

# **SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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 C Luton

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

One member of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr L Devenish, Cllr V Bradley, Dist Cllr A Warburton

**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**

A parishioner reported that overhanging tree branches in the Suckley Station Bridge area did not leave sufficient headroom for lorries travelling along the Knightwick Road to pull over. Co Cllr P Tuthill agreed to raise this issue with WCC Highways assuming the land was owned by the County Council. If not, then the landowner would be responsible for maintaining the clearance height.

**Statement from Chairman** - Cllr P Whatley issued the following statement to the Council :-  
“I wish to inform the Council that it is my intention to stand for election to the District Council in May 2019 elections. That will be in addition to standing again for election to this Parish Council. I will stand as an independent candidate, with no association with any established political party. I believe it is important for several reasons that you are all aware of this now, rather than delaying until the formal nomination process next March. First, it avoids any accusations that decisions might have been taken in which I deliberately kept you in ignorance of my intentions. Second, it places on all of us, but particularly you as my fellow Councillors, a duty to beware of electioneering by me, just as you would be wary of any other candidates. Finally, it gives you the opportunity to consider how this Council may wish to proceed from next May. If the electors of Malvern Hills were to select me as their representative, you might wish to consider another person as Chairman of the Parish Council – assuming of course that the people of Suckley re-elected me to this Council. I do not think this is something that we should discuss further in Council formally, but I do place the thought in your minds so you can give it some thought between now and next May. I am happy to discuss it with you if you wish, but equally happy if you wish to consider the matter without me present.”

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that a high level of concern still remained over the performance of Worcester Royal Hospital, especially the A & E Department, with the Ambulance Service being unable to function as they wish to due to severe delays in dealing with patients. Funding was being brought forward to build the link between the old and new buildings to create more bed spaces. The Southern Link Road was making progress,

especially the preliminary work on the Powick Causeway. It was estimated that about 20,000 lorry journeys would be needed to bring stone from Presteigne to create the groundworks for the Causeway. He also drew the attention of the Council to the excellent performance of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority, despite budget cuts. The Fire Service Headquarters had now moved to the West Mercia Police site at Hindlip. Worcestershire County Council was looking for voluntary redundancies for around 200 people to help reduce their £12M overspend. West Mercia Police were looking to renegotiate their arrangement with Warwickshire Police.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported that the Tourist Information Office at the top of Church Street in Malvern would be moving to the Lyttleton Well. The TIO building would then be rented out commercially. The updated South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) required more land for building, and a call for sites had gone out with a consultation/comments deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> December. She had circulated a map showing the sites offered by landowners, but stressed that development was not encouraged in AONB areas or on flood plains. Land was also needed for employment sites. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council has an established policy with respect to development, dating from the Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014. This states that the Council shall favour the need for affordable, starter and sheltered housing stock, but no development is favoured in either the AONB or on flood plain areas. Cllr Rouse's attention was drawn to this policy statement. Dist Cllr Rouse also reported that a meeting of MHDC District Councillors would be taking place to discuss the structure of local government in the future. MHDC was being asked to take on services but was not being given the funding to provide them.

**Lengthsman** - Concern was again expressed about Lengthsman issues, and complaints had been received by Cllrs about the state of the drains in the parish. Cllr A Lewis reported that she had attended the Parish Conference held at County Hall where she had spoken out about the directive that Lengthsman could no longer dig out drains/gullies. The response was that by definition the contents of the drains were regarded as contaminated waste and the Lengthsman does not hold a licence for its disposal. The WCC contractors – Ringway – would be responsible for emptying the drains on a three monthly or six monthly basis. Cllr J Green to compile a list of tasks for the Lengthsman and to check that this work has been done within the given timescale.

**Footpaths** - Helen Philpotts, the Clerk and Cllr J Green reported on the situation regarding the defective gate at Grove Hill. Helen Philpotts was asked to obtain a bridleway gate and for the landowners to share the responsibility on a fifty/fifty basis.

**Local Police** – Cllr D Findlater reported that the reported Police crime figures for July/August/September revealed 2 ASB at White House Court, 1 in Church Lane and 1 in Woodland Road; 1 criminal damage/arson at White House Court, 1 in Stocks Road; 1 violent crime/sexual offence in Church Lane, 1 in Damson Way and 1 in Woodland Road; Other crime - 1 in Woodland Road; Burglary – 1 in Stocks Road; Public Order - 1 in Stocks Road. He had followed through a query raised from the previous PC Meeting re CCTV cameras. Cameras on private property were perfectly legal as long as they were not overlooking someone else's property.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr D Findlater.

#### **72/18 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Church Lane – hole at the side of the road with warning cones in it – work scheduled for half term in February 2019.
- (b) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – Co Cllr P Tuthill to try and get this resolved before winter sets in. New tarmac had been laid down, but this would not resolve the underlying problem of the underground spring.
- (c) White House Cross Roads – new road markings had been completed
- (d) Overhanging trees - Woodland Road to Church Lane. Although these had been cut back by a small group of Cllrs and parishioners, the Lengthsman to be asked to cut back some more branches.
- (e) SLOW sign placed on the edge of the tarmac opposite Rectory Cottage in Knightwick Road had been removed by WCC Highways.
- (f) Blocked ditch – Stocks Cottages – this was still an ongoing issue being dealt with by MHDC Drainage Officer Jack Adams.
- (g) Salt/grit stocks – Cllr J Green reported that Duncan Reynolds was going to check what salt was still being held at A Griffiths site, and see if it was possible to get this moved
- (h) Cllr J Green reported that hump of earth had gradually formed in the middle of Blackhouse Lane since the resurfacing, and needed to be scraped away. The Clerk to report this to WCC Highways.

#### **73/18 SECONDARY SCHOOL BUDGETS**

The Council's attention was drawn to the precarious state of local secondary school budgets/funding, particularly Dysons School in Malvern where the majority of Suckley pupils will be attending in the future. Head Teachers from all the secondary schools in the MHDC area and beyond were raising awareness of their schools dwindling reserves, with some schools already running out of money. Cllr D Findlater outlined the drastic measures being taken to reduce running costs at his school in Hanley Castle. Cllr P Tuthill confirmed that funding for schools came from central government and did not form part of the County Council's budget. Cllr D Findlater agreed to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to the local MP – Harriet Baldwin.

#### **74/18 VAS CAMERA**

Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that Welland Parish had purchased a “friendly face” VAS camera with a speed indicator. These are not “approved” by the County Council, but some funding might be available if Suckley/Alfrick wished to purchase one. Cllr D Findlater reported that a few residents had taken up the offer of free 30 mph wheelie bin stickers. He planned to knock on doors in the 30 mph areas to raise awareness of the availability of stickers. The VAS camera was in Alfrick at the moment.

#### **75/18 CHARITY REPORTS**

Cllr P Whatley reported that at the meeting of Suckley Charities on 9<sup>th</sup> October, a £400 grant had been made to Suckley School.

#### **76/18 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 around 100 people had attended the Remembrance Service, some with their dogs and one young lady with her horse called Boris – all wearing poppies. He had received numerous positive comments about the service and the two Silent Soldiers. All who attended felt it had been a very special act of remembrance for the men of the parish who had given their lives in both world wars and for all those engaged in other conflicts since that time.

- (c) **Womble Litter Pick** - Another very successful Litter Pick took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October under the very capable organisation of Catherine Armstrong. It was hoped to arrange another Litter Pick in March 2019.
- (d) **Parish Conference** - as previously minuted, Cllr A Lewis had attended the Parish Conference at County Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> October . Apart from the Lengthsman issues, the Conference had focused on loneliness and isolation. She would be looking into potential sources of funding to create a lunch club for the community.

#### **77/18 FINANCE**

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr A Lewis  
**General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses September/October 2018 - £20.62; Lengthsman – September/October 2018 - £374.40; Clerk’s Office Apr-Sept 2018 £125.00; ICO Data Protection Fee - £40.00.  
**Playing Fields** - NPower (Pavilion) – £34.48; A Cross – Mole control £45.00; Fleet Line Markers - £108.94.  
It was agreed that the Clerk could set up a Direct Debit for the payments to Npower - proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.
- (b) **Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018** were approved. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths
- (c) **Clerk’s Salary Review 2019/20** - The Council unanimously approved the Clerk’s salary to be upgraded to SCP 30 LC2 scale (pro rata) for 2019/20, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Whatley. The Council thanked the Clerk for all her hard work and service to the Council.

#### **78/18 GDPR REGULATIONS - 2018**

Cllr D Findlater confirmed that he would shortly be circulating a Privacy Notice for the Council to adopt.

#### **79/18 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr J Green - All Risk Assessment Forms had been completed – no problems

#### **80/18 PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr C Luton reported that the lights were now working again. The Football Club was now paying £15 for each time they used the facilities. DJR had made one final cut in front of the pavilion. Cllr J Green agreed to fix some brackets to the outside pipe.

#### **81/18 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported that the PCC was now about half way through the whole project, with about £180K still to be found. Forms for the Tree of Light were available in the Post Office

#### **82/18 SUCKLEY SCHOOL** - No Report

#### **83/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Precept 2019/20

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.00 pm**

