

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 13th JANUARY 2014 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 A Lewis

Apologies: Cllr B Kearley, Cllr L Devenish, Dist Cllr D Hughes

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, Co Cllr P Tuthill.

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 - no members of the public were present

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. Bromsgrove Railway Station was going to be redeveloped and there could possibly be a link to Worcester Parkway at Norton in the future. Train services to Birmingham would then be greatly increased. Other future proposals included the improvement of the Southern Link road, the roundabout by the Ketch and the link then to the M5. A decision had also been made to continue to use the waste incinerator at Hartlebury. A number of Fire Stations were going to have to be closed down, but Malvern Fire Station was going to remain and was in fact being rebuilt. A Consultation was taking place on Bus Services which were heavily subsidised with some routes costing many thousands of pounds, (including the services in the Suckley and Alfrick areas). As far as Highways were concerned, he proposed having a meeting with the Lengthsman/Cllrs/Gerry Brienza from Highways to look round the parish and see the problem areas. He would be getting in touch with the Clerk re suitable dates. County Highways had also recently invested in new snow clearing equipment. Co Cllr Tuthill also agreed to donate funding out of his Parish Council budget towards purchasing a defibrillator for the Parish and for renewing playing field equipment. This would, of course, be subject to the Parish Council match funding from its own resources.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr A Warburton reported to the meeting. He highlighted the difficulties MHDC Planning were facing with developers applying for planning permission to build, taking advantage of the lack of an approved South West Worcestershire Strategy for planning and development. This was particularly a problem in Leigh Sinton where applications had been put forward to develop in the rural “ significant gap” areas between Leigh Sinton and Malvern. He confirmed that Central Government policy was in favour of converting certain types of business/office buildings to residential use.

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green – no problems to report.

Footpath Wardens Report – No Report

Local Police – Crime figures in Suckley for December were reported as NIL.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2013 were approved and signed, subject to an amendment. The person attending the meeting with Mr B Lambert on 11th November was Mr R Westwood (**not** Mr Lambert's Agent). Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 6th January were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green. .

02/14 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 Gerry Brienza had e-mailed to say that a metal grid had now been put in place. However, Cllr J Green reported that this grid design would not work properly as the concrete slab was still in place, reducing the flow of water. This resulted in mud and silt building up, and the road was still being flooded. The Council agreed that this should be one of the problem areas to be looked at when Co Cllr Tuthill and Gerry Brienza visited the parish.
- (d) Drainage Issues - Tom Palmer of the LDA
 - (i) Holloways Garden Centre & Blackhouse Lane – now completed
 - (ii) Silted ditch at Corner Cottage – all required work now completed.
 - (iii) Holloways Garden Centre – blocked ditch/road drains. This ditch caused problems with outfalls directly to the road. According to the Worcs Hub this was now designated as “Advisory only.” New Ref 5765619.
- (e) Drain outside The Batch, Suckley (Ref 5709836) - This had now been designated “ongoing” i.e. no time frame.
- (f) Drain Gulley opposite Crews Court, Suckley (Ref 5709863). This would be done “as and when”.
- (g) Ice Warning Signs – Longley Green near to the Bruff and by the bridge. New Ref 58860115. Amazingly these had now been put in place!
- (h) Potholes in Birchwood Lane (reported by Mr Bill Holden (Ref 5803497)
The Hub had informed the Clerk that these had been filled in, but it appeared that these potholes needed to be refilled again. Preferably the road should be totally resurfaced.
- (i) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082) Some larger potholes had been filled in, but they all needed to be refilled , including the smaller ones. The lane should be resurfaced as above.
- (j) The Clerk had made further enquiries about the white painted stones outside the White House, which had not been removed. The response from the County Council was to ask if there were any stones/boulders anywhere else on verges in the parish, as they have to be seen to be operating a fair system of removal. The Council was not aware of any other infringements and the Clerk was instructed to ensure that a letter was sent from the County Council asking for the removal of these white painted stones.

03/14 SPEEDING ISSUES

VAS Camera - Cllr P Whatley had analysed the speeding data produced by the VAS camera over the five weeks leading up to Christmas. This revealed that 1 in 8 cars were speeding i.e. over 35 mph, but the speed was mostly between 35 – 40 mph. Higher incidents of speeding i.e. around 40 mph occurred along the Knightwick Road, mostly between 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm. Cllr J Green reported that the two batteries for the camera were not holding their charge, and needed to be replaced. The Clerk to find out the cost and order two replacement batteries.

04/14 CHARITY REPORTS - No reports received.

05/14 COMMUNITY PLAN/GROUP

- (a) Defibrillator - Cllr A Lewis reported that she had been in touch with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) about the cost of a defibrillator. The total costs, including the special outside box needed to house the defibrillator was £2,295 - £1,395 for the defibrillator plus £900 for the housing box. Grants were available from BHF to help with the purchase of the defibrillator. Co Cllr P Tuthill agreed to transfer £700 from his Parish Council fund. Cllr A Lewis was asked to apply for a £700 BHF grant, leaving Suckley Parish Council to fund the balance of around £900.
- (b) First World War Centenary – 2014. The Clerk reported that Morrisons were probably going to donate packets of poppy seeds for the commemorative planting scheme (but this had yet to be confirmed). Mathon Parish Council had expressed an interest in doing some planting, so the Clerk needed an estimate of how many packets of seeds she should order (assuming they were being donated). A figure of around 300 was suggested (one packet per household plus 80 for the school), plus approx 100 for Mathon. The Clerk to write to the Acting Head of the school, the Chairman of the PTA and Mrs D Holloway, Chair of Governors, to see if the school was interested in getting involved with poppy planting. Cllrs P Whatley and A Grieve would be meeting up to discuss the Community Group involvement re a possible War Memorial/exhibition of names/photos/papers of local men from the Parish who had served in the First World War and how best to organise this and the planting scheme.

06/14 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr J Green. **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses Nov/Dec 13 £66.15; Lengthsman - November 2013 £168 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman - December 2013 £183.00; Lengthsman – January 2014 (to be advised); BGS (Lengthsman) VAS services for November 2013 £29.00; BGS VAS Services for December 2013 £20.50; HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec 2013 £282.00. **Playing Fields** - DJR Farm Services (Playing Field services) £50.00; Severn Trent Water £62.98 (already paid but to be approved).
- (b) **Accounts to 29th November 2013** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
- (c) The Council considered the precept figures for 2014/15 prepared by the Clerk. It was unanimously agreed that the precept remain at the 2013/14 figure i.e. £13,859. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

07/14 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green - no problems to report. Risk assessment forms completed.

08/14 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that a new padlock was needed. Cllr J Green reported that debris had been left in the car park, moles were starting to get active again and the all weather pitch needed cleaning. Also, damage had been caused to the pitch by someone possibly using a quad bike. It was generally agreed that most of the Playing Field equipment needed replacing, and that a CCTV camera would be helpful in preventing damage to the Playing Fields. Co Cllr P Tuthill agreed to donate £2K from his Parish Fund towards replacing equipment, which would have to be match funded by the Council/Playing Field Committee.

09/14 PLANNING

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

- (a) App Ref No: 01155/LBC
Location: Crews Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DW
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Lewis
Proposal: Erection of single storey oak garden room
Refusal of Listed Building Consent
- (b) App Ref No: 13/01214/FUL
Location: 2, Lower Cottages, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EQ
Applicant : Mr P Fletcher
Proposal: Side cladding and enclosure of existing building for use as Implements/equipment store
Full Planning Permission Granted
- (c) App Ref No: 13/01476/PDU
Location: Unit 4c, The Bruff Business Centre, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DR
Proposal: Prior Notification of Change of Use under Class J (Office to Residential)
Applicant: Mr J Roberts-Powell C/O Agent Mr B Eiser
Change of use – Permitted Development

10/14 TUNDRIDGE STUD

The Clerk circulated to members present the e-mailed objections and comments re the use of Mr Lambert's track and other means of access being used for Tundridge Stud. The Council asked the Clerk to write to Mr Duncan Rudge/Mr Paul Clements of MHDC Planning in support of the objections and comments raised by concerned parishioners.

11/14 LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Co Cllr Paul Tuthill had already outlined the huge amount of subsidies being paid by Worcs County Council for local bus services. In view of this, the Council did not feel able to oppose the reduction of services, especially as so few people in the Parish used the service, and the high number of cars per household revealed by the Parish Survey.

12/14 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The Clerk reported that she had visited the Hive in Worcester and had not been able to find out any more information from the Parish Council Minutes for 1983/84. She was unable to look at any Minutes after that date in view of the 30 year rule which had been imposed by whoever had deposited the Minute Books/Papers. She would need authorisation from the Council to look at any Minutes after 1983/84. According to the Hive they did not hold any Minute Books after 1988, which was a cause for concern. The Clerk to contact Mrs Pat Perks to find out what, if any, Minute Books she had deposited with the Archives. The Clerk had also contacted Mr A G Duncan of Alfrick Educational Charity and Mr Geoffrey Brewin, Clerk to Alfrick Parish Council, but neither of them had any paperwork relating to Suckley School/Alfrick School which could be of help in establishing the reversionary clause. The Clerk to make further enquiries of possible past names of School Governors and Parish Council Minutes when Alfrick School was sold. The Clerk to contact Mr Paul Sherriff re affidavits for Cllr A W Huband, Mrs P Perks and Mrs June Mifflin relating to the original deeds for Suckley School.

13/14 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the final plan was now in place, and a newsletter would be going out shortly.

14/14 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

15/14 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

New Model Standing Orders & Code of Conduct
Parish Council Minute Books

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 10th March 2014 at 7.00 pm