

# SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr S Rouse, Co Cllr P Tuthill

Six members of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr L Devenish, Cllr V Bradley, Dist Cllr A Warburton, Mrs Helen Philpotts  
(Footpaths)

**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**

Questions were raised by parishioners regarding the possible installation of CCTV cameras in the parish to help track down vehicles involved in criminal activity. There had been a number of break-ins in the area recently. Co Cllr P Tuthill doubted that this was within the remit of the Police. However, householders were entitled to install CCTV on their own premises for their own personal safety and security. Cllr Darran Findlater (as the Council's Police Representative) agreed to contact the Police Safer Neighbourhood Officer regarding this issue and report back to the next meeting. Questions were also raised regarding the movement of vehicles outside the permitted hours by Griffiths Coldstore. Cllr P Whatley responded that he had already looked into this matter, and had been given full access to all vehicle movement records. These showed that the vehicles concerned related to the Chapel Farm site which was not subject to any restrictions. His statement had been included in the Minutes of the previous PC Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. A number of complaints regarding blocked and overgrown drains were raised, but it was pointed out that WCC Highways had recently instructed that Lengthsmen were not allowed to dig out drains as it was deemed to be a health and safety risk. The Clerk/Cllr J Green to contact the Lengthsman about overgrown vegetation around the drains, and send complaints on to WCC Highways for their action. It was also noted that workmen repairing the Knightwick Road had not been wearing ear protectors. The Clerk to inform WCC Highways of this omission.

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the new Chief Executive of the Worcs Acute Trust would be returning to Australia to take up a new job there. The high turnover of Chief Executives was a matter of concern. However, work had started on the linking of the older buildings to the new hospital, which would create more bed spaces.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. She had held a meeting with WCC Highways and AONB regarding “wild flowers in the verges and hedgerows” WCC Highways needed to have a different approach to mowing the verges to try and leave as wide a verge as possible to allow the flowers to flourish. WCC Highways were sympathetic to this request and were considering using Lengthsmen to do the mowing. MHDC had sold the

Elgar House Building for £800K and had started work on the reception building. Over 900 possible sites were being considered for the updated SWDP. There would be a Consultation in November with the plan extending to 2040. Cllr C Luton raised questions regarding the infrastructure needed to support the huge influx of people and housing, and why Section 106 money could not be used for funding hospitals and schools etc. Cllr C Luton and Cllr P Whatley agreed to raise this issue with Harriet Baldwin MP.

**Lengthsman** - As previously reported a lot of the drains were getting overgrown, with particular reference to drains nos 108/109/110/112. Drain No 112 needed to be replaced completely. The Clerk to contact WCC Highways. The Lengthsman to trim and cut back hedges at the White House Cross Roads. Cllr P Whatley asked Co Cllr P Tuthill to pass on to WCC Highways the Council's disbelief at the recent instruction that Lengthsmen could not dig out drains. Would money saved from the Lengthsman scheme be re-circulated back into the Highways budget?

**Footpaths - No Report.** The Clerk reported that Helen Philpotts had spoken to the parties concerned about the defective gate at Grove Hill. The Clerk to contact WCC Countryside Dept to request the supply of a bridleway gate for the owner to install.

**Local Police** – Cllr Darran Findlater reported that the reported Police crime figures for June revealed 1 ASB in Stocks Road and 1 in Woodland Road, 2 criminal damage/arson in Woodland Road, 1 in the White House Court area. 1 violent crime/sexual offence in Church Lane. It was believed that a white van was involved in recent break-ins to outbuildings/garages.

### **The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 were approved and signed Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr D Findlater.

### **60/18 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Church Lane – resurfacing had now been completed from the school down to the Playing Fields. Cllr J Green reported that WCC workmen had dug a hole to investigate a blocked drain between the School and the Playing Fields, but had just left the hole with two cones in it. The Clerk to report this to WCC Highways.
- (b) White House Cross Roads – As previously reported – the Lengthsman to cut back and trim in this area. WCC Highways to do new road markings.
- (c) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – Co Cllr P Tuthill to try and get this resolved before winter sets in.
- (d) Salt/Grit Bin – Church Lane. Cllr J Green reported that the new salt/grit bin was now in place.
- (e) Overhanging trees - Woodland Road to Church Lane. This had been reported to WCC Highways.
- (f) The Council's attention was drawn to a very large SLOW sign which had been placed on the edge of the tarmac opposite Rectory Cottage in Knightwick Road, where flowers were for sale. This could prove to be very distracting for drivers. The Clerk was asked to contact WCC Highways.
- (g) It was noted that a number of hedges in Longley Green were encroaching onto the road. Cllr P Whatley to speak to the householders concerned.
- (h) Cllr P Whatley reported that a letter had been sent to residents in Longley Green (about 10 days previously) reporting road works on road number C4110 (a number which would be meaningless to residents), which would result in a road closure affecting both residents and businesses in the area. However, this letter had been sent out to the wrong group of

- residents, as the actual road works related to Sindons Mill Lane, whose residents had not been informed, and who had no vehicle access on Friday or Saturday. This had caused a great deal of disruption. Cllr P Tuthill agreed to speak to WCC Highways about this error.
- (i) **Blocked ditch – Stocks Cottages.** Cllr J Green reported that he had met with Jack Adams the MHDC Drainage Officer re the blockage caused by BT. Mr Adams would be contacting BT about this.

### **61/18 VAS CAMERA**

Cllr D Findlater reported that an August update should have been available, but there had been some confusion on dates and locations, making any analysis worthless. Two journeys were above 50 mph - one on 17<sup>th</sup> August at 2.0 pm and one on 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7.0 am. Speed stickers had arrived and were available at the Post Office. Cllr Findlater to monitor uptake and put an article in the Sphere.

### **62/18 CHARITY REPORTS**

Cllr P Whatley reported that a meeting of Suckley Charities would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall.

### **63/18 COMMUNITY**

- (a) **SuperFast Broadband** – Nothing further to report at the moment.
- (b) **Memorial Service** – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Cllr P Whatley reported that he and Mark Armstrong (who had agreed to help with the memorial service) would be putting together an order of service. This would include reading out the 27 names as we did at the first service in 2015. Cllr A Lewis agreed to find a lay preacher to conduct the service and to try and find a bugler to replace Peter Hibbert. Thanks to generous donations, the Council had ordered two Silent Soldier figures which had arrived. It was agreed to hold a site meeting at 2.0 pm on 8<sup>th</sup> September to decide on the placing of the figures.
- (c) **Womble Litter Pick** - This would take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October under the very capable organisation of Catherine Armstrong. The Clerk to print out flyers. This Litter Pick would be featured on Radio Hereford & Worcester. Cllr A Lewis reported that Suckley School pupils had run a poster competition and winners had been named. Posters should have been displayed. Cllr A Lewis to liaise with Catherine Armstrong.

### **64/18 FINANCE**

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr C Luton
- General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses July/August 2018 - £70.098; Lengthsman – July/August 2018 - £417.60; Came & Co – Insurance 2018/19 - £1,030.20; David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd (Silent Soldiers) - £1,098.00; HMRC PAYE – July/Aug/Sept 2018 £296.40; Worcs Calc (Training) £30.00; RBL Poppy Appeal £57.50; D Taylor (wheelie Bin Stickers) £59.99; J Green – Grit Bin - £120.00.
- Playing Fields** - Npower (Pavilion) – new contract - £25.60; Water Plus (Severn Trent) £30.10
- (b) **Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A W Huband and seconded by Cllr J Green

### **65/18 STANDING ORDERS**

The updated 2018 version of Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors on 27<sup>th</sup> August. The Council agreed to adopt these Standing Orders - Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr A W Huband

**66/18 GDPR REGULATIONS - 2018**

Cllr D Findlater circulated a Privacy Policy he had drafted for the Council to adopt. This was approved by the Council for adoption. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr P Whatley. Cllr Findlater reminded the Councillors to be aware of what data they held in storage. He would be putting together a Privacy Notice for the Council.

**67/18 RISK ASSESSMENT**

All Risk Assessment Forms had been completed – no problems

**68/18 PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr C Luton reported that the Football Tournament had taken place. The pitch had been mown by DJR prior to the event, and this had been paid for by the Football Club, who had also donated £100 to the Playing Field funds. The Club were now able to pay £15 for each time they used the facilities and they would continue to cut the field. People using the all weather pitch would trim round it, but the lights had gone again. Cllr C Luton reported that Suckley School appeared to be unwilling to pay a small charge for the use of the all weather services. The Clerk reported on a survey she had been asked to complete by Sports England on the facilities the Playing Field can offer.

**69/18 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported that the new floor in the church had been laid and the next stage of the project was to get the heating system up and running. Fund raising was ongoing.

**70/18 SUCKLEY SCHOOL - No Report**

**71/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None raised

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.00 pm**