

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Primary School

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

In Attendance: Mrs L. Butler (Clerk), CoCllr K. Hanks.

49/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Dist Cllr P. Whatley and Dist Cllr S. Rouse.

50/24 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.

51/24 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.

52/24 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 public presentations or Planning representations.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

53/24 MINUTES

Two amendments were required:

(a) Item 37/24(a)

'Cllr Gray stated that the pitches are currently in use two evenings a week and Saturday pm'.

To be replaced with:

'Cllr Gray stated that the all weather pitch is currently booked three evenings per week'.

(b) The text for item 45/24(b) should read:

'An event was held at Alfrick Village Hall supposedly under the auspices of The Suckley Local History Society. This had apparently only been advertised in Alfrick Village as no one could recollect seeing an advertisement in Suckley. It was agreed that the safe currently located in Suckley Village Hall should be opened as soon as possible. The meeting scheduled for April 10th in Suckley Parish Church would be considered as the Suckley Local History Society AGM and new officials would be elected so that the Parish Council could step away. An invitation would be sent to Sue Fellows who was the previous secretary.

The above changes were proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous.

54/24 CO-OPTION

The vacancy remaining from last years election has been re-advertised on website and noticeboard with a closing date of Friday, 10th May 2024.

Resignation has been received from Cllr Anne Lewis. It was agreed this vacancy should go through the co-option process applicable to resignations. Proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr Ormerod and unanimous that notices be placed as soon as practical including a note in the upcoming newsletter.

CoCllr K Hanks arrived and the Chair opened the meeting for CoCllr Hanks to present her report.

55/24 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Worcestershire County Council's next Town & Parish Conference will take place on Wednesday 12th June 2024 6pm to 9pm at Wyre Forest District Council's offices in Kidderminster. This is an opportunity to speak to County Council Officers and partners on a range of topics. The evening will include presentations from Highways, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and the Digital Switchover Team. Reservations should be made in advance and by 2nd June.

The new Parish Council Dashboard for processing Lengthsman claims has been launched from Monday 8th April. There have been virtual and face to face sessions with further sessions available along with a Q&A meeting in early May by which time users will have had chance to use the system and can seek further guidance. The County Council will also send out 'how to' videos and training material to help Clerks start to add invoices.

Benefits to this new system include prompt payments, standardised processes, document store, training reminders, improved administration.

We are now moving into the final financial year of this County Council administration and the council is focused on living within its means. Total cost pressures and required investments for 24/25 will be addressed by £27.9m government funding, £19.6m council tax, use of £2.3m reserves and £37.2m in savings and efficiencies.

Priority Projects include NetZero Carbon Plan, New Autism Special Free School in Malvern opening in September 2027 and run by a Milton Keynes based academies trust,

new Worcester City Secondary School and work on the Shrub Hill Quarter for which momentum is needed so a developer can be selected for the first stage.

In Suckley, the footways on Damson Way and Woodland Rd have recently been reconstructed and have been paid from CoCllr Hanks' discretionary funding. A visit from a Highways officer will shortly be arranged to address the concerns of the Chair and Parish Council.

The Divisional Fund for 24/25 is now open.

The Chair thanked CoCllr Hanks for her report and additionally thanked her for funding several projects in Suckley from her 23/24 Divisional Fund, including the footways at Damson Way and Woodland Road.

The Chair then closed the meeting.

56/24 PLANNING - MHDC

a For Consideration:

App Ref: M/24/00138/FUL
Location: Stocks Farm, Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5EH
Proposal: Installation of a roof-mounted photovoltaic solar array on the Tractor Barn

The following comment was agreed to be passed back to MHDC. 'The Parish Council supports this application but asks that planners ensure the photovoltaic panels are matt coated so as not to cause reflection for traffic using the adjoining roads.'

b Decisions – for information only

App Ref: M/23/00569/FUL
Location: Old Hopyard, Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5DG
Proposal: Demolition of existing garage/store, construction of single-storey Adult Education Centre and new access track within site boundary.

Application has been Approved. Noted by the Parish Council.

57/24 PLAYING FIELD

- (a) The new tables are installed. There is a bit of roughness on one of the slats which could be done by Cllr Gray, but the company may correct it. Cllr R Lewis suggested they might be better moved onto stones. Cllrs R Lewis and Mansell would help move if needed.
- (b) The RoSPA report has identified several things needing attention. Chippings were needed around the play equipment. It was suggested four/five large bags should be enough. Cllr R Lewis will aim to do in May when the weather is better. The other faults like painting and rust would also be done when the weather is better.
- (c) Cllr Gray has obtained a Waste Exemption certificate which is valid for three years.
- (d) Pavilion needs painting both inside and outside. The aim is to complete both during the summer.
- (e) The CCTV sign is now up.
- (f) The village survey indicated a need for WiFi on the playing field. BT need an address which Cllr Gray has given to them. He has a post box which is waiting to be put up.

58/24 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

Crews Hill is soon to be closed for top dressing.

59/24 COMMUNITY - Projects/items for discussion/update:-

- (a) Village Show
There isn't much to report other than there is a meeting to be held on 22nd April in the school.

- (b) History Society
The AGM will be on 10th April in the church, who have waived charges for this meeting and also the next few meetings. Cllr Gray has emailed Sue Fellowes asking her to attend. The safe in the Village Hall has been opened and is now empty except for some pictures. The Nursery, who use the Village Hall during the daytime, confirmed two people came, opened the safe and took items away. The Police have written to Sue Fellowes and she has not responded. It was suggested that an article be put on social medias asking for people who have lent items to come forward. The safe needs to be moved from the Village Hall. Roger Luton is happy to help, he has a trailer. The safe could go in the Playing Field pavilion.
- (c) Parish Survey
Actions resulting from the survey need to be agreed. A meeting will be held on Monday 15th April at 7:30pm in the school.
- (d) Notice Boards
Roger Luton and Cllr Gray will be moving the board from the bus shelter at the White House crossroads to the fence at the Memorial Ground in Longley Green.
- (e) Newsletter
Cllr Savage agreed to print the newsletters.
- (f) Memorial Ground
The stones are to be cleaned.

60/24 FOOTPATHS

Clerk to follow up items raised at March meeting.

61/24 FINANCE

The following payments to be approved:-

(a) Gen Fund:

R Wilks - £558.00 lengthsman Feb & Mar 2024
Suckley Quarter Marathon - £50
Suckley SPACE - £800
L Butler £721.30 – clerks salary Mar 2024
Reimbursement to H Ormerod £60.07 – Strimmer line

(b) Playing Field A/c

WaterPlus D/D for Mar - £7.50
RoSPA Play Safety £122.40 – Playing Field inspection
Reimbursement to R Lewis £42.00 – Vib plate

Above eight accounts paid on proposal of Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimous.

(c) Interim Accounts to 31/03/2024

Noted by the Parish Council

62/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

To agree Parish Council representatives for John Palmer Trust and the NHS Risk Assessments

Meeting closed 9:15pm

Next Parish Council Meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Primary School.

**Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 20th May 2024
Time and venue to be confirmed.**