

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Parish Church, Church Lane,
Suckley, Worcester, WR6 5DE

Minutes of the meeting are draft until approved at the following meeting

Members Present: Cllr Richard Lewis (Chair)
Cllr Simon Jew
Cllr Andrew Mansell
Cllr Howard Ormerod
Cllr Helen Philpotts
Cllr Rebecca Roper

In Attendance: L Cleaver (Clerk), District Councillor Peter Whatley

Ten members of the public.

127/24 CHAIRS WELCOME AND TO RECORD APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone for coming, also introducing the new Parish Clerk Lesley Cleaver and for co-option Simon Jew. They congratulated the organisers of Suckley Festival for the recent wonderful event in the village.
Apologies, none received.

128/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Philpotts declared an interest in the item agenda (13d) payment of £95.85 (minute 139/24 (d)).

129/24 GRANT A DISPENSATION

No written requests had been received by the Clerk.

130/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation (including planning applicant/s or their representatives).

On behalf of the Chair of the Festival a thank you sent to the parish council for what was a very successful event.
Under correspondence details required regards to the email referenced Abdulha (qatar.aboudi).

**Presentation given by Cllr Mansell on the Mobile Phone Mast (Atlas Tower Group)
The presentation would also be posted on the Councils website under publications
for those unable to attend.**

Background :- As the council in preliminary discussions with the Atlas Tower Group a flyer sent out inviting parishioners to let the parish council know if they wanted a better mobile signal. The Atlas Tower Group was considering the possibility of building a mobile phone mast in the village and wished to know if they had the general support of the village before moving forward.

Introduction given by Cllr Mansell about the Atlas Tower Group with them having long term funding in place to build 1,500 towers.

Predicted Coverage, Terrain and Designations :- discussed for the WR6-03 Suckley postcode area.

Potential Predicted Coverage:- discussed for the WR6-03 Suckley postcode area and the next step for Atlas to agree terms with a potential landlord. The Clerk to send Atlas the results regarding support from the parish.

- (a) Comments received with regards to the mobile phone mast as below:
- Tower could be a possible eyesore and question asked if the tower could in some way be blended into the tree line.
 - What was the position of the planning department.
 - Concern over access to the road for build and maintenance.
 - Any idea with regards to the site for the tower.
 - Landscape concerns/aesthetics.
 - An offer put forward that evening with regards a possible site for said tower.
 - Could the comments go onto the Atlas website if possible.
 - Folly to turn it down.
 - Emergency services would they consider using the mobile services.
 - Any timeframe.
 - Copper land lines being reduced meaning more reliance on mobile communications.
 - Any other opportunities other than Atlas
 - Any other designs other than the lattice one.
 - Following the presentation a show of hands taken: in favour/positive 7,
negative/no support 0

(b) Planning – no matters discussed

(c) Report from County Councillor Karen Hanks- none received.

(d) Report District Councillor Peter Whatley

Background the mast being promoted by the Council Council on behalf of Westminster and will be treated as other applications with full planning application.

Location will be a factor.

Copper lines will be phased out, leaving mobile signals that do drop out but fibre will stay

Air band to go.

Telecommunications very important if all the plans come together, if you only use mobile signals a very important decision to be made.

The top of the mobile mast could be painted.

Alfrick actively going forward with a mast.

Other matters:-

Quiet at Malvern Hills the last few weeks

SWDP being continually put back. Inspector that will approve the plan has put it back to March 2025.

If the transport plan not delivered by the end of the year the draft will be discarded setting things back another two years.

As of this morning the Leader of the Malvern Hills District Council along with two colleagues left as independents, thus no majority

Very evident these two or three independents may join the Labour Party.

Dire position within the planning department- however a new director appointed, with the planning department steadily improving.

(e) Report Lengthsman (Clerk) – none received

(f) Report Local Police (Cllr Richard Lewis Chair) – none received

(g) Report School (Cllr H Philpotts)

The school held a mental health day last week, people dressed in yellow and £1 paid to the charity

22nd will be a Macmillans cake day.

Vacancy for a Clerk.

2nd November tennis lessons start

Monday 21st will be an open day

Looking for funding for their extension this with regards the class room size.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting

131/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th August 2024 were approved and signed with the following changes 116/24 Public Presentations to be amended from (a) to (b) and minute 123/24, the discussion at item (4b) to be amended to 116. With the changes made the minutes unanimously agreed by all, the Chair signed the minutes according.

132/24 CO-OPTION

(a) Simon Jew spoke about his experience and background and why he felt he would be a suitable candidate. The Council considered his application for co-option and agreed unanimously that candidate Simon Jew to join the membership of Suckley Parish Council.

(b) Simon Jew signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(c) Simon Jew signed the Acceptance of Electronic Summons and as duly elected took office with immediate effect.

133/24 PLANNING MHDC

Nothing to report

134/24 PLAYFIELD

The playing fields committee now run separate from parish council business. Cllr Andrew Mansell as Chair. The all weather surface received a great deal of interest. Need to renovate the surface, a lot of compacted sand, build up of water and algae. Boarding coming to the end of its life and may need totally replacing. Grass pitch being used but not by a local Suckley team but a team close by. Any funds received would help pay for the grass being mowed. Increased usage of the grass pitch and tennis facilities. Cllr Ormerod was now Secretary of this committee. As the Treasurer not able to attend the committee would put this subject on the next agenda.

135/24 FOOTPATHS (Cllr H Philpotts)

Nothing to report

136/24 COMMUNITY PROJECTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) **Mobile phone mast**, moved by the Chair to Public Participation
- (b) **Neighbourhood Plan-**
Cllrs may look for help from District Councillor Peter Whatley and will be put on the next agenda for discussion. Advantage being it has a legal force in terms of planning. It would take a considerable amount of time to produce. Notes on this subject to be sent round to all Cllrs.
- (c) **Notice Boards**
One being repaired FOC at the pub, two more in place at the Post Office and one at the farm.. The councils Asset Register to be referred to for clarity on the number of notice boards owner by the parish council.
- (d) **Parish Map Board -**
Presentation by Cllr Ormerod: Proposed refreshment of the Map Board. Except for some generic entries all updates agreed with or provided by the proprietors.
The Bruff:- no response from the proprietors, unless a reply by 14th October the Bruffs own entry to be removed.
Defibrillators:- it was agree previously helpful to show their locations and this would identify the Bruff as a business park as well as the school. Added as per the last meeting "what three words" location aid. Operational advice by the Clerk with regards the NHS given. Valuable advise to be placed on the entry map.
Picture of Suckley Hill:- picture shown the favourite from those who gave opinions
The Nelson and Post Office shop:- both included as agreed. The Nelson entry to have a removable sticker saying " Closed for Refurbishment". Should it be needed a suitable overlay for the PO/shop entry.
National Landscapes(ex AONB):- The Malvern Hills Office asked if the Malvern Hills National Landscape boundary/area could be identified on the map and would be discussed with the designer.

Cllr Ormerod proposed to speak to their existing graphic designer who already has files to update and would mean not having to go out and speak to a totally new designer.

(d1) Proposed by Cllr Ormerod and seconded by Cllr Mansell and agreed by all the design considered suitable to take forward subject to the National Landscapes

(d2) Proposed by Cllr Ormerod and seconded by Cllr Philpotts and agreed by all that Cllr Ormerod approach the graphic designer with these plans and invite a quotation. Guide prices discussed from 2008 with no other costs for completion and installation likely.

(e) **Defibrillator Update.**

Getting together with Alfrick with regards communication and training. Concerns about checks being done, however one not on the Councils Asset Register. The Chair to discuss this at the next council meeting. Confirmation the Defibrillator at the school was a council asset.

(f) **Correspondence including Facebook/John Sutton update.**

Before going forward a policy should be drawn up and considered for the next Council meeting.

137/24 COMMUNICATION- WHATSAPP UPDATE

Councillor Ormerod had become the Administrator for the group and removed the previous Clerks information. He would invite newly co-opted Cllr Jew and new Clerk L Cleaver to the group.

138/24 TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECIEVED

All noted said list with no further comments or requests.

139/24 FINANCE

- (a) Banking Mandate to be reviewed with possible inclusion of the new Clerk only once the mandate understood. The Clerk to contact the bank accordingly to seek clarity. To be noted that Cllr Ormerod has access to the online change request.
- (b) Proposed by Cllr Mansell and seconded by Cllr Roper and agreed by all to ratify the urgent decision to pay Zurich Insurance, renewal amount £1192.93. The policy lapsed on 3rd October a review update of values at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

(c) **Gen Fund:**

Smart Cut Limited £120.00 invoice 23678 cutting 21/8/2024

Worcestershire CALC £35.00 training Cllr Roper

Smart Cut Limited £120.00 invoice 23832 cutting on 05/09/2024

Smart Cut Limited £120.00 invoice 23878 cutting on 17/09/2024

Suckley Church £30.00 Hair of hall Parish Council meeting 14th October 2024

ICO £40.00 Data Protection Renewal.

(d) **Playing Field:**

H Philpotts £95.85 – Key Cutting & cleaning materials

Direct debits for Water Plus Aug and Sept, EDF Energy, figures unavailable at the time of the meeting as no access to bank statement.

All payments approved for general and playing field. Proposed by Cllr Lewis seconded by Cllr Ormerod and agreed by all.

To note the proposed payment to D Roper on the agenda £204.00 removed.

140/24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Financial Regulations

Communication Policy to cover:- Newsletter, WhatsApp & Facebook.

Councils Insurance Policy

Code of Conduct

New Agenda Item Form

Logo

Playing Fields Committee Terms of Reference.

141/24 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS SUCH AS CONTRACTS, LEGAL ACTION, STAFFING, AS ALLOWED BY THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMINISTRATION TO MEETING)ACT1960.

142/24 STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS/CONTRACTS

a) Appointment /Employment Contract of a new Clerk/RFO .

Agreed by all the appointment and Employment Contract for the new Clerk L Cleaver
Contract of employment signed accordingly.

b) Employment Contract and Remuneration for the previous Clerk.

Unanimously agreed to contact the third party payroll administrator to discuss the actuals for the final payment.

Meeting closed at 21.00 hrs

Date of next meeting – Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Parish School.

Signed Cllr Richard Lewis Chair

Dated

Cllrs: Richard Lewis (Chair), Simon Jew, A Mansell, H Ormerod, H Philpotts, R Roper,

Additional Notes:-

Following this meeting, the mobile phone mast comments collated:

WhatsApp, Email and from tonights meeting :- positive/for 38, negative/against 12