

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Parish Church

Present: Cllr S. Gray (Chairman), Cllr M. Savage, Cllr A. Mansell, Cllr H. Ormerod,
Dist Cllr P Whatley

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk)

Six members of the public attended the meeting.

76/23 Apologies for Absence

Were received from Cllr A. Lewis and CoCllr K. Hanks

77/23 Declarations of Interests

None were received.

78/23 To consider Written Requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the Agenda.

None have been received.

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation. (The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chairman). Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public are reminded that by doing this, the matters for discussion may be included in public Minutes and should give their consent to this prior to any discussion. The Chairman will give members of the public the chance to withdraw from the meeting if they so wish.

Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council Meeting itself.

79/23 The Chairman invited members of the public present to make short presentations to the Council.

(a) Public presentation(s) (including planning applications representatives)

Mr E. Holloway gave further information on his planning application for the Hop Kilns, Suckley Court. He advised the proposal is to develop The Hop Kilns into a high-end letting business for large groups, to promote experiences in the area, to run courses and to reach into the local community. The Hopkilns are one building with one access which will be improved.

(b) Report from County Councillor – Cllr Karen Hanks

New Secondary School in Worcester.

New School for children aged 11-16 with a maximum of 600 students by 2030

Will be designed to increase to 1200 pupils if necessary

Location: Junction of Newtown Road and Nunnery Way (A4440) Opening in 2026.

Total budget in £50 million including purchase of site

Glancy Nicholls Architects will design the school and John Graham Construction Ltd awarded the contract.

The Academy Sponsor, Oasis. Councillors briefing 13 July 2023.

Worcestershire Children's Services:

A full inspection of Worcestershire Children's Services has graded the overall effectiveness of the services as 'Good' (announcement July 2023).

Highways:

Highways have been unable to act with regards to the speeding petition presented by the residents of Suckley Knowle, however, as the police must support any changes to speed limits, it is now recommended that a meeting is set up with Bob Haynes of the police Safer Neighborhood's Partnership. Tanya Crake our highways liaison officer has also agreed to attend this meeting at the earliest date to suit the Parish Council.

Progress has been made with regards to the collapsing bank. While planning the repair, the land was discovered not to belong to Worcestershire County Council. The owner of Lower Tundridge Farm is not only agreeable to the repairs, but keen to proceed with speed due to other work by Severn Trent taking place at the property. We now expect this repair to proceed quickly.

Bus on Demand piloted in Bromsgrove, is being rolled out in the Malvern Hills, pilot in Upton.

Home to School Transport costs for vacant seats increase by 9.6%

New applicants can also set-up a direct debit splitting the cost over 9 months.

The increase will only partially offset the increased transport costs by WCC, which have been significantly above inflation.

Divisional Fund:

Within this financial year, this fund has donated funding for improved broadband at Suckley Space.

(c) Report from District Councillor

The Boundary Commission Consultation will be effective from the 2025 election.

Everyone can make comments. Suckley will be connected to Malvern Hills urban. Fairly quiet at Malvern Hills DC, the new administration hasn't done much yet. Planning is in some disarray and is not meeting its thirteen week requirement. The Head of Planning is leaving after a very short period in office, leaving the remaining officers with an increased workload. South Worcestershire Development Plan is not quite so popular, WCCs Railway Strategy - no one is prepared to build a station at Rushwick. Currently waiting for Michael Gove to announce changes to planning.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Tom Wells, now has some 'Talk to Tom' sessions for residents to discuss any issues they may have. Peter and Sarah have 30mph stickers available for your wheely bins – contact them.

(d) Lengthsman Report (*Clerk*)

During May and June the lengthsman has carried out the following works: clearance of gully grates at Suckley Road, Mousehole, Acton Road, Church Lane, Blackhouse Lane Crews Hill and Birchwood. Mud has been cleared by digger at Birchwood and VAS equipment has been moved between agreed locations.

(e) Footpaths Report (*Mrs Helen Philpotts*)

At 1, 2 & 3 Suckley Road the hedges by the railings need cutting back. This is on the boundary but is in Knightwick parish. Clerk to contact Knightwick PC.

(f) Local Police Report – none received

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting.

80/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and was unanimous.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell and was unanimous.

The minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 6 June 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Mansell and was unanimous.

81/23 SUCKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A presentation by Suckley School was delivered by two pupils with the assistance of Head Teacher Helen Field. The children used slides to show the meeting what they had been doing or taking part in each month during the previous academic year.

In September they raised £133.60 for McMillan Cancer, October they played Hockey at the Chase School in Malvern, November was Children in Need when Pudsey visited the school and in December they visited Dysons in Malvern to learn IT skills. January was Forest School, February saw participation in a football tournament at Malvern, in March the children wore red to show support for the Air Ambulance. In April there was a poetry competition in Bromyard, in May a rugby tournament where Eagles finished 7th out of 23 teams and in June the older children took part in Cycling Proficiency and happily they all passed!

The chairman on behalf of the parish council and others in attendance, thanked Helen and the children for their brilliant presentation.

82/23 PLANNING – MHDC

For Consideration:

App Ref: M/23/00635/CU

Location: Hop Kilns at (os 7128 5132), Suckley Court, Suckley,

Proposal: Conversion of Hop Kilns to Single Dwelling

It was proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Mansell and agreed with a vote of 3 for and 1 against that the Parish Council supports this application and that Malvern Hills Planning be notified.

Decisions – for information only

App Ref: M/23/00401/HP

Location: Orchard Bungalow, Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5DQ

Proposal: Remodelling to create 4 bedroom dwelling with raising of the ridge with internal and external alterations and new garage/office building

Application is Approved – noted by the Parish Council

83/23 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

The water leak has been fixed near Holloways, otherwise nothing further to report.

84/23 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllrs Ormerod and Mansell have reviewed the current Risk Assessment schedule, which is quite high level, and have put together a more detailed list of risks for the bus shelters, quarry and playing fields. Clerk will add to current schedule. Cllr Mansell suggests a weekly rota.

Three manhole covers on the sports field are broken and need attention – Duane Berry will have a look and submit a quote.

85/23 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Following the May 2023 election there are currently four councillor vacancies. It was proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr Mansell to start the co-option process. Clerk to contact MHDC and possibly WorcsCALC for advice before proceeding.

86/23 COMMUNITY - Projects/items for discussion/update:-

- (a) Parish Map Board – Cllr H Ormerod to report
Cllr Ormerod has been unable to confirm use of a map. He has spoken to Worcestershire County Council and they have nothing which can be used, so we may have to start from scratch. The original map was from 2008.

- (b) BFG – thanks
Catherine Armstrong wished to pass on grateful thanks from the BFG Committee for the Parish Councils financial donation towards the 2023 BFG.
Noted by the Parish Council
- (c) Playing Fields – dogs
Cllr Gray has seen dogs on the playing fields, a bin is needed for dog waste. Also, a picnic bench would be a useful amenity. One made of recycled plastic and bolted to the ground would cost £1,000 installed. Mr Holloway agreed to see if he could source a wooden picnic bench for a lot less.
The chairman thanked Mr Holloway
- (d) Items stored in playing field pavilion
They are taking up most of the available space. Items belong to The Hill Trust. Proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous for Clerk to produce letter to be delivered to the Trust asking for all Trust owned items to be removed within next seven days.
- (e) Village Signs
It was unanimously agreed to defer to the September meeting.
- (f) Local Boundary Commission
Consultation period on new electoral arrangements for Worcestershire has been extended to 19th September 2023. Clerk to include in Sphere.
- (g) Revised South Worcestershire Development Plan
- (h) Neighbourhood Development Plan
This would entail a lot of work. Leigh & Bransford Parish Council have undertaken one so Cllr Gray agreed to speak to them.
- (i) Parish Survey
Cllr Gray proposed that the survey be deferred to January 2024.
Cllr Mansell said he would like to see it done now before spending money on something if its not what the village want.
It was proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr Savage and with a vote of three for and one against, for Cllr Mansell to start now. Clerk to forward documents from 2012 survey as a starting point.

87/23 **FINANCE**

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) **Gen Fund:**

R Wilks Lengthsman – £430.80 May & June
L Butler £1,373.20 – clerks salary May & June 2023
L Butler £80.55 - clerks expenses April – June 2023
HMRC - £225.60 tax April – June 2023
M Griffiths £95.00 – payroll 2022/23
Worcestershire CALC - £72.00 for two Cllr training sessions.
Worcestershire CALC - £30.00 for Clerk training.
PCC of Suckley – £30.00 Church hire for 17/07/2023

All above accounts paid on approval of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimous.

(b) **Playing Field**

DJR Farm Services - £108 topping of field
DJR Farm Services - £198 rolling and topping of field
Above two accounts paid on approval of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous

EDF for info – £89.60 in credit (at 24/04/2023) due to government cap payment
Credit balance noted.

WaterPlus D/D for March, April, & May 2023 - £11.14 x 3
Replacement lock on pavilion £90 - reimbursement to S Gray
Above two accounts paid on approval of Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous.

All above accounts paid on approval of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimous.

(c) Bank Signatories

To be able to manage the bank account, Nat West require the Clerk to be a signatory. Proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous that Clerk, Lynn Butler be added as a bank signatory.

88/23 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) It is suggested that the school manage bookings by an online booking system with payments made online. A keysafe would be provided at the school for the use of customers. Proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimous to start this from 1st September 2023 so long as Cllr Savage can get an online system up and running.
It is hoped the pavilion can have more summer uses including children's party's and weddings.
- (b) Formation of a Playing Field Committee to be deferred until January.
- (c) Volunteers are needed to clean the playground equipment. Helen Field advised children at the school are willing to help. Helen Philpotts and Helen Field will organise, possibly for 29th July 2023.
- (d) Clearing of trees and bushes around the Astro turf is needed. A quote has been received including chipping, which can possibly be used around the playground equipment. Helen Philpott agreed to seek an alternative quote.
- (e) The field is not in a good state and has been rutted whilst being cut during wet weather which has now dried hard in the recent heat. A quote has been received to cut fortnightly. Now there has been some rain it was suggested to try 'disking' to roll out the ruts. Proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous for Helen Philpotts to get a quote.
- (f) A football team is interested in using the football pitch and the Astro turf for training. They have offered to mark out the pitch and paint the pavilion. Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Savage seconded and unanimous that Cllr Mansell be project lead to manage the works required inside of the pavilion.
- (g) Pavilion – it was agreed to accept a quote from Nick Mifflin of £1,290 for one door and two windows. Proposed by Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimous.
- (h) Monkey Challenge – a climbing challenge for all ages which can be fully funded from grants. Proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous for clerk to complete application form.
- (i) Councillor Gray is looking to apply for grant funding from football authorities.
- (j) Stocbords – quotes have been received but it's agreed to consider them next year.

89/23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Nothing at present

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Parish Church