

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8th NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Hill (Chairman), Cllr P Whatley, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr P Griffiths,
Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr L Devenish

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Co Cllr K Hanks

Apologies: Dist Cllr S Rouse, Cllr R Hooper

- (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 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 (including planning applicant/s or their representatives)

- (1) No planning applicants or members of the public were present

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr K Hanks reported that 14 new gritters and 15,750 tonnes of salt/grit were now ready for winter use. Referring to Highways/drains problems within the Parish, she explained that a new mapping system was being trialled at County Hall which, if successful, would allow access by Parish Councils and complaints/problems could be logged in directly. She was hopeful that Suckley would be able to have a printed copy of the new map. She acknowledged the numerous ongoing drains/highways issues within the parish, and had posted a number of them onto this new portal. However, it was important that any new problems should still be raised on the County Council Highways website. She would escalate the drain Nos 17 and 18 issues raised by Cllr P Whatley and also Birchwood Lane with Hannah Davies.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr P Whatley reported that MHDC were now into Covid Recovery mode with money going into economic measures such as apprenticeships. Economic recovery was strong in the MHDC area, and claims for grants had dropped considerably. Town Centre recovery plans were going ahead. Green toolkits were being sent out to encourage green tourism initiatives and sustainable tourism in the area. The 30 mph scarecrows were proving popular and effective and it was hoped to make these available for more areas in and around Malvern. £500K had been allocated to Priory Park for a new play area.

Lengthsman - The Clerk reported that in September the Lengthsman had been working to clear vegetation/trimming at the White House Cross Roads, Church Lane, Longley Green to Mousehole. He had cleared gullies at Whitehouse Cross Roads, Suckley Station and Longley

Green. October was entirely taken up with clearing gullies throughout the parish, and also clearing flood water/mud/debris in Birchwood.

Footpaths – No Report

Local Police – The Police Report for October revealed a nil crime rate for Suckley.

84/21 PLANNING

The Council considered the following Planning Application :-

- (a) App No: 21/01862/HP
Location: Exmoor, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ
Proposal: Replacement of 3 windows on front elevation, including the change of 2 of the windows to bow windows.

The Council supported this application and had no comment to make

Planning - For information only:-

- (b) App No 21/0160/HP – Demolition of existing single storey garage storage building and replacement with a new single storey garage and storage building at The ByeWays, Birchwood Road, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DT had been **Approved** by MHDC Planning
- (c) An **Appeal** had been made against the issue of an Enforcement Notice by Malvern Hills District for an alleged breach – i.e. Without planning permission the unauthorised material change of use of land from agricultural to a mixed use of domestic garden, visitor accommodation, and leisure at The Boat House, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DL.
Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J1860C/21/3281952

85/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting & Planning Meeting held on 18th October 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

86/21 CHARITY REPORTS

- (a) **Brookes Memorial Fund** - Bryony Gaskell attended the meeting on behalf of the Brookes Memorial Fund and as the Fund's administrator. The Fund was established in 1980 by Mrs Brookes, the widow of a Suckley businessman. The aim of the Fund was to provide bursaries to attend independent schools for Suckley School pupils and other children residing in Suckley who had achieved a high academic standard. If the Fund did not have any applications from Suckley parish, the remit could be extended to any pupils in Worcestershire. The Trustees met in May each year to review students' progress and consider applications for the academic year starting in September. She assured the Council that although the bursaries were granted on an annual basis, they had always been renewed, and there would have to be exceptional circumstances if this was not the case. However, the students were expected to maintain a good academic standard. A discussion took place as to how best to raise the profile of the Memorial Fund in the parish, as the Fund had not received any applications from Suckley or other rural areas. Bryony had been in touch with Suckley School, and postings had been put onto the

Suckley FaceBook and in the Sphere. Cllr A Lewis agreed to put details of the Fund into the next update of the Parish Council's Information Pack which would be distributed to all residents. It was thought appropriate that members of the Brookes family still living in the parish should be approached regarding becoming Trustees of the Fund. Cllr A Lewis agreed to speak to Lyn Barker about this.

(b) **Suckley Charities** - Cllr P Whatley reported that a meeting of Suckley Charities had been held on 2nd November. There was now a Trustee vacancy due to the resignation of Cllr A W Huband. The Charity was finding it difficult to donate money locally. The financial assets of the Charity had remained fairly static at around £17.5K. At the 2nd November meeting the Trustees decided to explore the option of winding up the Trust, but no decision had yet been taken regarding its future. Cllr Whatley confirmed that Suckley school would be eligible to apply to the Trust for help. The next meeting of the Trust would be in April 2022. Cllr P Griffiths offered to join the Trust as a Council representative, which was gratefully accepted by Cllr P Whatley.

87/21 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Clerk reported that MHDC Electoral Department had not received any request for an election to be held. The Council was, therefore, free to co-opt a new member and hopefully could consider applications at the next Council meeting on 10th January 2022. She would be posting up the co-option notices.

88/21 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The Clerk had circulated an update to Cllrs re Parish Highways issues still outstanding up to 31st October 2021. This update had also been sent to Co Cllr K Hanks and Hannah Davies at WCC Highways. It was noted that very few problem areas had been resolved over the previous 12 months and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed to focus on getting a result for three key issues that remained outstanding. These would be :-

- (i) **Ref: 1079646** – Drains/flooding Scheme in Birchwood Lane
- (ii) **No Ref No** but following a meeting held on 16/10/20 with Hannah Davies, the gully outside **Bridge Cottage** had been earmarked to be lowered. Hannah Davies/WCC Highways had reported this as having been completed on 15/10/21, but this was incorrect, and it was still outstanding.
- (iii) **Ref No: 982598** – road erosion between Blackhouse Lane and Lower Tundridge Farm. Concrete posts do not appear to be fully supported. WCC Highways have marked the site with tape and cones, but this is becoming a hazardous situation with the onset of winter weather/flooding.

89/21 VAS CAMERA

No VAS stats yet available for Suckley. The Clerk had circulated details of two VAS suppliers for a new VAS camera. After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths and unanimously agreed that the Council would purchase a new VAS camera and accept the offer of £3K funding from Co Cllr K Hanks. The Clerk to liaise with Geoff Brewin at Alfrick & Lulsley re the use of the existing camera, what model of new VAS they would be purchasing and if they would continue to download and analyse the stats for Suckley, assuming both parishes purchased the same VAS model.

90/21 COMMUNITY

- (a) **Remembrance Service 11 November** - All arrangements were in place.
- (b) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2022** - An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022 had been set aside to celebrate the Queen's seventy years of service to the country. As previously reported, the Hammonds were planning to plant 1,000 additional trees to create Almshouse Wood, and volunteers would be needed to

- help with the planting. They had also offered to share their Jubilee Pig Roast event with the Parish Council. However, after looking at the high levels of insurance and safety requirements to make this a public event, the Council had agreed they did not have sufficient experience or resources to manage the event and had decided to withdraw. Cllr R Hill had spoken to the Hammonds about this, and they understood the situation and would, therefore, keep the evening as a private Jubilee celebration. The Clerk to write to the Hammonds and thank them for their offer. Mark Armstrong had approached the Chairman and offered to organise the 70 trees footpath trail. However, questions had arisen relating to landowner's permission to plant trees on private ground and the cost of providing protection for the trees from livestock. Cllr R Hill to speak to Mark Armstrong about how these concerns could be addressed before committing time and expenditure.
- (c) **Broadband Update** - Cllr P Whatley reported that there had been a complete turnaround by Worcs Co Council re the broadband scheme for Longley Green, which was now to be fully funded. He was now waiting for BT Open Reach to fix the fibre optics which would take 12 – 18 months.

91//21 FINANCE - The following cheques were approved :-

- (a) **Gen Fund** – - proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr L Devenish :-
D W Taylor, Clerk's expenses September/October 2021 - £77.40; R Wilks - Lengthsman September 2021 - £288.00; October 2021 - £316.00; D W Taylor Clerk's Office - Apr-Sept 2021 - £125.00; ICO (Information Commissioner) Data Protection Fee - £40.00; Paid but to be approved:- Royal British Legion - £30.00 (wooden poppy crosses)
- (b) **Playing Field** – Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J Green :-
Paid but to be approved :- Adam T Cross (mole control) - £45.00
Direct Debit – E-On electric 01/08/21 – 31/10/21 - £42.07
- (c) **Accounts to 30th September 2021** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.
- (d) **PWLB Loan** – The Clerk reported that after 25 years of payments, the loan of £15,000 had finally been repaid in October 2021 (at an interest rate of 7.75%)

92/21 HILL TRUST/VILLAGE HALL

Cllr R Hill reported that there was a need to regularise the structure of the Hill Trust. A new Parish Council Trustee to replace Cllr Walter Huband was required. Cllr C Luton offered to take on this role who together with Cllr R Hill maintained the two Trustee representatives for the Council. A number of outstanding issues remained to be resolved relating to the future use of the hall and how to best use the Government grant money the Trust had received.

93/21 COUNCIL PRESENTATION – 15TH NOVEMBER

All arrangements were in place for the presentation.

94/21 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton reported that she was hoping to arrange a last cut of the Playing Field before the winter. Everything was okay, but she was looking into the cost of installing a movement activated light on the pavilion building above the door.

95/21 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr R Hill reported no issues re risk assessment for the bus shelters, trees in quarry and the Map Board. Cllr C Luton reported all was well with the Playing Field.

96/21 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the installation of the toilets/kitchen facilities was booked for the Tuesday after Easter. Christingle would be held on the first Sunday of December.

97/21 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

It was suggested that the School approach Suckley Charities and/or the John Palmer Trust for help with improving the grass and tarmac areas of the school and the playground equipment. A number of projects in the school were in hand to help with the childrens' mental health including the Forest School and a sensory area for the reception class.

98/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2022/23.

Date of next meeting – Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.00 pm