

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 10th SEPTEMBER 2012 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr P Whatley, Cll L Devenish,
(Cllr A Lewis – co-opted at this meeting)

Apologies: Co Cllr C Smith, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A Grieve, Mr Richard Harward
& Mr Peter Markiss (Footpaths Wardens)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllrs D Hughes & A Warburton

The Chairman, Cllr A W Huband, opened the meeting by welcoming a new Councillor onto the Council – Dr Anne Lewis - who signed the Acceptance of Office and completed her Register of Interests. Dr Lewis was then duly co-opted onto the Council.

Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other Disclosable Interests
Cllr P Whatley declared an interest in Agenda Item 3.1 (School Transport Charges) and left the room when this item was discussed.

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation - The notes of which are appended to these Minutes.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Clive Smith had asked the Clerk to report that in response to the many complaints he had received regarding School Transport Charges, he was organising a petition. Dist Cllr D Hughes reported that he had received a letter from the Headmaster of the Chase School about this situation, and how it would have an effect on school numbers. The Council asked the Clerk to write to Co Cllr Clive Smith stating their support for his petition.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr D Hughes reported to the Council on the South Worcestershire Development Plan (significant changes). This draft would be presented to Council on 27th September. A lot of difficulties were being experienced with the implementation and acceptance of this Plan, especially as the Government had not yet found the time to revoke the Regional Strategy Plan imposed by the previous Government. He stressed that this Development Plan covered a 20 year period, with many factors having to be taken into account – employment and infrastructure for example being just two. The District Council was still working hard to alleviate fuel poverty, with the promotion of insulation grants, the bulk purchase of oil and ongoing negotiations with LPG suppliers. A bulk oil purchasing scheme had already been taken up in Alfrick parish. The Council had also signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant – helping retired and injured service personnel and signed up to a Dignity Code/duty of care for older people in the community. He drew the attention of the Council to the Countryside Alliance Rural Oscars – nominating businesses which had made a positive difference to rural life. The Clerk to put details in the News Letter.

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

Footpath Wardens Report - The Clerk read out a report from Mr Richard Harward and Mr Peter Markins. The circular route mentioned in the July report had now been signed up and should be a very pleasant walk. The Wardens had cleared more windblown trees which had fallen across the Worcestershire Way north of Longley Green. Several holes had appeared in the track which could easily break a horse's leg should it step into one. Below Grove Hill they had helped Richard Barnes improve the signing of the Right of Way. The Clerk was asked to write and thank the Wardens for their hard work.

Local Police – The Clerk read out the Crime Figures from CSO Martin Butcher. July 2012 – 5 ASB, 0 violent crime, 1 burglary, 1 theft, 0 criminal damage. August 2012 – 0 ASB, 1 assault, 1 burglary, 1 theft, 0 criminal damage, 1 RTC. The Council were concerned to hear reports about the increase in incidents in the parish, especially relating to noise and general anti-social behaviour which Police records did not necessarily reveal. The Council asked the Clerk to liaise with the local CSO and Sarah Ransome Williams, ask for an official Police Report and write to Festival Housing about the problem areas.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th July 2012 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green

89/12 WOODLAND ROAD

The Clerk reported little progress with the request for a culvert under Knightwick Road. Gerry Brienza had e-mailed to ask if Festival Housing might be able to do this work, but this was obviously not an option the Parish Council could take up. It was agreed that we should keep plugging away and hope that eventually the County Council would do the work.

90/12 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Footpaths – nothing further to report.
- (b) (i) Lengthsman – Cllr J Green reported that the VAS camera in Alfrick had registered 1,328 speeding hits in six days.
- (c) Replacement of domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge). The new solution to this was in the “system” but so far no work had yet started.

91/12 SPEEDING ISSUES

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had sent the speed data collected by the VAS to David Perridge, Traffic Management Advisor of the Safer Roads Team. He would be getting back to her in due course. He had advised that West Mercia did not operate Speedwatch Teams. These had been trialled, but they had caused problems with local motorists. Speed monitoring and assessment had taken place close to the Village Hall/BT phone box along Knightwick Road on 21st and 23rd August, but on each occasion only one vehicle was found to have exceeded the 30 mph limit by more than 4 mph (the usual leeway allowed before prosecution).

92/12 CHARITY REPORTS

No Reports

93/12 COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr P Whatley reported on behalf of Cllr A Grieve. A reasonable response had been received from the Community Plan Survey which had been sent out to all households in the parish and near to the parish boundary. The Council agreed that it would be preferable to hold a separate meeting to analyse the results of the survey as there was insufficient time at the present meeting. The date was fixed for Monday 1st October at 7.00 pm. The Clerk to circulate papers prior to the meeting.

94/12 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr C Luton - **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses July/August 2012 £136.52; Clerk’s office/overheads Apr-Sept 2012 £125.00; Lengthsman July 2012 £321.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman – Woodland Road Flood Defence Maintenance July 2012 £12.00; Lengthsman August 2012 £141.00; Lengthsman September 2012 (to be advised); HMRC PAYE July/August/September 2012 £272.40; J Green – Lengthsman Management Apr-Sept 2012 £144.00; Worcs Calc Meeting 19/09/12 £10.00; T Gillet – Quarry Strimmer repairs £85.63
Playing Fields - D Reynolds Mowing/Rolling Playing Field June/July 2012 £146.00 (already paid but to be approved); D Reynolds Mowing Playing Field August 2012 £100.00. The Council agreed not to renew the CPRE subscription – proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr C Luton.
- (b) The Accounts to 31st July 2012 were approved. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green.
- (c) Closing of Accounts - The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council Capital Account No 2449741 had been closed and the monies transferred to the Business Reserve Account No 24445843. Playing Fields – the Business Reserve Account No 24425478 had been closed and the monies moved to Playing Field Account No 24433527

95/12 RISK ASSESSMENT

- (a) Cllr P Whatley and Cllr C Luton had completed the Risk Assessment forms on behalf of Cllr J Green. Cllr J Green to have a look at the roof on the bus shelter at Stocks Cross.

96/12 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton reported that Leigh & Bransford Badgers had been using the Playing Field and wanted to speak to the Parish Council. At the moment they pay £25 per game. However, since this was first mentioned, nothing further had been said to her about a meeting. Cllr J Green raised the question of the Lengthsman clearing round the all weather pitch, and it was agreed this should be done. Cllr J Green reported that there was a great deal of water on the road just before the Playing Field entrance, even during the dry weather. Two years ago the Water Bill was £196 and the latest Water Bill was £588. He suspected there was a leak in the water pipe. The water meter was by the cottage further up the road. The pipe from the meter was the Playing Fields’ responsibility, Severn Trent only pay up to the meter. Cllr J Green to get the Lengthsman to look into the manhole and see if it was full of water, and to check if the meter was functioning correctly. The meter was in the lane, and vehicles regularly run over it, so it might be damaged. Cllr C Luton agreed to look into this and report back.

97/12 OIL PURCHASING COLLECTIVE

Cllr A W Huband reported that there would be a meeting at the Nelson on 13th September at 7.30 pm.

98/12 PLANNING

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

- (a) Proposed agricultural building for storage of hay and machinery. Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ. Permission **Refused**. (An Appeal had been lodged)
- (b) Duggans House, Blackhouse Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DP Ref: 12/00798/HOU Construction of detached timber frame and clad garage – Permission **Approved**.
- (c) Bells Bank, Birchwood Road, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DT
Two storey extension & alterations, reformation of driveway/access to Highway and change of use of land at rear from agriculture to residential curtilage. Full Planning Permisson **Approved**.
- (d) To consider the following Planning Application :-
App Ref No: 12/01097/LBC Grid Ref: E 371359 N 251366
Suckley Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EH
Applicant: Mr Steven Jelfs
Proposal: Orangery and breakfast room extensions

The Council considered the above application, and recommended Approval.

99/12 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Cllr P Whatley reported on the Mobile Library Service within the Parish. At the present time there were approximately 11 users of this Service. The Mobile Library was keen to increase its numbers of users in rural areas, and the possible use of the school as a location had been discussed with Cllr Whatley. The Clerk was asked to write to MHDC to find out if it would be possible to make an extra call at the school. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.

100/12 WASTE INCINERATION

The Clerk had been contacted by the Clerk of Hartlebury regarding a proposed development of a Waste Incinerator in Hartlebury. Hartlebury Parish Council had very great concerns about this development, especially the future financial impact of PFI funding when less expensive, safer and greener alternatives existed. Hartlebury were asking other Parish Councils to lobby County and District Councillors to look into the alternatives and re-examine the proposals. After some discussion, the Council asked the Clerk to write in the first instance to District Councillor David Hughes to ask for his views on this matter. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr J Green.

101/12 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that an Open Meeting was planned for early November when it was hoped that the architect would provide “visuals” for people to look at. It was vitally important for this meeting to be well attended to get a representative body of opinion. The changes within the Church building were necessary for the future wellbeing of the church. Once plans, ideas and potential costings have been agreed, then the fundraising could start. The number of people using the church building was dwindling, and there was no future for the church to just stand still.

102/12 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from the County Archivist at The Hive in Worcester regarding the Parish Council Minute Books. They unfortunately did not have any Books covering the period 1874 – 76. However, they did have some School Minute Books from 1903 together with various deeds and other school papers. Cllrs A W Huband and P Whatley felt that it would be worth looking at these. The Clerk to enquire further.
- (b) Cllr L Devenish reported that the number of pupils registered at the School now stood at 69 – the highest number ever. The Head Teacher, Matt Meckin, had secured funding for an extension to the school.

103/12 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

104/12 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No items raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.00 pm Monday 12th November 2012

NOTES ON PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two residents of Pewcroft Cottages, Knightwick Road, drew the attention of the Council to a potentially dangerous deep dip/subsidence in the road, opposite their cottage. This was partly on a bend in the road and was difficult to see. The Clerk was asked to report this to County Highways as a matter of urgency.