

# SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr C Luton, Cllr P Whatley, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr P Griffiths, Cllr A Grieve, Cllr B Kearley,

Apologies: Mr Richard Harward (Footpaths Warden), Dist Cllr D Hughes

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, Mr P Markins (Footpaths)

**Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other Disclosable Interests. The Council considered written requests from all Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) to allow them to discuss the Parish Council Precept for 2013/14 - item 12 (c) on the Agenda. A dispensation was granted.**

### **The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation**

**Report from County Councillor** - No report received. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Co Cllr Clive Smith stating Suckley Parish Council's support for his petition regarding school transport charges.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr A Warburton reported to the Council on the potential changes to the refuse collection system in the MHDC area. This would mean fortnightly collections of recyclable waste, with the retention of weekly collection for household waste. MHDC have applied for funds for wheelie bins. Dist Cllr Warburton again voiced the disquiet about the proposed South West Worcestershire Development Plan, with a critical debate scheduled to take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Bank House at 7.0 pm. He was in a Councillor Group which opposed the largescale development at Newland and was recommending that the housing numbers be broken up into smaller developments scattered around the Malvern area, not just lumped onto one site with no new infrastructure planned. There was a need to plan for future development, but this Newland proposal was not the answer.

**Lengthsman Report** - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman was doing very well. No problems. Cllr Liz Devenish reported a blocked drain by the Boat House. Cllr J Green confirmed that this had already been reported by the Lengthsman through the Hub and it was on the schedule for jetting. There appeared to be a blockage under the road. The Lengthsman had tried to rod the drain, but was unable to remove the blockage. Mr Peter Markins (Footpaths) reported a great deal of water at the White House Cross Roads by the access to the old apple orchard. If this froze, it could be very dangerous. Cllr J Green to ask the Lengthsman to have a look at this.

**Footpath Wardens Report** - Mr Peter Markins reported to the Council. The recent felling on the Suckley Hills had left the right of way in a bad state. Two footbridges had been dislodged by flood water, one of which the Wardens will repair using their small stock of materials, and the other has been passed to County where the bank has eroded. The Council expressed their thanks and appreciation of the work being undertaken by the Footpaths Wardens, but were concerned as to where the responsibility rested should anyone incur an injury using a bridge repaired by the

Wardens, or if they were injured when trying to cross the stream whilst the bridge was broken. The Clerk to investigate.

**Local Police** – The only crime report for Suckley during October was an attempted burglary at a remote rural property currently undergoing building work. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Festival Housing and it appeared that the problems in Woodland Road/Damson Way area had now been resolved.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

### **107/12 WOODLAND ROAD**

As there appeared little prospect of a culvert under Knightwick Road ever being constructed by County Highways, it was agreed to finally remove this item from the Agenda. To date the flood relief barrier had worked, even though this resulted in water being moved across Knightwick Road.

### **108/12 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Footpaths – nothing further to report.
- (b) Lengthsman - nothing further to report
- (c) Replacement of domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge). Ref 4430212. Cllr J Green and the Clerk reported that the concrete spillway proposed by County Highways to alleviate this problem would be constructed some time in November (thought it had not yet started). Lifting the road level would be something that Highways might look into in the future.
- (d) Area of subsidence – Knightwick Road near Pewcroft Cottages. Cllr J Green reported that the hole had been filled in and Highways would be carrying out a full repair to the land drain under the road.
- (e) Cllr J Green reported that no action had yet been taken regarding the collapsed drain in Church Lane.

### **109/12 SPEEDING ISSUES**

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had now received a response from David Perridge, Traffic Management Advisor of the Safer Roads Team. His view was that it was very difficult to draw proper conclusions from the figures without knowing how many vehicles have exceeded 35mph. All we know is the number of vehicles exceeding 30 mph. The Clerk was asked to investigate if it would be possible to reset the VAS to register at 35 mph so we could obtain more accurate information as to how many vehicles were actually “speeding.”
- (b) The Clerk reported that Gerry Brienza had drawn up a new VAS schedule. The VAS camera would be in place in Suckley from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and again from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

### **110/12 CHARITY REPORTS**

- (a) Cllr P Whatley reported that Suckley Charities had held a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September. No requests for donations had been received. The Group would be keeping an eye on Suckley School requirements in association with the SPACE project.

- (b) The Council noted the reports/Minutes from Alfrick Educational Charity and the John Palmer Trust which had been circulated to all the Councillors.

### 111/12 COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr A Grieve reported on the Survey Results Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The turnout was disappointing, but the Community Group would like the resulting proposals to be taken forward. It was proposed by Cllr A Grieve, seconded by Cllr A Lewis and agreed by the whole Council that Suckley Parish Council formally adopt the following proposals arising from the Parish Survey, and precept support should be given to these areas :-

Suckley Post Office  
Broadband Improvement  
Footpath & bridleway maintenance  
Facilities for Children  
Public houses (rate relief)  
Longley Green Quarry site (mowing and other necessary maintenance)

The Parish Council to actively consider requests for financial support of other community facilities, provided that evidence is produced to prove genuine demand exists for the facility.

Cllr B Kearley recommended that the Council look into Community Broadband run by AirBand. This could provide up to 20 megabyte speed. AirBand needed 50 people to sign up to the service with an initial payment of £150 and then a monthly payment c £20 per month. The Clerk was asked to find out more information regarding this service, and it was hoped to hold a presentation in January 2013. Details to be published in the Newsletter, with contacts being the Clerk and Cllr P Whatley.

### 112/12 CLERK'S SALARY REVIEW 2013/14

The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk's salary be upgraded to SCP 24 in the year 2013/14 (£470 per month) commencing at the end of April 2013. This was proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr L Devenish. The Council voiced their appreciation of the work done by the Clerk throughout the year.

### 113/12 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A W Huband and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths - **General Fund** – Clerk's expenses Sept/October 2012 £96.62; Lengthsman September 2012 £195.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman October 2012 £246.00; Lengthsman November 2012 (to be advised); Clement Keys Audit Fee for Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 £162.00.  
**Playing Fields** - BGS Lengthsman Services – strimming Playing Fields Sept 2012 £30.00; NPower Pavilion £71.64
- (b) Half Year Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were approved. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green.
- (c) Precept 2013/14 - The Council considered the proposed precept which had been prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk stressed that any decision could only be provisional as Nalc/Worcs Calc had recommended that Parish Councils withhold their formal decision until January 2013. This was because of the changes being proposed by Central Government relating to funding and capping of Council Tax increases which would not be decided until late December/New Year.

After a detailed discussion, the Council decided to keep the Precept to the 2012/13 level of £13,859 i.e. no increase. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley. Within the budget allocation of the proposed Precept, it was agreed (a) to increase the grant for graveyard maintenance to £150. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieves and (b) to increase the support for the Community Plan to £600. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr A Lewis.

#### **114/12 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- (a) Cllr J Green had completed the risk assessment forms. No problems to report. Cllr P Whatley asked Cllr J Green to have a look at the fencing in the Old Quarry.

#### **115/12 PLAYING FIELD**

- (a) Leaking water pipe – Cllr J Green and Cllr C Luton reported that no work had yet started but it was scheduled to begin around 19<sup>th</sup> November. As soon as the repair was finished the Playing Fields Committee would be seeking a refund on the water bill from Severn Trent.

#### **116/12 OIL PURCHASING COLLECTIVE**

Cllr A W Huband reported that a meeting had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, and the scheme would be going ahead. The scheme had already started in the Leigh area.

#### **117/12 PLANNING**

The Council noted the following information/refusals/permissions/appeals made by MHDC Planning :-

- (a) Proposed breakfast room extension, Suckley Court, Suckley WR6 5EH  
App No 12/01097/LBC. Listed Building Consent – **Approved.**
- (b) To consider the following Planning Application :-
- (i) App Ref No: 12/01323/FUL Grid Ref: E 373964 N 251 264  
Tundridge Stud, Stocks Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DP  
Applicant: Mr Tom Hayes  
Proposal: Access track to land and buildings

The Council considered the above application, and recommended **Refusal**, with comments to be sent to MHDC Planning (attached to these Minutes)

- (ii) App No: 12/01345/LBC Grid Ref: E 372156 N 252754  
Rosegrove Barn, 4, White House Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DF  
Applicant: Mr N Bentley  
Proposal: Installation of black chimney flue to roof to allow installation of a log burner in living room of house.

The Council considered the above application and recommended **Approval.**

#### **118/12 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**

Cllr P Whatley reported that the Mobile Library Service would be stopping off at Suckley School starting in January 2013.

#### **119/12 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported on the Open Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012. 80 -90 people attended the meeting. There was a very good question and answer session, with quite a lot of feedback since the meeting. One concern raised was that with the Church sharing the space with the school, it would not be available during the week. However, this was not the case, as the school would use

the church during term time Monday to Thursday during school hours. She stressed that the Diocese had approached the school about using the church, not the other way round. The church would then be in receipt of about £7K p.a. with a 5 year commitment by central government. There were still a wide range of issues to be discussed and costings to be made, but if no action was taken, it was likely that the church would not survive in the long term. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lewis for her report.

#### **120/12 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

- (a) Cllrs Walter Huband and Peter Whatley reported on their visit to the Hive in Worcester to look at Suckley School records/minute books. They found a document dated 1871 which appeared to be a **draft** conveyance of land from Mr Oakey to the Church Wardens for the purpose of providing a school. Cllr Peter Whatley returned to the Hive and went back through some more documents, including a list of documents held by the school around 1903. This itemised a conveyance dated 1875 to the school board via the church/church wardens. Cllr Walter Huband felt sure that this was the conveyance he and others had seen about 1987 - 89 when the school was under threat of closure. This had been held by Mrs Holloway (mother in law of Mrs Diana Holloway and grand daughter of Mr Oakey). If this document could be found, it would prove the ownership of the school/land. He agreed to look into the possibility of this conveyance or other paperwork being held by the Church solicitors – March & Edwards in Worcester.
- (b) Cllr L Devenish reported that an open morning for new parents was planned for 14<sup>th</sup> November. The report from the John Palmer Trust had covered most of the school activities which included the formation of a Book Club, and an innovative scheme for the children to create their own CD which would be ready for Christmas. Recently 12 teachers from other schools had visited Suckley School to see what the school is doing. There were 70 children at the school this term and 80 were expected in 2013. £25,000 had been granted for a new classroom. There will be a Carol Service, a Nativity and a school Christmas Fayre in December. Cllr A Lewis asked the Council to support the Christmas Fayre on 15<sup>th</sup> December as everyone involved worked very hard to make it a success.

#### **121/12 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing.

#### **122/12 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

No items raised

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.00 pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013**