

# SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Primary School

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

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

Five members of the public attended the meeting.

### **86/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Savage.

### **87/24 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.

No interests were declared

### **88/24 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 was adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation. (The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chair). 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 Chair.**

*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 Chair 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.**

**89/24** The Chair invited 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 Chair 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 presentations:

Roger Luton - wished to express condolences to Mrs Holden which the chair also agreed on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Luton continued it was encouraging to see the parish council working together on the playing fields. He noted the BFG have withdrawn support for the Suckley Festival and suggested to leave them alone to do whatever they want but still offer them the use of the playing fields. The Chair thanked Mr Luton for his help and assistance.

Julian Wilkins – presented two statements:

Suckley Parish Council may have concerns about the ability of the parish to cope with hosting two big events in the same year. The Suckley Festival Committee would like it noted that Suckley parish Council introduced the new Suckley Show in full knowledge that the Suckley Festival already takes place every year. The Suckley Festival Committee themselves offered to run their event bi-annually due to their own concerns of having two big events happening so close to each other.

Secondly, the Suckley Festival Committee will reconsider their decision to put on the Suckley Festival next year 2025 if this years events take place uninterrupted and without protestors or protests which are a clear and present danger in light of the anonymous letter received in mid-June and of which the Suckley Parish Council have been informed. Also, two questions:

Published minutes of a previous Suckley Parish Council meeting states that there will be a police presence at this years Suckley Festival. What presence has the Police agreed with Suckley Parish Council to provide?

Protestors are threatening to disrupt this year's Suckley Festival. This has the potential for unpleasant scenes that children will witness at what has always been a safe, fun, family day out. What measures have Suckley Parish Council taken to negotiate with the protestors with a view to diffusing the situation and for the protests to be called off?

The Chair stated the parish council would consider his questions and respond later in the meeting.

### **The Chair re-opened the Meeting**

#### **90/24 MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May and Annual Parish meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Mansell and unanimous.

#### **91/24 PLANNING - MHDC**

a **For Consideration:**

There were no planning items for consideration

b(i) **Decisions – for information only**

App No: M/24/00268/HP

Location: Murrells End, Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5DJ

Proposal: Proposed replacement outbuilding

**Application has been Approved**

b(ii) App No: M/23/01770/FUL

Location: Barn at Applegaard Fruit Farm, Suckley

Proposal: Retention of the buildings/structures identified as C, D, E, F, G and stables

**Application has been Approved**

b(iii) App No: M/24/00271/HP

Location: Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley, Worcs, WR6 5DU

Proposal: Two-storey rear extension

**Application has been Approved**

The above three planning decisions are noted by the Parish Council.

#### **92/24 PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Gray thanked everyone who had been working on the playing field last weekend.

- (a) Pitch hire contract - a draft contract has been received from Worcester United for consideration. Cllr Gray expressed concerns that the section re grants was incorrect. Cllr Roper stated the parish council need to ensure Suckley teams are not excluded from use of the amenities. It was agreed to defer discussion to the July meeting.
- (b) Booking system – Cllr Savage has been unable to supply a system, so it was agreed to source an ‘off the shelf’ system. Clerk to see what is available.
- (c) Cllr Savage had previously reported a cut earth cable at the side of the pavilion. Thoughts are it is redundant but it will be checked.
- (d) It was agreed to increase the insurance value of pavilion and equipment from renewal in September.

#### **93/24 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

Nothing much to report other than some good work has been carried out on drains in the area.

#### **94/24 AGAR RETURN 2024**

- (a) **APPROVAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT for Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 –**  
External audit is required as expenditure exceeds £25,000.  
The accounts were previously approved at the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- (b) **ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN 2023/24 – Approval of Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement**  
Was approved on the proposal of Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Philpotts and unanimous and the return was signed by the Clerk and Chair
- (c) **ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN 2023/24 – Approval of Section 2 – Accounting Statement**  
Was approved on the proposal of Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Philpotts and unanimous and the return was signed by the Clerk and Chair

#### **95/24 COMMUNITY - Projects/items for discussion/update:-**

- (a) Village Show inc bank account  
It was suggested using the Playing Field bank account for the show with Cllr Savage as treasurer. It was agreed to discuss at the July meeting.  
Having considered the earlier statements and questions by Julian Wilkins the Chair answered the first question that no specific type of police presence has been discussed or agreed. To the second question no discussions have taken place and nothing has been agreed as the protestors are not known.
- (b) Parish Survey inc proposal document  
Both the survey and the proposal document have been uploaded onto the parish council website.
- (c) Notice Boards  
Nothing further to report. The notice board has been taken down from the White House crossroads bus shelter and is awaiting relocation.
- (d) Newsletter  
Cllr Lewis was going to look at a different format. Cllr Mansell thought it was not a good idea to compete with The Sphere so a six or twelve month PC newsletter would be preferable. Cllr Mansell proposed, Cllr Lewis seconded and unanimous to post online and make a few hard copies available.
- (e) Parish Map  
Cllr Ormerod reminded those present that, at the meeting in January 2024, it had been agreed to defer decisions on this item to allow further time for agreement on which locations should be highlighted on the map board. He proposed that the following changes should be made for the new map by removing The Hop Kilns

and Tundridge House and, as requested by the proprietors, removing Pewcroft Farm and Park House Farm. To maintain the existing balance and general appearance of the map while reflecting relevant changes, Cllr Ormerod proposed that four new entries be included: The Hop Shed, Lower House Dairy, the Quarry/Memorial and Cradley Brook/Leigh Brook, all being of potential interest to tourists. Should the open/closed status of any establishment change then this could be accommodated by a (removable) sticker. These changes were agreed and the outstanding contributions from a few establishments would now be chased, an approach made to the Hop Shed and Lower House Dairy, as well as updating of the credits shown along the bottom of the map. **It was proposed by Cllr Mansell, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous for Cllr Ormerod to proceed.**

- (f) **Bus shelters as book exchanges**  
There are three bus shelters which are not used for anything. To use as a book exchange would require some shelving or a cupboard. It was agreed to try one shelter at Longley Green. Cllr Philpotts thinks she may have a suitable cupboard. Proposed by Cllr Philpott, seconded by Cllr Lewis and unanimously agreed in principle.
- (g) **Pop-up campsite**  
Cllr Lewis provided some information. There would need to be an investment in firepits and a decision where items could be positioned on the playing field. He suggests a six week period next summer 2025 and initially tents only.
- (h) **Defibrillator, training & Buddy system**  
This needs someone with professional knowledge to provide input. The name of a retired doctor was suggested. Some training needs to be provided and a buddy system would be useful. There are two defibrillators in the parish, one at the Primary School and one at the Bruff Business Centre.
- (i) **Communication**  
It was agreed that no decisions should be made on Whatsapp. Correspondence including emails should be from the Clerk following discussion by the parish council. They can be drafted by councillors as they may have specific knowledge but drafts to be circulated before sending. Cllr Gray apologised for any embarrassment he may have caused with previous communications.  
Cllr Gray has also created a new facebook page Suckley PC 2024. It was agreed to discuss further at July meeting.  
A second anonymous letter has been received which was discussed and will be filed.

#### **96/24 FOOTPATHS**

The paths are overgrown and the previous reported issues have not yet been carried out. A comprehensive list of path issues is needed.

#### **97/24 FINANCE**

The following payments to be approved:-

##### **(a) Gen Fund:**

- PCC of Suckley £30 – church hire 20/05/24
- Smart Cut £240 – playing field cut 08/05/24 & 31/05/2024
- County Building Supplies £557.29 – play bark & timber
- L Butler £644.10 – clerks salary May 2024
- HMRC £502.50 - tax Apr-June 2024
- Marion Griffiths £100 – payroll services Apr 2023 – Mar 2024
- Duffy Regan £84 - internal audit 2024
- A Mansell £226.09 - reimbursement for gate & wood

The above eight payments were paid on proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous.

**(b) Playing Field A/c**

WaterPlus D/D for May - £7.50

The above payment was approved on proposal of Cllr Ormerod, seconded by Cllr Roper and unanimous.

**98/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None

Meeting closed 9:30pm

**Next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Parish Church.**