

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 13th NOVEMBER 2017 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

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

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

13 members of the public also attended the meeting to put forward their views on item 6(a) on the Agenda.

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.

Cllr Mrs P Griffiths declared a Pecuniary Interest in item 6(a)

Cllr A Lewis had been granted a Dispensation up to May 2019 for item 6(a) on the Agenda, or for any item relating to Traffic on the Knightwick Road.

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

Litter Picking Project - Catherine Armstrong reported on the very successful “Womble” litter picking day held on 14th October, with plans for a repeat project in the New Year. Disappointingly, since that date Catherine had filled up three bags of litter which had been left along the route to Knightwick Surgery. She offered to write a short Standard Operating Procedure document for setting up a litter pick, which adjoining parishes might find useful should they wish to organise a “Womble” day of their own. Other suggestions included the Parish Council looking into the possibility of larger Suckley Parish signs saying “Suckley Parish – a litter free Parish” or similar slogan, together with more litter bins being placed at strategic points in the Parish. The Clerk to follow this up. Dist Cllr S Rouse agreed to find out if the MHDC waste collection team could empty the extra bins.

Lorry traffic on Knightwick Road - 12 parishioners attended the meeting to find out what progress had been made in relation to their concerns about the size and number of heavy goods vehicles (HGV's) using the Knightwick Road, particularly in relation to the Cold Store. A number of parishioners felt that the present situation had been caused by previous Planning Applications since the mid 1980's being approved by MHDC for the expansion of the Cold Store.

Cllr P Griffiths did not take part in the discussion of this matter in public question time, then left the room during the Parish Council discussion that followed.

The Chairman re-opened the formal Meeting of the Parish Council to discuss item 6(a)

68/17 (a) HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS - Lorry Traffic on Knightwick Road

The Chairman reported that following on from the September meeting, the Council had contacted WCC Highways with a request for a 24/7 traffic monitoring survey to be undertaken for a longer period of time than the sporadic surveys that he and other residents had produced so far. Thanks

to the support of Co Cllr P Tuthill, he understood that WCC Highways was considering conducting a survey between the White House Cross Road and the Knightwick turn to the A44. This would give accurate information on a 24/7 basis. The Council had already written to WCC Highways prior to the September meeting asking for road improvements, better signage and more passing places. Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that these could be incorporated into road repairs scheduled for January/February 2018, followed by resurfacing later on in the year along the road from the Cold Store to Knightwick. The Chairman reminded attendees that the Cold Store Operating Centre application was not a planning matter. The application was solely for the Traffic Commissioners' consideration and they had not yet made a decision. Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the MHDC AONB had made representations to the Traffic Commissioners, and had received a letter from the Cold Store solicitors suggesting a number of restrictions the Cold Store were prepared to accept to help mitigate the situation. He hoped this might be a way forward.

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for continuation of Public Question Time/Participation. All members of the public were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting if they so wished.

Report from District Cllrs - Dist Cllrs A Warburton and S Rouse reported on the MHDC Community Awards. Suckley had two Award Winners – The Unity Brewhouse had been “highly commended” in the Business in the Community Section and Catherine Armstrong had received a “Judges Choice” for community actions (i.e. the Womble litter pick). Cllr C Luton asked the District Cllrs to look into the new car parking charges near to the Splash pool in Great Malvern. Users of the Splash were now having to pay £1.50 for half an hour of parking due to evening charges starting at 4.0 pm.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill brought the attention of the Council to a proposed new traffic plan for the centre of Malvern. A study had been carried out, with two options being available – to either keep the traffic flow as it is, or make Church Street a one-way street going downhill. It was important to receive public input, and he urged the Cllrs to make a comment via the website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/greatmalvern. £55M had now been set aside for the remainder of the Southern Link Road improvements, with work starting fairly soon. £29M had been allocated for the restructuring of services for Worcestershire Acute Hospital, to include a new helipad, an underground car park and a new link from the new PFI buildings to the older Aconbury building. £20M had also been spent on new Cancer services with state of the art equipment and facilities.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green reported that although the Lengthsman was clearing the tops of the drains, they were not being lifted and cleared out to his satisfaction. The Clerk had received an e-mail from the owner of Conference Cottage regarding drain clearance. The Lengthsman had agreed to visit the drains in this area again, lift the covers and clear the drains as previously requested. Cllr J Green to meet up with the Lengthsman and monitor the situation.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts reported that most of the bridleway gates needing repair belonged to Edward Holloway. The Clerk reported that WCC Countryside department were keen to see the bridleway gates refurbished, and they would provide the “easylatch” long poles. However, some of the gates needed more work and the Countryside Dept could only get involved with the landowners permission. Helen Philpotts agreed to contact Jon White and have a meeting with him to decide the best way forward.

Local Police – Cllr D Findlater reported on the Police crime stats for July/August/September. July showed 1 ASBO in Woodland Road, 2 burglaries in the White House Court area (no suspect identified). August revealed 1 theft of a bicycle from Damson Way, and in September 4 ASBO's were recorded – 1 in Woodland Road and 3 in Damson Way. Police were looking for wifi access points they could use in parishes.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

68/17 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Lorry Traffic along Knightwick Road - see item 68/17(a) above.
- (b) Horse Sign – Knightwick Road - This has now been moved.
- (c) Drainage problems at The Steps, Blackhouse Lane - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that the Co Council engineers/drainage team were trying to work on a solution to bring the scheme forward in the programme.
- (d) Church Lane – resurfacing. As previously minuted, the Clerk had put in a request for resurfacing of this road (Ref 364279). Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the jetting team had visited Church Lane and cleared the drainage system. If flooding reappeared near to the Playing Field, could photographs please be taken so that the engineers could determine if it is the culvert and brook or excessive surface water causing the problems.
- (e) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – this was still ongoing with WCC who had now started again to try and find the cause. The Council confirmed yet again that this was not a Severn Trent problem.
- (f) A4103 road surfacing – diversion signage. The lack of sufficient and understandable diversion signage relating to work on this major road had caused chaos in the surrounding parishes. However, the situation had now been rectified, and the new diversion system was working well.
- (g) Hedge cutting – Stocks Cross to Longley Green. The Clerk had received a complaint about overgrown hedges along this stretch of road. She had written to the landowners concerned.
- (h) Vegetation covering road signs - the Clerk had contacted WCC Highways about this, but it was agreed that this would be best left to be dealt with in the near future by the landowners concerned.

69/17 VAS CAMERA

Cllr Darran Findlater reported on his analysis of the VAS stats in Suckley from August to October 2017, and revealed some startling results. The parish VAS camera had been sited at 3 places and it recorded that half of all journeys were above the 30 mph limit. The official stats measure is an 85% speed, which for Suckley was 35 mph. This is the speed that 85% of traffic is below. This was an average, but averages hide individual responsibility, so he detailed raw figures for what are considered to be Band B and C offences. Church Lane – typically 18 vehicles a day were travelling between 40 and 50 mph, with one day showing 36 vehicles above 40 mph. Over the 14 days of measurements, 12 vehicles were above 50 mph. Bruff Bank – again, 18 vehicles a day were above 40 mph, measurements were taken on 28 days. Village Hall – this showed 32 journeys a day above 40 mph and 7 vehicles were caught in just 3 days at speeds in excess of 50 mph.

He further reported that new rules and fines had come into force for speeding offences from April 2017. Offences are now categorised into 3 bands and for the 30 mph speed limit this means Band

A (31 – 40 mph): 3 points. Band B (41-50 mph): fined 100% of your weekly wage, 4 to 6 points and a potential disqualification for 1 month. Band C (51 mph and above): fined 150% of your weekly wage, 4 to 6 points and a potential 2 months disqualification.

70/17 CHARITY REPORTS

- (a) Cllr P Whatley reported that a meeting of Suckley Charities had been held on 4th October. No requests for awards had been received, but the Trustees had decided to grant Suckley School £20 for a new violin bow
- (b) Cllr L Devenish reported that the Alfrick Educational Charity had held a meeting. A small grant to Suckley School had been awarded along with other small educational grants.

71/17 COMMUNITY

- (a) Superfast Broadband - nothing to report
- (b) Remembrance Service 2017 – over 30 people attended the service on 11th November which had been led by the Revd Anne Potter. Plans would now have to start for the service in 2018 which marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of WWI
- (c) Litter Picking Project – this had already been reported on (see above)
- (d) Community Awards – the Dist Cllrs had already reported on this (see above)
- (e) Other Reports – future projects. The setting up of a leafleting team as suggested by Cllr A Lewis was postponed for the time being. Other projects for future consideration included a Sports/Fun Day on the Playing Fields, Christmas Carols/ tree lights in the Old Quarry, a Big Chill event.

72/17 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were approved and authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr C Luton.
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses Sept/Oct 2017 - £96.25; Lengthsman July/Aug/Sept 2017 £662.40; Data Protection Registration Renewal £35.00; Lengthsman October 2017 £172.80; P Whatley (patio cleaner) £8.50.
Playing Fields – Adam Cross (Mole Control) £80.00; Npower (Pavilion) £83.53
- (b) **Accounts to 30th September 2017** were approved. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton
- (c) Clerk’s salary review 2018. It was proposed by Cllr P Whatley, seconded by Cllr J Green and unanimously approved by the Council that the Clerk’s salary be upgraded to SCP 29 for the year commencing April 2018. This equated to £584.13 gross salary per month. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work which was very much appreciated by all Council members.

73/17 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green had undertaken risk assessments – no problems.

74/17 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that the new strut for the swing had been delivered. She had managed to obtain one quote for the floodlights of just over £400.00, and had also asked the electrician to check the electrics in the Pavilion. A new youth Football Group from Worcester were now regular users of the Playing Fields and in return for not being charged fees they had been working hard to improve the pitch and upgrade the pavilion - painting the outside, putting up new guttering and fascia boards. They had also repaired the old mower, provided their own goals, and were looking to put in a new door to the Pavilion. Cllr C Luton suggested that a new combination lock be provided for the gate to the Playing Fields.

75/17 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the Tree of Lights event would be held on the second Sunday in December. Tenders had been received for the proposed plans. Once the contract was signed, it was hoped that work would start in the summer of 2018. The south aisle was now clear of pews. The tea/coffee area of the church was being regularly used

76/17 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr L Devenish reported that the school was full with 84 pupils, with a strong list of new pupils for the September 2018 intake.

77/17 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2018/19

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 8th January 2018 at 7.00 pm - Suckley Village Hall