

## **SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

**Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.15 pm**

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr R Hill, Cllr R Hooper, Cllr A Lewis,  
Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr J Green (via phone)

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

Apologies: Cllr C Luton, Cllr A W Huband

**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. (None made)**

**No requests had been received by the Clerk for any Dispensations relating to items on the Agenda. (Sec 33 of the Localism Act 2011)**

Cllr P Whatley informed the Council that as District Councillor he would not vote or express any opinion on the Planning Applications in case either of them were sent to MHDC Northern Area Planning Committee. He would, however, Chair the meeting.

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

No public presentations were made to the Council

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported to the Council. Covid numbers had increased in the county, but Worcestershire had a much lower rate of cases than many other parts of the country. Fire service performance was ahead of expectations. The new cycling and walking bridge was now in place across Hams Way, but approach routes remained to be completed. The A4440 causeway had yet to be completed and was behind schedule. As a result of February's flooding around Powick, proposals were in hand to raise approach roads to the bypass roundabout.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. She noted that in the midst of the pandemic, Central Government had tabled proposals to re-organise County and District Councils, and changes to planning law that would impose greatly increased house building figures on all Councils nationwide. Within MHDC's area, COVID cases remained low, doubtless assisted by the prevalence of bodies such as Suckley's Good Neighbour Network. MHDC continued to support neighbour schemes and would be focussing on rebuilding communities and helping those affected by the end of the furlough scheme.

**Lengthsman** - The Clerk reported on the activities of the Lengthsman during July and August. In July strimming work had been done at White House Cross Roads and Church Lane. Gullies had been cleared from Acton Road to Mousehole, Birchwood, and Blackhouse Lane, and along the Knightwick Road. Gullies had been checked for blockages. In August, strimming and clearing gullies had been done along Suckley Road, Longley Green and various other areas of the parish. The Clerk was asked to check with the Lengthsman for more detail re work done in Longley Green.

**Footpaths** – Cllr L Devenish confirmed that footpath 555 was blocked with tree branches. The Clerk to speak to Helen Philpotts our Footpaths Warden to try and establish the landowner.

**Local Police** – Cllr R Hooper had circulated the Jan – August 2020 Police Crime Stats to all the Cllrs. There were 274 incidents across all the 11 parishes covered. Suckley had 4 incidents of theft, 1 each in February, March, May, July and 1 incident of anti-social behaviour in July 2020.

#### **46/20 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July were read and approved and signed, subject to an amendment of typing error Covid 29 to Covid 19. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr A Lewis.

#### **47/20 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

The Clerk had circulated an update to Cllrs re Parish Highways issues still outstanding in August which had been sent to Hannah Davies at WCC Highways. No response to this had yet been received and the Clerk agreed to send a copy of this update to Co Cllr P Tuthill. The Clerk had also reported six blocked drains using the WCC website which had been reported to her by the Lengthsman. She had requested clarification of the response received back from Highways, which prompted Hannah Davies to issue orders for jetting. Cllr P Whatley had suggested to Co Cllr P Tuthill that he meet up with the WCC Inspector and go through all the outstanding drain problems. Co Cllr P Tuthill confirmed that unfortunately three separate drains maps were being used, one was our own Suckley PC map, one was the WCC drain map and the third was one used by Amey – the WCC contractors.

#### **48/20 VAS CAMERA**

The Clerk had circulated the Suckley VAS stats for May – July 2020 received from Geoff Brewin at Alfrick. This showed that 42.9% of journeys in the Parish during this time were above the speed limit, with one speed in the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> June being recorded at Bruff Bank at over 70 mph.

#### **49/20 CHARITY REPORTS**

No reports to date. Suckley Charities would be holding a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### **50/20 COMMUNITY**

- (a) **Superfast Broadband** – Cllr P Whatley reported to the meeting. Worcs CC had introduced an enhanced voucher scheme from 12<sup>th</sup> September, intended to reduce the costs of schemes to householders and businesses. Both Crews Hill and Longley Green schemes were stymied due to failures by Openreach to provide accurate, timely quotations and – out of the blue – a requirement for organisers to create legal entities with which Openreach would enter into contract. Cllr Whatley had consulted with the Hanley Castle scheme's leaders and established that the contract type accepted by Openreach added no value or protection to them, but would impose a cost on the community. He intended to liaise with interested residents and Alfrick PC regarding their scheme in Lulsley.
- (b) **Parish Information Pack & Crowdfunding** - Cllr A Lewis reported that a significant sum had been raised for the Good Neighbour Scheme/Parish Information Pack through the Crowdfunding project backed by MHDC. The Clerk had tracked down Lisa Griffiths who had composed the original artwork for the Parish Map Board. Fortunately Lisa had kept a digital copy of her work. The Council agreed to Cllr A Lewis obtaining quotes from both Lisa Griffiths and Cllr Carol Luton's contact to produce artwork for the information pack.

- (c) **Remembrance Service** - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 - Cllr P Whatley reported that he had contacted the Vicar and Mark Armstrong re the service this year. It might be that only six people could attend. We would have to comply with whatever regulations might be in force on 11<sup>th</sup> November, but a service would definitely be held. The Clerk to order poppy crosses.

**51/20 FINANCE** - The following cheques were approved :-

- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J Green
- (a) **Gen Fund** – D W Taylor, Clerk’s expenses July/August 2020 - £40.00; D W Taylor – Clerk’s Office Apr – Sept 2020 - £125.00; R Willks – Lengthsman July 2020 £273.00 (paid but to be approved); R Wilks Lengthsman August 2020 £115.20 (subject to query re Longley Green); Came & Co Insurance 2020/21 - £1,089.90 (year 3); HMRC – PAYE – July/Aug/Sept 2020 - £388.80
- (b) **Playing Field** –D Reynolds – DJR Services - (Mowing & Topping Playing Field) – £84.00 (paid but to be approved)
- (c) **Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 020** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

**52/20 PLAYING FIELD**

- (a) Security - Cllr P Whatley reported that the Playing Fields were now secure, although the play area was still being used (despite signs stating it was closed). The All Weather pitch was being used regularly, and an enquiry had been made from Bromyard re using the football area when it was available. The Council had also agreed that a model aircraft owner could use the field for flying his model plane. The Clerk reported on the e-mail from Cllr C Luton stating that she had put up new Covid signs (these had now disappeared). The steel door grid would be arriving this week and hopefully would be fitted soon after. She had asked Duncan to give the field another mow.
- (b) Play Area - Cllr C Luton had asked Paul not to mow around the play equipment to discourage people using it.

**53/20 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr P Whatley had been undertaking the Risk Assessments as Cllr J Green was in a high risk category and had to be shielded. Nothing to report other than moles reappearing on the Playing Fields.

**54/20 PLANNING – MHDC (for consideration)**

- (a) App No            20/01121/HP  
Location:        The Bye Ways, Birchwood Road, Suckley, WR6 5DT  
Proposal:        Erection of two storey and single storey rear and side extensions.

The Council considered this application and had no objections to it.

- (b) App No:            20/01176/HP  
Location:        Pump Cottage, Suckley Road, Knightwick, WR6 5QQ  
Proposal:        Change of use of existing double garage to ancillary accommodation for use as an annexe.

The Council considered this application and had no objections to it.

**55/20 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported that the Church was open on Saturdays. The boiler had been commissioned. The electrician was trying to get the 75 inch TV to work as a hybrid TV so it would be more useful. Fundraising was now ongoing for the kitchen and toilets. Cllr A Lewis confirmed that the Church was open for services – one service was held at the end of August and another was planned for the end of September

**56/20 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

Cllr A Lewis reported that she had written to the new Head of the school and received a very positive reply from Helen Field stating her wish for the school and the community to develop strong links in the future. She and her staff were committed to making the school as safe as possible for the return of the children.

**57/20 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** - none raised

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.15 pm by Zoom call-in unless otherwise advised**