

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Parish Church

Present: Cllr S. Gray (Chairman), Cllr M. Savage (Vice Chair), Cllr H. Ormerod, Cllr A. Lewis, Cllr A. Mansell, Cllr H. Philpotts, Cllr R. Roper, Cllr R. Lewis.

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk), Dist Cllr P Whatley.

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

Cllr Richard Lewis signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office following his co-option at the last meeting on 11th September 2023.

104/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from CoCllr K. Hanks and Dist Cllr S. Rouse

105/23 Declarations of Interests

- (a) Cllrs are reminded of the need to complete/update their Register of Interest form.
- (b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.
- (c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

None were received.

106/23 To consider Written Requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the Agenda.

None were received.

The Meeting will be 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.

107/23 The Chairman will invite members of the public present to make short presentations to the Council.

- (a) Public presentation(s) (including planning applications representatives)
Planning (if on Agenda):-

- (1) The Council Chairman will ask the applicant/s or their representatives (if present) to put forward any points he/she wishes to make regarding their application
- (2) Other parishioners are then invited to put forward their comments
- (3) The applicant/representative then has the opportunity to respond to any points raised if he/she wishes to do so.

There were no planning representations.

Suckley resident Lynn Carter came to speak about the land at Stocks Farm allocated for development in the SWDP. She and neighbours do not consider that Suckley is a settlement to support any additional housing development with a lack of access to services from the site. She wishes to know the councils position on any development at the site regardless of size. Cllr Gray explained that the parish council can only give comments in the same way as any other member of the public can. It can only consider the plans put before it. Dist Cllr Whatley said that over 40,000 new dwellings are needed across three council areas. A 'Westminster formula' will determine the number of houses on any site.

Suckley resident Tania Charles stated to the council that burning garden waste is causing smoke and pollution. Residents are regularly burning waste and whilst its not illegal to do so perhaps practices could change. Cllr Gray agreed to include on agenda for next meeting to discuss further. Also, trees opposite The Nelson pub need cutting but they have Tree Preservation Orders on them. Dist Cllr Whatley said Mr Peplow is the owner of these trees and to contact the Tree Officer at Malvern Hills.

- (b) Report from County Councillor – Cllr Karen Hanks

Highways:

I have allocated £351.19 from my Locally Determined Fund as a contribution to the new Suckley boundary signage. As requested by the Parish Council, a new set of speed data has been requested.

County Council Updates

Ban Agreed for Single Use Vapes: Last Thursday, 9th November 2023, at full council meeting, Worcestershire County Councillors voted unanimously to support the Local Government Association's view for disposable vapes to be banned at its November Full Council meeting. Worcestershire County Council support the LGA and called for the Government to ban the sale and manufacture of single use vapes by 2024. It also highlights that disposable vapes are a hazard for waste and litter collection and cause fires in bin lorries.

Buses: Worcestershire County Council has been given £3.4 million from HS2 savings to improve bus services. Worcestershire's second 'on-demand' bus service has launched in Malvern following the success of a pilot in Bromsgrove. Malvern now has two DRT buses, operated by Malvern Community Action (in conjunction with Worcester Wheels) and LMS Travel. The service which is funded by Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council, will initially focus on South Malvern Hills (Upton/ Kempsey) and passengers will be able to travel to points of interest (e.g. Malvern Hospital or Malvern Train Stations) outside of the zone. The buses run from 7am until 7pm Monday to Saturday. There's a flat fare of £2.00 for all journeys per person. The 'Worcestershire on Demand' app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. When someone downloads the app, they will be able to select their pick-up and drop-off location when booking a journey. The system will then direct people to a nearby 'virtual bus stop' for pick-up and drop-off, allowing for quick and efficient shared trips without any detours.

Economy Overview and Scrutiny: On 17th November, I will be chairing WCC Economy Scrutiny Panel which will focus on 3 items: 1) Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Update 2) Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy 3) Performance Q4 January to March and In-Year Budget Monitoring.

Worcestershire County Council Budgets: As detailed in the agenda for the Full County Council Meeting on 9th November 2023, after the first 2 quarters, it is becoming apparent that there will be a funding gap, mainly due to legal obligations to provide home to school transport and demand for children's and adults services. A combination of actions will be taken to reduce the gap. At the same time data for the 24/25 budget will start to be discussed in December for approval in the February 2024 Council Meeting.

- (c) Report from District Councillor – Cllr P Whatley.
Planning continues to be a cause for concern, with recent performance being unacceptable. However, there is a new Planning Director starting in January so things should improve. Malvern Hills have not yet set the budget for next financial year, but it will be challenging in the current climate.
- (d) Lengthsman Report (*Clerk*)
Nothing to report but Mr Wilkes has been asked to forward invoices from June. Drains near Holloways are blocked again and will be reported to WorcestershireCC. The hedge at the White House cross roads are causing problems with visibility for motorists. The landowner needs to be known. Cllr R Lewis will speak to Mr Wilkes to agree how it can be managed.
- (e) Footpaths Report (*Cllr Philpotts*)
Nothing to report.
- (f) Local Police Report
Cllr Gray will be meeting with the local police on Wednesday, 15th Nov.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

108/23 MINUTES

Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Monday, 11th September 2023 were approved with an amendment to a typo error (om/on) at item 92/23(b) on the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous.

109/23 COUNCILLOR'S ROLES

With three new councillors, the Parish Council representatives on community organisations were reviewed and reallocated: Cllr R Lewis – Alfrick Educational Charities, Cllr R Roper – Social media and John Palmer Trust, Cllr H Philpotts – Suckley School and Footpaths. Cllr A Lewis also agreed to be a representative on Suckley Charities.

110/23 PLANNING – MHDC

a For Consideration: None

b Decisions – for information only

App Ref: M/22/01412/FUL

Location: Tundridge Stud, Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5DR

Proposal: Conversion of an existing building to create a live/work unit in conjunction with additional commercial workspace

Application has been Approved

Above decision noted by the Parish Council

111/23 ADOPTION OF MODEL STANDING ORDERS – updated April 2022

Draft version following September meeting was previously circulated. Final amendments at sections 6d and 7a were made. With all amendments made, Model Standing Orders

2018 (England) – Updated April 2022 were adopted. Proposed by Cllr A Lewis, seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimous.

112/23 PLAYING FIELD

The facilities now have regular bookings by local football clubs. Keys are now in a key-safe located under the defibrillator by the school.

Cllrs Mansell, Ormerod and Gray have erected the new goals which have been mainly funded by the Football Foundation.

Derrick & Reg Philpotts have cleared the vegetation on the pitch and carpark.

The grass is now in a good condition as is the pavilion which will be having new electric work done at the end of November.

Cllr Gray has applied for grants for the work on the pavilion and for new boards around the all-weather pitch.

Work is needed on paths. Cost will be approximately £629. Proposed by Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous. Work to commence in December. Cllr R Lewis is to take the lead with assistance from other Councillors.

Three benches are being supplied – two from County Councillor Hanks and one from Mr E Holloway.

The CCTV monitor was not located in the correct place so it will be moved to the attic.

Cows are getting onto the field. Cllr Roper might have a gate which would work.

The idea of a Playing Field Committee was discussed with a meeting to be arranged in the new year. This committee would report to the Parish Council, so it would be best to keep the bank accounts as they are ie a separate playing field account. Clerk to enquire how Whitbourne manage their playing fields.

Cllr Savage will complete an on-line booking system. Mrs Carol Luton has notified the council that she no longer wishes to be involved with the playing field and has returned the keys. Cllr Gray will be the contact for bookings etc.

113/23 RISK ASSESSMENTS

Cllr Mansell has agreed to revise the rota from January to include the three new councillors. In December, Cllrs Philpotts and Roper will accompany Cllr Gray to learn how to undertake the risk assessments.

114/23 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

Cllrs Mansell and Gray met with Tania Craik from Worcestershire Highways, new speed data has been collected. The reports have not yet come back. The hedge and path from Damson Way to Woodland Road will not be cut back until the summer school holidays as it needs to be in the 2025/25 budget.

An order has been raised for a pothole at Birchwood.

The drains are blocked near Holloways – order to be raised.

Top dressing of the Knowle has been raised but still waiting to hear if/when it will be done.

115/23 DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25

A draft budget has been previously circulated to review expected expenditure and set the precept. After reviewing the figures and noting the reduced projected reserves the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept by 6.7%. The precept for 2024/25 will be £15,267. Proposed by Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr A Lewis and unanimous.

116/23 COMMUNITY - Projects/items for discussion/update:-

- (a) Parish Map Board – Cllr H Ormerod to report
An update report produced by Cllr Ormerod has been circulated prior to the meeting. There are six entries who have asked to be removed and another six to go on which should mean sixteen which is a good number.
- (b) John Palmer Trust – PC representatives
Cllr Roper agreed to be the PC representative with Cllr A Lewis

- (c) Village Signs
Two village signs have been ordered – one to be placed on the Knightwick road and the other on the Cradley road - and are planned to be installed in January. County Councillor Hanks has agreed some funding from her locally determined budget.
- (d) Village Show
Cllr Gray suggested the idea of a mid-summer show. Possibly sometime in June 2024 if it could be organised. A separate meeting is to be organised for interested helpers. Cllr Gray will contact Mr Holloway about parking and access. Proposed by Cllr Philpotts, seconded by Cllr R Lewis and with 7 for and 1 abstention it was agreed that Cllr Gray arrange a meeting to discuss further.
- (e) Lottery
The idea of a lottery will be placed on the village survey to determine if there is any support. Proceeds will be for the benefit of the playing field. It was suggested it might be better to call it a '100 Club' or similar.
- (f) History Society
Residents have asked what is happening with the History Society as some have given them items and want to know about them. There has been no recent communication from the Society. Cllr R Lewis would be keen to get involved and expressed interest in scanning documents. Cllr A Lewis will contact Catherine Owen to see what is inside the 'safe/cupboard'. Cllr Gray is to contact the police for advice and then organise a meeting of interested parties in late Nov or early Dec.
- (g) Parish Survey
A question re item (e) above will be included and Cllrs Mansell and Savage will print the survey which will be distributed during January. Cllr Gray will promote during December through social media and produce a newsletter to be delivered with survey.
- (h) SPACE
An email has been received from Diana Holloway on behalf of SPACE thanking the parish council for the recent contribution towards this years BFG. This was acknowledged by all councillors.
- (i) Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme
Mrs Diana Talbot has requested the parish council to consider funding the Good Neighbourhood Scheme's phone number. The current cost is £7.20 per month. Proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous to provide £86.40 for one years usage.
- (j) School – report by Cllr H Philpotts.
School numbers continue to be good with a lot of interest from the Open Day in October. Children regularly visit the Forest School site. KS1 and KS2 visited the Great Malvern Reading Festival and participated in workshops. KS2 children dressed up as evacuees and participated in a World War II workshop in the church. Years 5 & 6 attended a Worcestershire Cross Country event in Malvern and did very well.

117/23 FINANCE

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) Gen Fund:

Royal British Legion £76.50 – memorial crosses, reimbursement to Clerk
Information Commissioners Office £40 – GDPR & data protection act renewal, reimbursement to Clerk
L Butler £1,373.20 – clerks salary Sep & Oct 2023
L Butler £44.40 – clerks expenses July – Sep 2023
PCC of Suckley £30.00 - meeting 13/11/2023
Proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr R Lewis and unanimous to pay the above accounts.

The following accounts for Playing Field items to be reimbursed to Cllr S Gray - total £3,578.41 was paid from general fund before tonight's meeting due to value.

Live4Soccer £2,415.00 - Portable Goals

Alpha £750.00 – Pavilion CCTV cameras, monitor and labour

Screwfix £119.99 – burglar alarm for pavilion

Screwfix £99.99 – garage lock

Screwfix £17.99 – keysafe

B&Q £35.00 – paint

GM Garden & Home £14.50 – Wheelie Clips

GM Garden & Home £56.98 – Ramp

GM Garden & Home £69.95 - Heavy Duty Trolley

Proposed by Cllr R Lewis, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous to pay the above accounts.

(b) Playing Field

Smart Cut £600.00 - Cutting on 7th & 22nd Sep and 6th, 19th & 31st Oct

WaterPlus D/D for Sep & Oct 2023 - £7.50 x 2

EDF electricity - £84.49 July to Sep

Cllr S Gray £88.68 – reimbursement for Land Registry fee, postage, dog sign & County Building Supplies stabilising solution for walls

Diplock Plumbing - £279.99 for replacement shower and plumbing

Diplock Plumbing - £9,120.65 for cylinders, insulation and programmers

Adam Cross - £45 for mole control

Proposed by Cllr Philpotts, seconded by Cllr R Lewis and unanimous to pay the above accounts.

(c) Interim accounts 2023/24 previously circulated.

Bank statements are now being received monthly by the Clerk enabling the first interim accounts for the current financial year to be produced, which are noted by the Parish Council.

(d) Closure of Playing Field bank account

It was agreed by the Parish Council to continue to retain a separate bank account.

118/23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

(1) Pollution from burning of garden waste.

**Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00 pm
Venue to be confirmed.**