

# SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr P Whatley,  
Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A Grieve, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A Lewis

Apologies: Cllr B Kearley, Mr Richard Harward & Mr Peter Markins (Footpaths)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, Dist Cllr D Hughes,  
Co Cllr P Tuthill.  
Mrs D Holloway, Revd A Bullock, Mr P Sherriff (Suckley School)

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

**No interests declared and no applications for dispensation had been received by the Clerk**

### **Public Question Time/Participation**

Mr B Lambert and his Agent attended the meeting. Mr Lambert stated he was seeking compensation for having to reinstate the track at Mousehole/Tundridge, which had been removed by Mr Hayes of Tundridge Stud. He was advised to take any problems up with MHDC Planning Department, rather than the Parish Council, who had no control over Planning decisions. The Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with MHDC Planning Dept regarding the notification of reinstatement.

### **SPECIAL ITEM – BROUGHT FORWARD - SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

#### **88/13 SUCKLEY SCHOOL (1)**

As promised Co Cllr Paul Tuthill had been in touch with the County Council legal Department regarding the paperwork for the application to and consequent agreement by the Land Registry to grant Absolute Title to the County Council for Suckley School in 2005. The Legal Department had circulated paperwork relating to their application, including work done by their senior conveyancer Mr Peter Lyons. His research had revealed the same records as the Chairman, Cllr A W Huband and Cllr P Whatley had found when they visited The Hive in Worcester. Cllr P Whatley had looked at all these papers, and it appeared that the claim to the property derived from Schedule 2 of the 1902 Education Act which compulsorily transferred all School Board property to the Council acting as the Local Education Authority. The ownership of the property, therefore, was correctly vested in Worcestershire County Council. The registration in 2005 was legitimate and, therefore, we had no grounds to challenge the ownership of the school. However, there was a possibility of a reversionary clause being contained in the original deeds, and if this was the case, it would affect the ownership of the property should it cease to be a school at any time in the future. If this could be found, along with the original deeds, there would be grounds to seek to add this documentation to the Land Registry entry, and the school would then revert back to the ownership of the Parish/Church/Trustees as the case may be. Mr P Sherriff felt that there would almost certainly be a reversionary clause attached to the deeds. He also added that

Mr Peter Lyons was highly regarded in his profession, and would have undertaken very diligent research into this matter. The County Council had been granted Absolute Title which in effect was a guarantee, and was only subject to rectification if better evidence could be produced. Cllr A W Huband confirmed that he had seen this original deed, produced by Mrs Holloway (senior) and Mrs Pat Perks, a former Clerk to the Council and Suckley School secretary had also seen it. It was noted that there was a reversionary clause in the draft deed which had been found at The Hive. Mrs D Holloway suggested that the Clerk contact Mr Geoff Brewin in Alfrick to see if he could help in any way, as the two schools had been linked by a School Board in the past. It was proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley that the Clerk write to the Alfrick Educational Trust to see if they had any documentation relating to the School Board of Alfrick & Suckley Schools up to and including 1905. The Clerk would also try and locate the Minutes of Suckley PC Meetings held in 1983/84 (when school closures were first advocated) and November 1996 (when the question of ownership of the school house was raised) to see if there were any useful references. Mr P Sheriff agreed to liaise with Cllr A W Huband regarding affidavits from himself and Mrs Pat Perks. Cllr A Lewis and Cllr L Devenish agreed to look into the Church Chancellors Box records (as suggested by the Revd A B ullock).

### **The Meeting re-opened for Public Question Time/Participation**

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. MalvernLink Station was still in the process of refurbishment, but this should be completed by Christmas. The Fire Station in Malvern Link was also being rebuilt. The County Council was also looking at bus services to see if they could be self funding.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllrs A Warburton and D Hughes reported to the meeting. Dist Cllr D Hughes confirmed that from 12<sup>th</sup> November MHDC would be taking over responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions in Malvern. The Job Centre in Malvern was moving to the Hub in Malvern Library by the end of November. The Council was looking at forward planning and budgets, with further reductions being needed. There was a deficit in 2014/15 and again in 2015/16, but the Council was doing its best to avoid cutting back on essential services. The Inspector had now looked at the South Worcestershire Development Plan and had asked for additional information on the predictions in the Plan. It was looking very likely that an increase in the number of dwellings would have to be included in the final Plan. MHDC was being left very exposed as the Inspectors might well find in favour of development in the absence of an approved Plan. This Phase I Report should be back to the Inspector by the end of the year.

**Lengthsman Report** - Cllr J Green – no problems to report. Cllr A Lewis asked if the Lengthsman could tidy up the path to the church door and have a look at the way the church gate closed. It was proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths that the Lengthsman together with Cllr J Green look into this.

**Footpath Wardens Report** – The Clerk had received a brief Report from the Parish Path Wardens. They had been somewhat limited in their activities recently due to Peter Markins knee operation. However, they were always on call and had followed various enquiries regarding direction signs, finger posts and stiles. The Countryside Department was undergoing another re-organisation. In the future, materials would be supplied direct from the suppliers and not held in stock.

**Local Police** – Crime figures in Suckley for October were reported as 4 ASB – nil for other offences.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.

### **89/13 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Footpaths – nothing further to report.
- (b) Lengthsman – nothing further to report.
- (c) Replacement of domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge). Ref 4430212. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Gerry Brienza on this – a metal replacement dome had been placed on order.
- (d) Drainage Issues - Tom Palmer of the LDA
  - (i) Holloways Garden Centre & Blackhouse Lane – now completed
  - (ii) Silted ditch at Corner Cottage – Tom Palmer had written to the owner requesting that it be cleared.
  - (iii) Holloways Garden Centre – blocked ditch/road drains. This ditch causes problems as it outfalls directly to the road. Tom Palmer had met with the Lengthsman and Cllr J Green and found there was also a blockage in the road drainage pipes further down, so Tom Palmer would be passing this onto Highways for action.
  - (iv) Flooding and Drainage Mapping – The Clerk had received a request from Tom Palmer to assist his team by marking drains and flood spots on a digital map. This was causing problems for a number of parishes, so he was more than happy to receive information marked on paper maps, which could then be transferred digitally at a later date. Cllr J Green agreed to oversee this.
  - (v) Riparian Ownership & Highway Drainage Report/Contacts – a copy of this was passed to Cllr J Green for his information.
- (e) Drain outside The Batch, Suckley (Ref 5709836) - it seemed likely that damage to this drain had been caused by Severn Trent. Highways would be contacting Severn Trent about this.
- (f) Drain Gulley opposite Crews Court, Suckley (Ref 5709863). Cllr J Green reported that the Jetting Team had been working on this, and it was now cleared.
- (g) Ice Warning Signs – Longley Green near to the Bruff and by the bridge. The Clerk reported that she had chased this (yet again) and amazingly the original request appeared to have been lost “in the system”! The only option left was to re-order the signs – which she had done. (Ref No 5616028).
- (h) Potholes in Birchwood Lane had been reported by Mr Bill Holden (Ref 5803497)
- (i) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082) The Clerk had reported these to Highways and they were in the system to be done.
- (j) Grit/Salt Order 2014/15. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Alistair Griffiths to check on stocks. They had around 6 bags left, but when these had been used up they would not be storing any more. After consulting with Cllr J Green, she had ordered a further supply of 6 x 1 tonne bags of salt/grit to be delivered to DJR Farm Services (Duncan Reynolds) so we would be ready for whatever the coming winter might bring. Co Cllr Paul Tuthill asked the Clerk to send him a list of outstanding Highways problems. He would then arrange for a meeting with Highways/Gerry Brienza/Cllr J Green and the Lengthsman to try and get all these issues resolved as speedily as possible. However, it made economic sense to cluster work together, rather than making one off journeys to the Parish.
- (k) The Clerk was asked to find out what had happened about the white painted stones outside the White House, which had not been removed.

### **90/13 SPEEDING ISSUES**

VAS Camera - The Clerk reported that Suckley data had been downloaded onto the laptop, but there were still problems with the software. This had resulted in the laptop having to go back to PC World to be sorted out. She would be contacting Westotec to try and sort out the software issues.

### **91/13 CHARITY REPORTS**

- (a) The Clerk had circulated the Charity Reports from Alfrick Educational Charity and the John Palmer Trust. Cllr P Whatley reported that a meeting of Suckley Charities had been held on 25<sup>th</sup> September. There were no requests for disbursements. The next meeting would be held in 2014.
- (b) Hill Trust (Village Hall) - The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Mr Mo Dutta informing her of his resignation from the Chairmanship of the Village Hall Committee/The Hill Trust. Cllr P Whatley reported that at the request of the Clerk he had attended an informal meeting of the Hill Trust Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> October. This meeting had been called by Steve Boughton, and included representation from Suckley PCC as well as Suckley Parish Council. At the present time the Hill Trust/Village Hall was solvent, but its finances for the future were precarious. The forward plan presented by Steve Boughton was to do a survey of residents of the Parish to see if there was support for the village hall, and if so, there would be an appeal to use/financially support the hall/events in the future. The Village Supper had been cancelled, but the Christmas Fayre was still going ahead.

### **92/13 COMMUNITY PLAN/GROUP**

- (a) Defibrillator - Cllr A Lewis reported that around 20 names had now been put forward for training in basic first aid/Heart Start training linked to the defibrillator. In view of the extra cost of the special outside box to hold the defibrillator, Co Cllr Tuthill offered to increase his matched funding if this was found necessary. However, he reported that the Fire Service was also offering training, and it might be worthwhile linking up with Alfrick and Leigh if they were interested. Cllr A Lewis agreed to look into the various schemes and costs of defibrillators/training. Permission had been given for the defibrillator to be stationed on an outside wall of Suckley School. The Council agreed to place an order at the January 2014 meeting.
- (b) First World War Centenary – 2014. The Clerk had circulated a copy of an e-mail she had sent to Hilary Pitt/Andrew Grieve outlining ideas for the centenary of the First World War in 2014. This included a poppy planting scheme/an exhibition of names and photos/papers related to the men from the Parish who had given their lives in the First World War and the possibility of a memorial. There was funding available from the Heritage Trust for projects related to the First World War, including memorials. Cllr A Grieve and Cllr P Whatley agreed to look into the costings etc. of a memorial. The Clerk to find out more about the poppy planting scheme.

### **93/13 BROADBAND SERVICE**

There was still no meaningful information from Worcs County Council regarding download speeds throughout the County. Cllr P Whatley would be keeping an eye on the situation.

### **94/13 FINANCE**

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses Sept/Oct 2013 £80.86; Clerk’s office overheads April – Sept 2013 £125.00; Lengthsman - September 2013

£135.00; Lengthsman - October 2013 £240.00; Lengthsman - November 2013 (to be advised); N Denley (tree felling – Quarry - £150.00); BGS Lengthsman – Flood Defence Services Sept 2013 £12.00; BGS Lengthsman – VAS services October 2013 £23.50; J Green L/Man Management April – Sept 2013 £144.

**Playing Fields** - NPower (Pavilion) £59.14; DJR Farm Services (Playing Field services) £325.00; N Denley (tree felling at the Playing Fields) - £260.00

- (b) **Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

### **95/13 CLERK'S SALARY REVIEW 2014/15**

The Clerk's present salary point was SCP 24. The Council unanimously approved an upgrade to SCP 25 for the year 2014/15 – commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. This was an increase of 45p per hour on present rates – an annual gross salary of £5,780 (rounded figure). Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

### **96/13 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- (a) Cllr J Green reported no problems.

### **97/13 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

Cllr C Luton reported damage to the wire netting surrounding the all weather surface. The damage had been repaired by Cllr J Green and Duncan Reynolds, but soon after this repair the netting had been damaged again on another side of the pitch. Cllr C Green had now got the bollard, so it just needed to be put in place, with a notice alerting drivers that there was no turning facility. Cllr C Green agreed to look into the costing of a CCTV camera..

### **98/13 PLANNING**

- (a) The Council noted the following information/refusals/permissions/appeals made by MHDC Planning :-
- (i) App Ref No: 13/01111/AGR  
Location: Fields 9251 & 2660 – Nr Mousehole Bridge/Tundridge Stud  
Suckley, Worcs. WR6 5DR  
Applicant: Mr W Lambert (via Agent)  
Proposal: Replacement Track  
**Approved** – Agricultural & Forestry Development – subject to :-  
(1) Prior notification of the means of construction of the track in the form of cross sectional drawings at a scale of 1:20 at 50 metre intervals  
(2) This decision made on the basis that the use of the land is confined to agriculture or forestry as defined in Section 336 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.
- (ii) App Ref No: 13/00727/OUT  
Location: Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DU  
Applicants: Messrs G & D Peplow C/O Agent Mr Roy Vallis  
Proposal: Outline application for 2 detached dwellings with associated parking  
And landscaping  
**Outline Planning Permission Refused**

### **99/13 MALVERN HILLS AONB**

The Council noted the condition survey being carried out in the area by Malvern Hills AONB.

**100/13 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllrs Liz Devenish and Anne Lewis reported that flyers had been sent out all round the parish and a consultation had taken place. As a result of this, plans had been modified. The architect was now drawing up another plan.

**101/13 SUCKLEY SCHOOL (2)**

Cllr Liz Devenish reported that with the departure of Matt Meekin for a larger headship in Worcester, an interim management plan was being put in place until a new permanent Head Teacher could be appointed in September 2014.

**102/13 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing.

**103/13 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Precept – 2014/15

New Model Standing Orders & Code of Conduct

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.00 pm**