

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Parish Church

Present: Cllr S. Gray (Chair), Cllr Savage (Vice Chair), Cllr H. Ormerod, Cllr A. Lewis, Cllr H. Philpotts, Cllr B. Roper.

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk).

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

22/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Mansell, Cllr R. Lewis, Co Cllr K. Hanks, Dist Cllr P Whatley and Dist Cllr S. Rouse.

23/24 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.

24/24 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.

25/24 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.

Other: Mark Armstrong expressed thanks to the parish council for all the work it has done in its first year.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

26/24 MINUTES

Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Saturday, 6th January 2024 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimous.

Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Monday, 8th January 2024 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimous.

27/24 COMMUNICATION

As a new parish council in its first year, Cllr Gray thought it would be useful to reflect on what was going well and what could be done better.

Communication could be improved as information is in several different places.

- (a) The Sphere - Cllr Gray will now be providing monthly updates on parish council activities and news.
- (b) Newsletter - It was proposed by Cllr A Lewis, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous that the parish council produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter. First edition date yet to be agreed (see item 31/24(i)).
- (c) SPC Facebook - The Suckley Parish Council Facebook page is not working properly but it would be useful to get it up and running smoothly. Cllr Roper is looking into it.
- (d) Councillors and Social Media – It was proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Philpotts and unanimous that councillors can post on social media as long as rules of etiquette are maintained and are in accordance with Suckley Parish Council's Standing Orders and Publication Scheme.
- (e) Monthly meetings – it was thought these should help with keeping members up to date.

28/24 CO-OPTION

It was agreed at the January meeting to co-opt the one remaining vacancy. Notices have been posted and closing date is Friday 8th March 2024. Application forms are available from the Clerk. To be discussed again at the meeting on 11th March.

Cllr Gray asked members to consider a 'Junior Council'. Thoughts to be discussed at a later meeting.

29/24 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) Pavilion – needs to be decorated, probably in the summer.
If anyone sees the hot water is switched on they are asked to switch it off. The roadway to be done in the spring.
- (b) All weather pitch – is coming to the end of its useful life. Grants are available including the FA Premier League. The parish council will try and obtain some funding but local fundraising will also be needed.
- (c) Gate – Mr. Roper to be asked if he could install a gate. Bromyard Timber should be able to supply materials. Cllr Roper will speak to Cllr. Mansell.
- (d) CCTV is working so it needs signs. Cllr Gray has two old signs which can be used but an updated one is needed at a cost of approx. £75 Proposed by Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous to purchase along with some wheelie bin clips.
- (e) RoSPA have confirmed they are to undertake the annual safety inspection during March 2024.

30/24 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Whitehouse Crossroads – Cllr Gray is liaising with Worcestershire CC Highways
- (b) Speed survey - The 85% average in Suckley Knowle is 30 mph and at Pewcroft its 36 mph. Highways have a discretion to put in a limit but it has to be equal across the county so the answer is likely to be 'no'.
- (c) Recent incidents – there have been a few, including a car skidding and a lorry crashing into a hedge. Noted by the Parish Council.

31/24 COMMUNITY

- (a) Suckley Wombles
Noted by the parish council that they will be litter picking this Saturday 17th Feb. Risk assessment has been provided. It was agreed the parish council should contribute towards refreshments for the volunteers and £100 was suggested. Proposed by Cllr Philpotts, seconded by Cllr A Lewis and unanimous to contribute this amount.
- (b) Village Signs
Both signs are installed. Thanks are expressed to County Cllr Karen Hanks for a financial contribution from her budget.
- (c) Village Show
A website is being built, but otherwise not much to update. Next meeting is in March
- (d) History Society
A meeting held on 7th February was well attended, subscriptions have been paid by group members so there is concern. Another meeting is to be organised for 10th April. Cllr Gray told those in attendance that going forward the Parish Council will not be running it but will support the group for the next few months to get it up and going.
- (e) Parish Survey
80 residents have responded, approximately a 30% return. The survey results are now being independently verified.
The draw for the £100 prize was made in the meeting. All numbers were folded into a container and drawn by a member of public in attendance. The winning number is 74. The winner should contact the Clerk to claim their prize.
- (f) Suckley Quarter Marathon
The organisers are seeking a contribution from the parish council. £50 was proposed by Cllr A Lewis, seconded by Cllr Roper and approved by a vote of three for, two against and one abstention.
- (g) Notice Boards
It was suggested that one be placed in the car park next to the Parish Map. To discuss further at next meeting.
- (h) Letter
An anonymous letter has been received which criticises aspects of the village but contains a lot of factual errors. It was agreed that as there were no means to identify the correspondent, no further action could be taken.
- (i) Newsletter
To be distributed quarterly starting in April. Contributions are needed.
- (j) BFG
Request has been received from the BFG organisers for a contribution towards the 2024 event. £800 was proposed by Cllr Philpotts, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous to contribute £800 from the 2024/25 budget.
- (k) Memorial Ground
The lawn mower which has been used to cut grass at the Memorial Ground is broken and has been removed from the Asset Register. Mr Baldwin who cuts the grass would prefer to use his own mower with running costs to be reimbursed. Cllr Ormerod is to put together a breakdown to work out an amount.

32/24 FINANCE

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) Gen Fund:

L Butler £721.30 – clerks salary Jan 2024
L Butler £28.80 - clerks expenses Oct – Dec 2023
PCC of Suckley - £30.00 for meeting 12/02/2024

(b) Playing Field A/c

Finding Fitness £8,100 – monkey challenge play equipment
WaterPlus D/D for Jan - £7.50
County Building Supplies £446.71 – Sand, timber & concrete
P Nightingale – £ 187.50 mowing and maintenance during 2023
It was also agreed that P Nightingale should continue providing maintenance during 2024
EDF £205.85 – electricity Nov 2023 – Jan 2024

All above accounts to be paid. Proposed by Cllr Roper, seconded by Cllr Philpotts and unanimous.

(c) Interim Accounts to 31/01/2024

Noted by the Parish Council

(d) SPACE – request for additional funding

£800 agreed, see item 10(j)

(e) Bank Signatories

Previous councillors R Harward and M Jackson are still on the signatory mandate. It was agreed they should be removed, proposed by Cllr A Lewis, seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimous.

(f) Flooding and £2k

The parish council has recently been advised that £2k should be ringfenced for maintenance of flood defences from 2008/09. Clerk to find more information.

33/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Footpaths

Meeting closed 9:45pm

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.