins and/or glued. The Council agreed to purchase three labels and Cllr J Green agreed to fix them to the bins in the best way possible. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr B Kearley.
- (d) The Clerk reported that the replacement domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge) had been ordered. However, this was a special order and would, therefore, take a bit longer to be made and put in place. She was liaising with Gerry Brienza on this.
- (e) Cllr J Green reported to the Clerk that a hole in the tarmac two feet deep had appeared in Blackhouse Lane and could cause the lane to collapse. The Clerk had reported this to Highways, stressing the imminent danger. A team had been sent out and had filled in the hole. Ref 4525847.

#### **04/12 SPEEDING**

The Clerk reported that as we now had all our locations approved for the VAS camera she had been trying to contact Co Cllr Clive Smith to find out when we could have the camera in place. So far, she had been unable to get hold of him, despite e-mails and telephone calls. She hoped to have a schedule in place for the next meeting in March.

#### **05/12 CHARITY REPORTS**

Nothing to report

#### **06/12 FINANCE**

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley. **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses Nov/Dec 2011 £101.73; Playing Fields Grant 2011/12 £600.00; Lengthsman Nov 2011 £243 (already paid but approval required); Lengthsman December 2011 £144.00; Lengthsman Jan 2012 (to be advised); Graham Signs (Graham Computer Services) £42.00 (car park sign); HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec 2011 £264.60; Suckley Community Group Grant £300.00; A Gillett (mowing the Old Quarry) £194.00. **Playing Field** - NPower £67.69 (already paid but approval required). Severn Trent Water £383.81 (already paid but approval required).
- (b) Donation request from Malvern CAB – the Council decided not to donate this year.
- (c) The Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr R Harward.
- (d) The Clerk informed the Council of the “capping” provisions news from NALC. These would not affect Parish Councils this coming year, but may be in force for the precept in 2013/14.
- (e) Public Works Loan – Cllr P Whatley asked the Clerk to look into the payment schedule for the Public Works Loan which was being repaid at an interest rate of 7.5%. Would it be possible to accelerate payments and/or refinance the loan in some way.

#### **07/12 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- (a) Cllr J Green had completed all the Risk Assessment forms. No problems to report.
- (b) Cllr P Whatley reported that the new Old Quarry sign board had now been put in place on the gate.

### **08/12 PLAYING FIELD**

- (a) Cllr C Luton reported a major mole problem on the playing field. She had contacted a Mole Man who would be coming out to assess the situation and hopefully deal with it.
- (b) The Clerk alerted the Council to the e-mail she had received from Came & Co (our insurance brokers) regarding conditions required to be fulfilled in order to make a successful claim for winter water damage. There was also an unoccupancy definition which meant that the building could not be unoccupied or unused for more than 45 consecutive days. The Clerk advised that the pavilion should be safety checked for electrics annually and a safety certificate issued. Cllr C Luton agreed to find and check the most recent safety certificate. The Clerk also asked about the showers and any risk of contamination/Legionnaires disease, but this was not considered to be a problem with the pavilion showers.

### **09/12 PLANNING**

The Council noted the following information/refusals/permissions/appeals made by MHDC Planning :-

- (a) Application No 11/01378/FUL - Proposed Agricultural Dutch Barn for hay and straw storage with lean to for sheep – Location: Land at OS 7221 5321 Suckley, Worcs  
Applicant: Mr Alistair Griffiths. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**
- (b) Application No 11/01108/LBC – Proposal for extending house into bottom of Oast roof void – Location: The Oast House, White House Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DP.  
Applicant: A Tonks. **LISTED BUILDING CONSENT APPROVED.**
- (c) Ref: 11/01569/AGR. Mr R Hill, Agricultural building for the storage of hay/sreaw implements. Land at OS 7352 5099 Suckley, Worcs. Information from Mr Tony Young, Planning Officer MHDC. Application submitted on the basis that the development would be permitted development (PD) under Part 6, Class A of The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 1995 (GPDO)). In view of the sensitive AONB landscape setting, the LPA has given notice that the prior approval of siting, design and external appearance of the building is required. As sufficient information has already been submitted, no further information will be required.
- (d) Tundridge Stud - The Clerk reported that as requested she had followed up the Enforcement Action being taken by MHDC Planning. She had received an e-mail from Paul Clements to the effect that the matter had been passed to the District Council's Legal Team to proceed with a prosecution for non-compliance issued on 21<sup>st</sup> October
- (e) The Council considered the following application:-  
App Ref: 11/01694/HOU  
Proposal: Replace existing workshop building with new workshop and annexe  
Accommodation over for dependant relative  
Location: Lingen, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DG  
Applicant: Mr Alan Curtis  
The Council recommended "Refusal". It viewed this as a completely new Residential dwelling. The Clerk to forward this to MHDC Planning.

### **10/12 WORCESTERSHIRE AGREEMENT**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Worcestershire Agreement to all Councillors, asking for their comments and views on the sections they felt the Council could sign up to in time for the next meeting in March.

### **11/12 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

- (a) Ownership of Suckley School site – the Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Andrew Duncan of Whatley Weston & Fox who was looking into this situation on behalf of the Parish Council. He felt it was crucial to try and find the deed/document which Cllr A W Huband and others had seen. However, he would be writing to Worcestershire County Council to try and establish the basis on which their Lease was required given that the school had operated from the site since 1876 without any lease having been executed. The Council asked the Clerk to speak to Mr Duncan again to see if he would write to Mr Edward Holloway stressing the importance and urgency of finding this deed/document gifting the school site to the Parish. This may well have a reversionary interest clause in it which could be of benefit to Mr Holloway or his family in the future.
- (b) Cllr L Devenish reported that the number of pupils enrolled was now 61. There had been lots of activity over the Christmas period with the pantomime, nativity play and carol concert. Suckley Post Office had made a generous donation towards the cost of the Travelling Theatre coming to the school. This coming term, the children were focusing on local history, with a trip to Hartlebury Castle planned.

### **12/12 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

- (a) Further Car park sign - The Clerk reported that the smaller sign for the car park to read “All vehicles & their contents are parked here at owner’s risk” was now ready for collection. The cost £35.00 + VAT = £42.00

### **13/12 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing.

### **14/12 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Public Works Loan

Parish Council Website – photos needed please.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.00 pm Monday 12th March 2012.**