

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 14th JANUARY 2019 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, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A W Huband

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

Three members of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: 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

The Council was informed of the increasing amount of litter and fly tipping taking place around the parish, particularly along parts of the Knightwick Road. Dist Cllr S Rouse offered to take this up with MHDC team.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that a new Chief Operating Officer for Worcester Royal Hospital had been appointed, with a new Chief Executive starting in two weeks time. In view of the challenges being faced by A & E in Worcester recently, 20 patients had been transferred to Warwick Hospital. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) was in the process of setting budgets, with some funding being brought forward for bridgework on the South Worcestershire Link Road, footways and cycle ways.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported on the recent deaths of two men in Malvern who had been labelled as “rough sleepers” Both these men had been offered accommodation which they had refused, and the matter was more of a mental health issue than homelessness. These deaths would be investigated by MHDC who were also looking to see how mental health support could be improved in the area.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman had completed most of the planned work schedule, including the removal of mud/debris from the Crews Hill end of Blackhouse Lane (as WCC Highways had refused to do it). However, the Lengthsman had e-mailed the Clerk to say that to remove all the mud/debris for the rest of the lane would take about 2 - 3 days extra work, including taking away the risings. The Council approved two days work to be allocated. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. The Lengthsman to be asked to clear away the nettles and other vegetation from Knightwick Road down to the School in Church Lane.

Footpaths - No Report from Footpaths Officer, but Cllr P Griffiths to check re a broken stile on path SU706.

Local Police – Cllr D Findlater reported that the reported Police crime figures for October/November 2018 revealed:- 1 violent crime/sexual offence in Woodland Road and 1 theft in Church Lane in October; 1 criminal damage/arson at White House Court, 2 violent crime/sexual offence in Woodland Road in November.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2018 were approved and signed Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green

01/19 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 – The Clerk had received an e-mail from the residents concerned about this problem stating that Severn Trent had now resolved the issue by repairing the stop valve in the road. However, Councillors were not convinced that this was the case as the water was due to a spring. Co Cllr P Tuthill confirmed that WCC Highways still had this scheduled for investigation and repair
- (c) Overhanging trees - Knightwick Road - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that WCC Highways inspectors would be revisiting the site to ensure it was County Council land, and if so, Highways engineers would address the problem.
- (d) Blocked ditch – Stocks Cottages – this was still an ongoing issue being dealt with by MHDC Drainage Officer Jack Adams/WCC. The Clerk to keep chasing.
- (e) Salt/grit stocks – Cllr J Green reported that Duncan Reynolds would be refilling the salt bins and would be visiting the A Griffiths site to look at the salt stocks still held there. If possible, he would then move the salt to his depot.

02/19 SECONDARY SCHOOL BUDGETS

As requested at the previous PC meeting, a letter regarding the state of school budgets in this area had been sent to Harriet Baldwin, MP. An acknowledgement letter had been received by the Clerk, stating that our letter would be forwarded to the Minister concerned.

03/19 VAS CAMERA

Cllr D Findlater presented a very comprehensive report to the Council regarding speeding issues/stats. There had been little change in behaviour from the summer when the data was last reported, with speeds showing a slight increase. A third of all journeys through the parish were above the limit. 5% (1 in 20) of all journeys would result in disqualification, points and heavy fines, with around 15% of journeys leading to a fine. One journey a day on average is at 50 mph. On Christmas day at 10.0 am one driver went through Bruff Bank at over 45 mph. After some discussion, the Council agreed to try and set up a team of parishioners to monitor and raise awareness of speeding in the parish. Cllr D Findlater to put together a flyer to be delivered to households in the parish, asking for volunteers to join a speed watch team

04/19 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr P Whatley reported that the next meeting of Suckley Charities would be held on 9th April.

05/19 COMMUNITY

- (a) **SuperFast Broadband** – Nothing further to report at the moment.
- (b) In the Worcs Calc Newsletter to Clerks an offer had been made from the County Council Chief Executive (Paul Robinson) to attend a Council or Parish Meeting. Co Cllr P Tuthill to investigate further.
- (c) Cllr D Findlater agreed to look into potential sites and costings of 30 mph “gate” signs at approach roads to the parish.

06/19 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 November/December 2018 - £31.81; Lengthsman – November 2018 (paid but to be approved) - £144.00; Lengthsman December 2018 - £210.60; M Baldwin - Quarry Mowing - £285.00; HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec 2018 - £296.40
Playing Fields – P Nightingale – mowing park area - £120.00 (paid, but to be approved); Water Plus (Severn Trent) £17.57 (paid, but to be approved) The Council agreed to the setting up of a Direct Debit for payment to Water Plus – Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr A Lewis.
- (b) **Accounts to 30th November 2018** – were approved. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths
- (c) **Budget & Precept** - Details of the proposed Precept for 2019/20 compiled by the Chairman and the Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer) had been circulated to all Councillors. These figures were felt acceptable. However, as MHDC had not yet supplied the “tax base” figure, a precept could not be set for which the actual percentage change to residents was known. After discussion, it was agreed that the budget be approved and the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to set the precept figure when the “tax base” figure was supplied, subject to residents incurring a maximum 1.4%. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr C Luton.
- (d) **Pensions Regulator** - The Clerk reported that she had completed a re-declaration of compliance under the Pensions Act 2008. This would be valid for three years.

07/19 GDPR REGULATIONS - 2018

Cllr D Findlater had compiled a Privacy Notice which had been circulated to all Councillors. This Notice would now be placed on the Parish Council website, together with a document retention policy/guideline produced by NALC. The Clerk to circulate the “tag” line re GDPR to go on the bottom of all e-mails sent out by Councillors.

08/19 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

09/19 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton reported that there was still a continuing mole problem. Cllr J Green reported that increased safety checking was needed on the play equipment, especially the slide, due to a warning from Herefordshire Council re hazardous items. A lorry wheel and tyre had been fly tipped in the Playing Field. The Clerk to report this to MHDC.

10/19 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that tickets for the Ceilidh on 19th January at Suckley Church were on sale. The Organ Appeal figure had been reached. A bid was going in to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A concert was being held on 23rd March. Spare pews not needed in the future would be auctioned around Easter time. New replacement chairs could be purchased and the buyer's name would be put on a plaque on the chair.

11/19 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr L Devenish reported that the school was full to almost overflowing. The school had applied for a grant to extend their smallest classroom. Car parking was also a major problem. The car parking plan with a local landowner had not made any progress. It was agreed that more effort should be made to encourage the school to strengthen its local parish links even though its catchment area had been expanded well beyond parish boundaries. To this end the Clerk was asked to write to the Head Teacher in January inviting the school to participate in the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 20th May. It was hoped that by giving such advance notice, the tradition of a school presentation would be maintained.

12/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.00 pm