

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11th NOVEMBER 2019 at 7.00 pm
in the Function Room at The Nelson, Longley Green, Suckley

The Council Meeting was moved to the Function Room at The Nelson due to electrical problems at Suckley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr J Green, Cllr R Hill, Cllr A Lewis,
Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A W Huband, Cllr C Luton, Cllr R Hooper

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mrs Helen Philpotts (Footpaths), Dist Cllr S Rouse

Apologies: Co Cllr P Tuthill

One member of the public attended the meeting.

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 member of the public attended the meeting and raised a number of points re Planning Applications 19/01510/S106 and 19/01493/FUL – Applegaard Fruit Farm - items 13 (a) & (b) on the Agenda. Her main concern was that once the land was separated from the house and Agricultural Restrictions were removed, this could create potential for a future change of use for the site in question. A discussion also took place on how the Council could encourage more parishioners to attend the Council meetings, and the continuing reluctance of Worcs Co Council Highways to address the White House Cross Roads/speeding issues which were being constantly reported to the Parish Council by concerned parishioners.

Cllr P Whatley informed the Council that as a District Councillor he would not vote or express any opinion on any planning application in case it was sent to MHDC Northern Area Planning Committee. He would, however, Chair the meeting.

With the consent of the Council, the Chairman brought forward the Agenda items 13 (a) and (b) to the beginning of the meeting. (a) Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ - Planning Application 19/01510/S106 - Application under Sec 106A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the requirement relating to legal agreement dated 5th April 2000 associated with Planning Permission Ref 99/014450. (b) Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ – Removal of condition 6 agricultural occupancy condition on planning permission 99/014509/FUL – Agricultural dwelling & stables.

After considerable discussion, the Council agreed that a “*no comment*” response be sent to MHDC Planning Dept. by the Clerk.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr S Rouse reported to the meeting. The next phase of the SWDP (South Worcestershire Development Plan) had been put out for consultation. Another 14,000 houses on top of the 28,000 were required by Westminster to be built up to 2041 in the Wychavon, Worcester City & Malvern Hills District Council areas with New towns of 5,000 homes at Worcestershire Parkway and 2,000 homes at Throckmorton Airfield. 1,000 more homes at Rushwick and more than 3,300 homes across Worcester, Droitwich, Evesham, Malvern, Pershore and Tenbury. More than 900 new homes for villages across Wychavon, and 390 more homes in the MHDC area, plus 273 hectares of employment land. Three sites put forward for consideration in Suckley had been rejected as unsuitable. A lot of work was taking place on the environmental Agenda covering community transport, pollinators and tree planting. A shelter for homeless people in Malvern would be open on a Friday night, with help available for those in crisis.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman had undertaken all the work he had been asked to do.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts reported that she was liaising with Jon White from the Countryside Dept. as there was still a problem regarding ownership of the field gate between Lower Grove Farm and Grove Hill. She was following up a problem reported on footpath no 565(C) where the stile was missing a bottom step and was unstable.

Local Police – Cllr Rosemary Hooper produced figures (based on West Mercia Police stats) which revealed that no burglaries had taken place in Suckley from January to date this year.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd September 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 14th October 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J Green.

72/19 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Outstanding repair for drain cover – Blackhouse Lane. Clerk had chased this up with Hannah Davies yet again. Ref: 636955. *(Hannah Davies stated that this work had been done, but this was not the case so a further reminder had been sent by the Clerk)*
- (b) Sign for Longley Green (opposite the bus shelter). *(Clerk has e-mailed Hannah Davies about this – action ongoing – this has been added to the programme. Clerk to continue to chase).*
- (c) Blocked drain No 57. (Acton Beauchamp Road) Clerk had reported this to WCC Highways Ref: 688543. *(Hannah Davies reported that this was jetted on 29th May – Clerk to ask Lengthsman to inspect)*
- (d) Cllr P Whatley had reported a flooding issue at the bottom of Birchwood Road to WCC Highways - Ref 681084 *(Hannah Davies reported that this was jetted on 29th May)*
- (e) Drains 111 and 112 (opposite Wells Cottage) Reported to Lengthsman for clearance and inspection. Lengthsman has now reported back that the brick headwalls were damaged on both drains. *(Clerk reported this to Highways Ref 743662 – who responded that it was not a safety issue. It was not reported as such – Lengthsman to take a photograph for clerk to forward on to Hannah Davies)*
- (f) Fence at the lower car park/field at the Bruff in need of repair. *(Clerk reported this to Highways Ref 787833 – e-mail from Highways dated 01/08/19 – map and photo have been sent to the repair section – Hannah Davies would be chasing re action on this)*

- (g) Blocked drain/ditch at Stocks Cottages. *(Clerk reported to the previous meeting that Jack Adams was taking action to serve a Section 25 Notice on BT. He has been in contact with BT who have agreed to carry out the necessary works by the end of November)*
- (h) White House Cross Roads - Cllr Peter Whatley had yet again written to Co Cllr P Tuthill regarding the issues at White House Cross Roads i.e. restricted visibility due to the existence of vegetation growth and lack of speed restrictions. WCC Highways were not in favour of restricting the road (60 mph) at the crossroads, nor of other measures which might slow vehicles beyond placing an additional “Slow” marking on the main road on both sides of the junction. They also stated that the visibility splays were sufficient. Local residents were very unhappy that there was no speed restriction in the areas, both to improve safety at the junction and more generally along the narrowed section of highways outside the White House itself. In summary, local dissatisfaction with the junction and the Knightwick Road would not be remedied by any action(s) other than complete removal of the laurel hedge or measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or improve sightlines. The response from Hannah Davies (WCC Highways Transport & Liaison Engineer) was as follows :- *Although the Highways Authority appreciate the concerns outlined in your e-mail, we must re-iterate the points made at the meeting some time ago. The speed limit reduction proposal is limited by the lack of roadside development. The Department of Transport state that lower limits need to tie in with significant roadside development. No injury collisions have been recorded or recommendations made by the Police. However, in the interests of joint working we would like to carry out a new speed survey for the junction and to offer contacting the resident via letter to request the hedge be cut back to improve visibility lines.*
- (i) Failed Drains on Sindons Mill Lane (C1140), Cllr P Whatley had reported this to WCC Highways Ref 786353.
- (j) Blocked drain on Birchwood Lane at dip by the depth marker - Cllr P Whatley had reported this to WCC Highways and had also dug out the drain himself (!)
- (k) The Clerk reported that she had e-mailed Hannah Davies with a request for jetting all the drains in Suckley Parish on a regular basis, as it was uneconomic for the jetting team to be called out to jet one or two drains. Hannah Davies had asked for details of the main areas of concern which were – Birchwood Lane, Sindons Mill, Mousehole and the Knightwick Road by Holloways.

73/19 VAS CAMERA

Geoffrey Brewin the Clerk of Alfrick & Lulsley had taken over the scheduling and stats analysis for both parishes. The Clerk was waiting for an update from the last figures in August.

74/19 CHARITY REPORTS

Suckley Charities - Cllr P Whatley reported that the next meeting of would be held in April 2020.

Brookes Memorial Fund - The Clerk reported that she had written to the Fund Administrator (Mr Brooks) inviting a Trustee to attend the November meeting of the Council. However, as there were only three Trustees, none of them were able to attend, but Mr Brooks was hopeful that one of them would be able to come to the January 2020 meeting. Cllr R Hill felt that the Charity had become divorced from its Suckley roots and suggested that another Trustee be appointed, possibly from the Parish Council, to represent Suckley and raise awareness of the Charity.

75/19 COMMUNITY

- (a) New Parish Information Pack – Cllr C Luton had obtained quotes for printing but after some discussion it was agreed that the outer more expensive folder was necessary so that

- the loose inner pages could be updated as and when required. Cllr C Luton to obtain a quote for printing 500 folders.
- (b) **Let It Bee** - The Clerk had sent information on this to Dist Cllr S Rouse in connection with the MHDC Forum on the Environment. The Clerk to investigate the ownership of the Village Green in relation to wildflower seed/pollination planting.
 - (c) The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to VE celebrations being organised for 8 – 10 May 2020
 - (d) **Womble Litterpick** - The Womble Litterpick had taken place on 2nd November thanks to the excellent organisational skills of Mrs Catherine Armstrong. As well as filling 25 bags of rubbish, £100 had been raised for St John Ambulance.
 - (e) **Worcester to Leominster Railway** - The Clerk had received information re an initiative to create a cycle/walking track along the disused railway line. The Council supported this project and thought that perhaps a speaker could be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2020.

76/19 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green.
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses Sept/Oct 2019 - £35.51; Lengthsman August 2019 £172.80 (paid but to be approved); Lengthsman September 2019 - £235.60; Lengthsman October 2019 £259.20; Clerk’s Office Apr-Sept 2019 - £125.00; ICO – Data Protection Fee £40; RBL Poppy Appeal (poppy crosses) £40.50 (paid but to be approved).
Playing Fields - D Reynolds (DJR Farm Services) £210.00 (paid, but to be approved); For information – Npower Direct Debit Aug – Nov 2019 £47.10
- (b) **Accounts to 30th September 2019** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J Green

77/19 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr J Green reported that the mole problem was still in evidence by the swings and the slides. The chain and lock on the gates had disappeared. Cllr C Luton to purchase a new chain and lock.

78/19 RISK ASSESSMENT

All risk assessment forms had been completed – no problems (other than those raised re Playing Fields)

79/19 PLANNING (for information)

- (a) App No: 19/01510/S106 & 19/01493/FUL
 Site: Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ
As detailed earlier in the Minutes, the Council had no comment to make on these applications.

80/19 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that WiFi was now available, but they were still waiting for the boiler and water to be connected. The Carol Service would be held on 22nd December and the Tree of Light on 8th December 2019. Another Ceilidh would be taking place on 18th January 2020.

81/19 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr A Lewis reported that a donation of Astro Turf which has been laid down between the Church and the School has helped to avoid mud being brought into the school buildings.

82/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2020/21

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall