

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12th JULY 2021 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr R Hill, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr R Hooper
Cllr J Green

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr S Rouse, Co Cllr K Hanks, Mrs H Philpotts
(Footpaths Warden)

Two members of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A W Huband, Cllr C Luton

The Chairman, Cllr R Hill welcomed our new County Councillor Karen Hanks to the meeting.

- (a) Cllrs were reminded of the need to complete/update their Register of Interests**
- (b) Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) in items on the Agenda – or -**
- (c) Declaration of Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda falling within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct.**

Cllr R Hill declared a DPI relating to item 17e on the Agenda. Cllr P Whatley stated that as a District Cllr he would not take part in any discussions relating to Planning items on the Agenda.

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 heard a complaint from a parishioner that he was unable to get any help with his objections to an application relating to vehicles owned by the Cold Store company. He had contacted a number of agencies, including Worcs Co Council and the Police, but no-one had been able to help him. He felt there should be a way for concerns and objections to be heard and dealt with. Cllr P Whatley explained that the Parish Council is not notified regarding vehicle operating applications, and has no input at all on these matters. Any objections/representations have to be made on-line. The parishioner was also concerned about rubbish in a field adjoining his property. Cllr P Whatley confirmed that this had been reported to MHDC Planning Enforcement. This would be dealt with, but the Enforcement Officers had a very high workload. Some metal had already been removed from the site in question. Any complaints re infringement of planning regulations can be made to MHDC on line. Cllr R Hill suggested that he contact either of the two District Cllrs or our new Co Cllr Karen Hanks should he need any help in the future.

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Karen Hanks thanked the Chairman for his welcome and looked forward to representing Suckley Parish at County Council level. She would be looking into how she could best help with the speeding problems and Highways problems in the parish. The County Council had received a grant of £1.5M to provide free school meals and activities and support for disadvantaged families over the summer holidays via Ready, Steady Worcestershire. In November 2020 the Government announced a Holiday, Activities & Food

(HAF) programme to provide healthy food and enriching activities. The booking system for the holiday programme would be going live early next month. There was also funding available for Holiday Clubs and she would be able to give advice on how to apply. Confirmed cases in Worcestershire had increased by 117% in the last 7 days. As at Monday the Worcestershire Covid rate was 120 per 100,000 with Malvern Hills rate for people over 60 currently 25 per 100,000. Vaccination centres in Worcester, Bromsgrove and at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern were still operational. Here2Help continued to support individuals who are self-isolating or anyone who needs extra help. Tel 01905 768053. Co Cllr K Hanks had been appointed Vice-Chair of the Economy & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, she also serves on the Pensions Committee and Pensions Investment Sub-Committee and is a trustee of the John Palmer Foundation for Worcestershire County Council.

Report from District Cllrs – Cllr S Rouse reported that a Poverty Summit was being arranged to work out how best to support and help families and others struggling to cope. A lot of people didn't know where to go or who to ask for help. A pot of money was being made available to fund economic recovery in the area, including apprenticeships and training. A huge amount of business grants had been made during the Covid lockdown period. An environmental plan was being put together to look at ways of reducing emissions, for example encouraging car clubs and using public transport. A positive factor during Covid was the way everyone had worked together. Dist Cllr P Whatley added that MHDC would be promoting local events and wanted to help build up the community. MHDC was considering erecting a permanent Covid memorial.

Lengthsman - The Clerk reported that in May the Lengthsman had been working at White House Cross Roads, Longley Green, Birchwood, Knightwick Road and Woodland Road to the school, clearing gully grates, verge grips and removing vegetation. He was still struggling with completing the combined coded worksheet & invoice required by WCC Highways.

Footpaths – Helen Philpotts reported that she had dealt with the footpath issues reported by Cllr A Lewis but the question of replacing footpath signs was still outstanding. The Clerk reported that she had sent Jon White (Countryside Department) an extract from the list relating to replacement footpath signs required (as requested by the Department pre-Covid) but he had e-mailed back to Cllr A Lewis asking for these to be posted via the website (which she had done). The Clerk to chase up Jon White re replacement footpath signs. Cllr P Whatley reported a broken stile at Parsleys Patch. Helen Philpotts to deal with this.

Local Police – A new PCSO – Stacey Birks - had made contact with the Clerk who had sent her an Agenda for the meeting, with a request to send Suckley crime stats to Cllr R Hooper. Unfortunately, no stats had been received. The Clerk to send an Agenda and further request for crime stats for the next meeting in September.

52/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Zoom Meeting held on 6th May 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 24th May 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr J Green, this approval to include an amendment re item (3) to read as follows “*Suckley Parish Council would like MHDC Planning to seek clarification on the flood zoning of the site.*” The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 21st June 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Hooper and seconded by Cllr A Lewis.

53/21 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The Clerk had circulated an update to Cllrs re 15 Parish Highways issues still outstanding up to 30th June 2021 (also sent to Hannah Davies WCC Highways and Co Cllr K Hanks). Cllr R Hill pointed out to Co Cllr Hanks that a number of these issues were more than 12 months old, and no time frame had been given for completion in many instances. The Council want to see major issues dealt with – such as Birchwood Road, where at a meeting in October 2020 with Hannah Davies, an extensive drainage scheme had been promised in the new financial year of 2021 and so far this was still outstanding. Cllr P Whatley reported that at Sindons Mill Lane and at other sites, WCC Highways reported that work had been done, but this had either not happened or the work had not solved the problem. Many of the problems had been caused by WCC Highways/Contractors/Suckley PC working from three different maps. Co Cllr K Hanks stated that a new system was now in place. She would re-report Suckley issues onto the new portal.

54/21 VAS CAMERA

VAS Suckley stats from 15th February to 28th March and 17th May to 27th June 2021 had been circulated to Cllrs by the Clerk. These showed that the highest rate of speeding was along the Knightwick Road by the Village Hall and Church Lane, with one record of over 65 mph on the morning of 28th May. Cllr R Hill suggested that as Knightwick Road was in the vicinity of the school that perhaps the speed limit could be reduced to 20 mph. Co Cllr K Hanks agreed to look into this. Cllr R Hill reported that if a car hit a pedestrian at 40 mph, there was a 90% chance of death; at 30 mph this reduced to 20% and at 20 mph it reduced still further down to 2.5%. It was noted that many of the speeding cars were involved in the school run and perhaps positioning a mobile speed camera at school opening and closing times could be quite effective.

55/21 CHARITY REPORTS

Brookes Memorial Fund - The Clerk had circulated details of the latest set of Accounts for the BMF for the year ended 9th October 2020. Bryony Gaskell and Andy Wood from BMF to be invited to the next meeting in September.

56/21 COMMUNITY

- (a) **Parish Information Pack** - Cllr A Lewis reported that the pack would be completed very shortly. She would be circulating a draft to Cllrs for proof reading before printing.
- (b) **Second Defibrillator at The Bruff** - The Clerk reported that the £300 donation had been sent on to Adrian Biggs. Cllr R Hill reported that the defibrillator was up and running at the Bruff, but to date no signs had been put in place. Signs were needed from both directions. Cllr A Lewis offered to e-mail details of the signs erected in Church Lane.
- (c) **Memorial Site – The Old Quarry** - The Clerk reported that the Council cheque for half of the total cost had been sent to Stonemasons of Worcester as a deposit payment. No timescale given yet for completion
- (d) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2022** - An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June had been set aside to celebrate the Queen's seventy years of service to the country. Suggestions for celebrating this occasion included a Jubilee Lunch at the Playing Fields on Sunday 5th June/a church service attended by Suckley School pupils plus a lunch with sideshows/stalls and games up to about 5.00 pm, followed by evening entertainment. Cllr R Hill agreed to contact the Head Teacher at Suckley School as a starting point.
- (e) **WCC website/Facebook Page/electronic access** – Cllr P Whatley explained that he posted items on the WCC (Suckley Parish) website sent to him by the Clerk. He was also the administrator for the Parish Facebook site, where he posted items of interest locally

i.e. road closures, flooding, events, dates of PC Meetings etc. He was happy to carry on doing this, but felt that perhaps one other Cllr at least should have access to these sites. After a short discussion, the Council agreed that they were happy for Cllr Whatley to continue his work on both sites.

- (f) **Malvern Hills AONB – small grants available for projects** – the Clerk had circulated details of the grants available under this scheme. The Clerk to contact Jacqui Barker at Leigh & Bransford re acquiring traffic speed warning signs through this scheme.

57//21 FINANCE - The following cheques were approved :-

- (a) **Gen Fund** – - proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr R Hooper :-
D W Taylor, Clerk’s expenses May/June 2021 - £68.87; R Wilks -Lengthsman May 2021 - £244.80; HMRC PAYE April/May/June 2021 - £411.60.
Already paid but to be approved – RMW Estates Ltd – £300.00 (defibrillator contribution at The Bruff); Stonemasons of Worcester Ltd - £495.00 (Memorial Trough Deposit); Duffy Regan & Co – (Auditors) £84.00
- (b) **Playing Field** – Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr A Lewis :-
D Reynolds (DJR Farm services) – Labour & Parts for topper yoke & Bearing plus topping playing field - £266.89 (subject to confirmation via Cllr J Green)
Already paid but to be approved - D Reynolds (DJR Farm Services) – Topping Playing Field - £231.00; Adam T Cross – Mole Control - £65.00; Direct Debit – Water Plus – 9 May to 9 June 2021 - £14.82
- (b) **Accounts to 31st May 2021** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.

58/21 HILL TRUST/VILLAGE HALL

Cllr R Hill reported that the Hill Trust had received substantial grants from central government to compensate for the hall closure during covid. The Hall Committee were looking for suggestions as to how best to use the money for the benefit of the hall. Suggestions from the Council included :- New/improved heating system (Cllr R Hill suggested a heat pump system and solar panels); improved toilet facilities; improved acoustics; wifi connection. Cllr R Hill to take these ideas back to the Hall Committee for consideration.

59/21 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton had e-mailed Cllrs to report that the first new bin had been fitted with the second one being done when she returned from holiday. Cllr J Green suggested the the Pavilion needed a coat of paint in readiness for any celebrations for the Queen’s Jubilee next year.

60/21 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr R Hill reported no issues re risk assessment for the bus shelters, trees in quarry and the Map Board.

61/21 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported on increased activity re fund raising for the toilets and kitchen facilities in the church. An application had been made for £28K of funding. If successful, the facilities could be in place by the end of the summer. It was vitally important for the church to have both these in place so the church space could be used by all sections of the community. Funding was also needed for the steep path up to the church from the school. If funding was available, work to build steps instead of a muddy path could take place in the summer holidays.

62/21 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The Head Teacher Helen Field had produced a report which the Clerk would e-mail to Cllrs. Worcester University students had been allowed back into the school and their presence meant that more extra-curricular activities could take place. Eagles had spent two nights sleeping in wooden pods at Oakerwood Leisure Activity Centre and Woodpeckers had been bell-boating along the River Severn. The sensory room had been completed and was used daily. Following a donation from Suckley Tractor Club, the school had been able to purchase an outdoor timeline, which thanks to Anne Lewis had local Suckley history and photographs incorporated into it. It had been placed on the outside wall of the playground. For the reception class in September the school has an intake number of 12, but has agreed to take 15 this year, and would be willing to accept up to 18 for the academic year. The next project would be the playground for Reception children, particularly now numbers would be increasing. Quotes so far have ranged from £15K - £83K. The school was seeking funds and grants and local help to achieve this, and thanks were due to the John Palmer Trust for starting the fundraising campaign. Thanks also to the Parish Council for allowing the school to use the Astro Turf once a week for tennis coaching, and the use of the Playing Fields for the School Sports Day.

62/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - none raised

Cllr R Hill then left the meeting, and the rest of the meeting was Chaired by the Vice-Chairman Cllr John Green.

63/21 PLANNING

For Information only –

- (a) App No: 21/00408/FUL
Location: The Boat House, C2244 Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DL
Proposal: Change of use of land from paddock to domestic garden & erection of detached studio building (retrospective)
MHDC Planning has **REFUSED** this application.
- (b) App No: 21/00407/HP
Location: The Boat House, C2244, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DL
Proposal: Proposed front open canopy porch, rear porch, detached garden building & detached open car port (retrospective)
MHDC Planning has **APPROVED** this application, subject to conditions
- (c) App No: 21/00685/
Location: Lower House, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DQ
Proposal: Agricultural track.
MHDC Planning has **REFUSED** this application. (However, the applicant had re-submitted an amended application which was considered by Suckley PC at their Planning Meeting on 21st June. The Council had no objections to this amended application, but preferred the straight route of the track, and the planting of a mixed species of deciduous hedge)

For consideration :-

(d) App No: 21/00705/Hp

Location: 2, Pewcroft Cottages, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DG

Proposal: Erection of detached double garage and demolition of shed.

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

(e) App No: 21/01042/HP (re-submission)

Location: Stonehouse, Longley Green, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DU

Proposal: Erection of detached vehicle storage building.

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

Date of next meeting – Monday 20th September at 7.00 pm