

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9th JANUARY 2017 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr A Lewis,
Cllr V Bradley, Cllr A Grieve

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllrs A Warburton & S Rouse, Co Cllr P Tuthill,
Helen Philpotts (Footpaths)

Apologies for absence: Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr L Devenish

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)

The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that he had visited and toured round the Police Headquarters at Hindlip Hall. This was now the control centre for Worcestershire/Warwickshire & Shropshire Police, with future plans to also merge the Fire Services and their control to the same site. Budgets were still being worked on to try and get £30M out of the running costs of £350M. Approximately £1M per day was spent on revenue and £0.5M on capital projects. The Southern Link Road would be one way up and two ways down with the railway bridge being built off site and moved onto the Link Road. Money for the design of the Carrington Bridge was available, but a construction bid to widen the bridge had to be made in conjunction with Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Consultation document for the Local Transport Plan had been issued, with comments to be made by the end of February. The Council agreed to hold a meeting to discuss this Plan and send in their comments. Co Cllr Tuthill advised that he was looking to ensure that his annual Discretionary Fund was used up by the end of March. Cllr Carol Luton requested help with the purchase of a new boiler/hot water tank for the Playing Fields Pavilion which would cost in the region of £900. Co Cllr Tuthill agreed to consider this request as long as the Parish Council match funded his donation, which the Council agreed to do. Cllr C Luton to send Co Cllr Tuthill a copy of the quote.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllrs Sarah Rouse reported that the contract to outsource the waste collection had been issued. They would be closely scrutinising the figures to see if this move would actually save money. They would also be asking to see the terms of reference for the Contract.

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green and the Clerk reported to the meeting. The Lengthsman had made some progress with the drains along Acton Beauchamp Road, but had reported to the Clerk that there was a problem with tarmac round a drain cover (No 52) outside Chapels Farm. Cllr J Green agreed to remove the tarmac to enable the Lengthsman to clear this drain.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts and the Clerk reported that following a footpath team meeting with Jon White and Amanda Hill from the Countryside Department, six new footpath signposts would be installed in the Parish, including one opposite the Village Post Office & Stores. Helen Philpotts also reported a hit and run incident with a horse rider at Mousehole. The Clerk agreed to find out who was responsible for the safety of bridlepath bridges.

Local Police – Cllr P Whatley reported on crime stats showing 10 reported crimes in October, including several crimes of violence in Damson Way/Woodland Road. November appeared calmer, with 2 ASBO's. Despite this, Suckley was an extremely low crime area, with not a single burglary having been reported anywhere in the Parish during 2016.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. The Minutes of Suckley PC Planning Meeting held on 12th December 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

01/17 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Road Closure chaos in Suckley – Cllr P Whatley drew the attention of the Council and Co Cllr P Tuthill to the totally disorganised state of affairs re road closures and diversion signs whilst Severn Trent and British Rail undertook repairs in different areas of the Parish, especially over the Christmas and New Year period. Road Closed signs were still in place after the work had been completed, and in some cases the diversion signs were meaningless. Cllr Whatley had complained to Co Cllr Tuthill who had managed to get the signs removed. However, the problem was a lack of co- ordination between the WCC legal team and the contractors, with the WCC Legal Team offering contractors many days more completion time than was necessary for some of the work involved.
- (b) Three Bar metal fencing in Longley Green - Although Worcs Highways were prepared to replace this metal fencing with Post & Rail fencing, this had not yet happened. Co Cllr P Tuthill to follow this up with WCC Highways.
- (c) Drainage problems at The Steps. The Clerk reported that Roy Fullee had placed a request for action with WCC Highways system, but she had received an e-mail from them stating it was a drainage problem and would be forwarded to MHDC Drainage Officer. In effect we had come full circle. She had spoken to Paul Green at MHDC about this, and he had suggested a meeting between MHDC/WCC and a Parish Councillor (Cllr J Green) to finally resolve the best way to tackle the problem. Co Cllr P Tuthill to contact Gerry Brienza about this and liaise with the Clerk on this matter.
- (d) Church Lane - Leaking Pipe - The Clerk reported that she had notified Severn Trent who had investigated. They had discovered a leaking hydrant, and this had now been replaced.
- (e) Salt & Grit Storage - Cllr J Green reported that Duncan Reynolds had purchased new bags in which to store the salt in his own building. Cllr J Green had purchased and filled a new salt/grit bin at the Tundridge end of Blackhouse Lane. He had also checked all the Parish Council owned grit/salt bins and topped them up. We now had approximately 5 tonnes of salt available for use, should the need arise and Duncan had agreed to refill the bins if necessary.
- (f) Vegetation obscuring the view at junctions of White House Cross Roads. The Clerk reported that she had e-mailed Roy Fullee about this, and a request had been logged with the WCC system to investigate. She had just received an e-mail back from WCC Highways to say there was no safety problem. The Council strongly objected to this

- appraisal of the situation, and the Clerk was asked to find out if WCC would accept liability should there be an accident resulting from this incorrect safety judgement. As Gerry Brienza had accepted the need for action back in 2015 and had actually visited the owners of the property concerned, why was WCC now saying that there was no safety issue?
- (g) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – the Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about the problem of ice stretching across the road at this junction, possibly due to a spring in the centre of the road. She had contacted Roy Fullee at WCC Highways and they would be investigating. The Clerk was asked to request WCC put out Ice Warning signs at this location.

02/17 VAS CAMERA - this was at present in Alfrick and would be moved to Suckley on 23rd January.

03/17 CHARITY REPORTS - Cllr P Whatley reported that Suckley Charities would be holding their next meeting in April 2017.

04/17 COMMUNITY

- (a) Defibrillator signage & training - The Clerk reported that the Parish Councils of Alfrick and Leigh & Bransford were unable to share the costs of training as they were not responsible for the defibrillator equipment in their respective parishes. Co Cllr Tuthill agreed to look into sourcing a dummy defib for training purposes which the Suckley team could use on a sharing basis.
- (b) Suckley FaceBook – Cllr P Whatley reported that about 20 – 30 people had looked at the FaceBook page. He was continuing to post Parish information on it.
- (c) SuperFast Broadband – Cllr P Whatley reported that this was slowly moving forward. All the work being done in Longley Green was being driven by Herefordshire Council. Herefordshire Council was also putting superfast broadband into all new houses being built in their County.
- (d) Memorial Service 2018 – The Council agreed to start making plans now for the 100 years date marking the end of WWI in November 2018.

05/17 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr A W Huband.
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses Nov/Dec 2016 - £54.59; Lengthsman services November 2016 - £236.25 (paid but to be approved); Lengthsman Services December 2016 - £120.00; Lengthsman Services January 2017 £120.00; VAT refund to Playing Fields - £437.81; HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec 2016 - £319.80; Good Neighbour Scheme Support (A Lewis) £100.00; Suckley Playing Fields refund for Salt/Storage/bags - (D J Reynolds) £99.00; J Green Blackhouse Lane salt/grit bin & filling - £99.00.
Playing Fields - DJR Services (D J Reynolds) £336.00 (paid but to be approved).
- (b) **Accounts to 30th November 2016** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr A Lewis.
- (c) Nat West Bank – the Clerk reported that due to the closure of NatWest Bank in Malvern in June 2017, she had visited NatWest Bank in Worcester to where the Parish Council Accounts would be transferred. Unfortunately, the NatWest “safe storage” facility would no longer be available, and she had been instructed to collect all the Parish Council documents from Malvern before the closure date. A discussion then took place covering a range of options. The Clerk was asked to contact Worcs Calc to see if they could offer a “safe storage” facility, or could make any recommendation.

- (d) Precept 2017/18. The Chairman Cllr P Whatley and the Clerk reported to the meeting. Cllr P Whatley had studied the complexities of the MHDC Council Tax Base calculations, and after he and the Clerk had spent a considerable amount of time working out figures, they recommended that the Council keep the Precept to the current figure of £13,651. This would mean an increase of 1.1% to residents – the first increase in 5 years. The Council approved this recommendation. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

06/17 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

07/17 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton and Cllr J Green reported that moles continued to be a problem on the Playing Fields. Cllr C Luton also reported that broken glass had been found on the skateboard area and in the grass near to it by a parishioner whose child was using the skateboard facility. Cllr J Green reported that he had cleared brambles from around the bench and that the all weather pitch needed some maintenance work, which he would do.

08/17 PLANNING

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

- (a) App Ref No: 16/01278/HOU
Location: The Nook, Birchwood, Storridge, Worcs WR13 5HA
Proposal: Alterations & extensions to existing dwelling – detached garage to replace existing

Approval of Planning Permission (Householder)

- (b) **Appeal Decision Notification App/J1860/W/16/3152297**
15/00964/FUL/Land Adj Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley
APPEAL DECISION: DISMISSED

The Council considered the following application:-

- (c) Ref No: 16/01581/HOU
Proposal: Single storey extension and garage extension
Location: Peridot Cottage, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EE
Applicant: Mr Davies

The council considered this application and recommended Approval.

09/17 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the refreshment area for the Church had been completed. Money raised for the re-ordering of the Church was now at £74K, with the target figure being £400K. Cllr Lewis raised a request from the PCC concerning the grant of £200 given to them from the Parish Council for graveyard maintenance. A survey had revealed that a large number of gravestones were in an unsafe condition. The PCC had a duty of care to safeguard these stones, especially as the local school children tended to walk/play around the churchyard. The bill to make safe these stones would be in the region of £630, with a bill for immediate and essential work totalling £250. After some discussion the Council agreed to increase the payment in May 2017 to £400. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr V Bradley.

10/17 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The Council heard that the wild area for the school was now finished, with this area being available for pre school children/cubs/brownies etc. to use. The school was now full with 84 pupils, and there was a long waiting list. Cllr P Whatley and other Councillors expressed concern

that local children might not be able to attend their own school. The car park plans were still in the hands of Mr E Holloway.

11/17 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.00 pm

Special Meeting to discuss Local Transport Policy to be held on Monday 13th February at 7.30 pm