

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9th SEPTEMBER 2013 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr A Lewis, Mr Peter Markins (Footpaths)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, Co Cllr P Tuthill,
Mr R Harwards (Footpaths)

Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other Disclosable Interests falling within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct. No requests had been received by the Clerk for any Dispensations relating to items on the Agenda. (Sec 33 of the Localism Act 2011)

No interests declared and no applications for dispensation had been received by the Clerk

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time/Participation

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. The County Council was aiming to reduce costs by £20-£30M per year by reducing the number of full time employees, vacating the wide number of buildings presently occupied and using space more effectively. The Council would then focus on its core services – infrastructure, improved broadband, education and looking after vulnerable people. The Parish Councillors raised (yet again) the ongoing question of parents having to pay £540 per child to transport their children to school, especially now that pupils would have to stay on at school/college after 16 and may be up to the age of 18. For children in Suckley, the only secondary school available was Dysons – there was no other choice of state school allowed. Co Cllr Tuthill promised to look into this matter, but he doubted that the policy would be changed. He had heard about the Parish Council’s community project to purchase a defibrillator for the Parish, and he offered to match fund any money that could be raised towards this purchase.

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr A Warburton reported that the South Worcestershire Development Plan would be looked at again in October. This meant that effectively MHDC was recorded by Central Government as not having a Plan, which makes areas of land, especially “gap” land vulnerable to planning development. The bias is towards approving development in the absence of an approved Plan.

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman had been away on holiday.

Footpath Wardens Report – Mr Richard Harward reported that the Footpaths Wardens were on top of the job. If anyone had any problems, could they please contact him. Two major footpath bridges had been put in place in the Parish recently.

Local Police – Crime figures of Suckley were reported as 1 ASB, 1 Assault, 2 vehicle crimes for July. August – 1 ASB.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2013 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.

73/13 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 reported that only half the work had been completed. Some kerbing had been put in place, but there was no grid to get the water away, leaving the original 4” gap. The Clerk to follow this up with Gerry Brienza at County Highways.
- (d) Drainage Issues - Cllr J Green and the Clerk reported that since Tom Palmer of the LDA at MHDC had issued letters and notices, Mr Capper and Mr D Philpotts had completed the work required. However, work at Holloways Garden Centre and opposite the Oast House in Blackhouse Lane, Suckley was still outstanding, and Legal proceedings would be started by MHDC.
- (e) Drain outside the Batch, Suckley – The Clerk reported that the County Council would be scheduling their camera team to take a look at this to find out where the breaks were in the pipework. Damage might have been caused by Severn Trent. Clerk to chase for actual dates for this investigation.
- (g) Drain gully opposite Crews Court, Suckley - This had now been cleared. Ref 5709863.
- (h) Holloways – collapsed drain - junction of Church Lane. New Ref 5765619. The Clerk had chased Highways on this, but it appeared that incorrect location information had been given to the team by the Hub, and the team had visited Cherry Orchard Cottage (!)
- (h) Ice Warning signs – the Clerk had chased this again, but could only get confirmation that the order was in the schedule, with no date given (despite being told previously that these would be in place by September). Ref 5616028.

Cllr J Green reported that Blackhouse Lane was suffering from huge potholes. The Clerk to report this to Highways.

74/13 SPEEDING ISSUES

- (a) VAS Camera - The Clerk reported that the upgraded camera had been positioned in Leigh & Bransford Parish, and was showing up some interesting data. The camera was now at the Bruff in Longley Green, but for some unknown reason had not been recording. She would be reporting this to Westotec, but it might have been caused by battery failure.
- (b) Warning Signs – Suckley Green - The Clerk confirmed that the T Junction signs had now been erected.

75/13 CHARITY REPORTS

- (a) Cllr P Whatley reported that the next meeting of Suckley Charities would be on 25th September.
- (b) Hill Trust (Village Hall) - The Council considered the response received by the Clerk from Mr Mo Dutta, following on from her letter to him regarding Parish Council representation on the Hill Trust/Village Hall Committee meetings. Cllr J Green and the Clerk referred the Council to the Parish Council Minutes of 13th September 2010. At that Council Meeting Mr Mo Dutta had addressed the Council to explain the situation

regarding Trustees of the Hill Trust. The Constitution allowed for three self selected Trustees, plus two to be selected by the Parish Council. Mr Dutta had asked the Council if they could pass a Resolution later in the meeting to select himself and Mr Stephen Boughton as Trustees of the Hill Trust in addition to the Parish Council representative (who at that time was Cllr A Grieve). He confirmed that the village hall belonged to the Hill Trust and was registered with the Charity Commission. The Parish Council had agreed to this request (Minute Ref 93/10 (c)). In view of this, the Council instructed the Clerk to write to Mr Dutta, pointing out the requirement to have a Parish Council representative on the Hill Trust/Village Hall Committee in line with the Constitution, and asking to be informed of the date of the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the Public Works Loan which the Parish Council was still repaying, was taken out in 1996 for £15,000 to pay for the creation of the Village Hall car park.

76/13 COMMUNITY PLAN/GROUP

Cllr A Lewis was unable to attend the meeting, but had reported to the Clerk that 14 volunteers had come forward for Defibrillator and First Aid training, which was an excellent result. In view of the budgeted money still available for the Community Plan from 2012/13 and 2013/14, Cllr P Whatley proposed that the Council allocate £700 towards the purchase of the defibrillator. With the matched funding from Co Cllr Tuthill, £1400 would then be sufficient to buy the defibrillator and start the training. This was seconded by Cllr A Grieve and unanimously approved by all members present.

77/13 BROADBAND SERVICE

Cllr P Whatley reported that despite another piece in the Suckley Newsletter, the take-up of interest for Airband was disappointingly low, and not enough for that Company to start doing any survey work. He raised the issue of the Worcestershire County Council roll-out of superfast broadband with Co Cllr Tuthill. There was a complete lack of information as to what download speeds would actually be available in different areas of the County. Co Cllr Tuthill confirmed that the plan was for the roll-out to be completed by 2015. He and other Councillors were still waiting for detailed information as to what would be available and this should be published very soon. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council asking for clarification.

78/13 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green - **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses July/August 2013 £47.25; HMRC PAYE £282.00 (July/Aug/Sept 2013); Lengthsman July 2013 £255.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman August 2013 £44.00; Lengthsman September 2013 (to be advised); Came & Co/Broker Network Ltd (Parish Council Insurance) £1,338.41; GNS Float – Dr A Lewis £50.00; Grant Thornton (External Audit Fee) £120.00. N Denley (tree felling - Quarry) – to be advised.
Playing Fields - NPower (Pavilion) £34.64 (already paid but to be approved); DJR Farm Services (Playing Field services) £222.50 (already paid but to be approved); N Denley (tree felling at the Playing Fields) – to be advised.
- (b) **Accounts to 31 July 2013** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

79/13 RISK ASSESSMENT

- (a) Cllr J Green reported no problems.

80/13 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that she had ordered a yellow bollard for the entrance to the car park from ESE Direct.. This would be no higher than 4” from the ground when laid down to allow access to the grounds to make sure it did not damage the underside of vehicles. She would ask Duncan Reynolds to put it in place. The Council agreed that a notice should be put up opposite the school alerting drivers to the fact that there is no turning facility at the Playing Fields. There should also be a notice informing people of keyholder(s).

81/13 TELEPHONE BOX

The Clerk reported that she had received a card from Mr Mark Capper about the very poor state of the telephone box outside the village hall. The Council agreed that this was indeed the case and the Clerk was asked to write to BT to see what could be done to improve the situation.

82/13 PLANNING

- (a) The Council noted the following information/refusals/permissions/appeals made by MHDC Planning :-
- (i) App Ref No: 13/00660/HOU
Applicant: Mr & Mrs S Winstanley
Site: Dunns Cottage, Birchwood Road, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DT
Proposal: Conservatory extension, outside toilet, new dormer window and new Garage.
- Planning Permission Approved**
- (b) The Council noted the Amendment to the Town & Country Planning Order 1995 (Permitted Development)
- (c) The Council looked at a “trial” planning application set up on screen by the Clerk.

83/13 SUCKLEY POST OFFICE

At the Council meeting held on 8th July, Cllr P Whatley asked the Council to look at how it could help support the Post Office, bearing in the mind the importance of this facility in the community. The Clerk had been asked to write to Roger and Barbara Blackburn on this question. She circulated a reply from Mr & Mrs Blackburn who stated that the key issue for them was for local residents to use the Post Office & Store **regularly**. Any help the Council could give to get this message across would be appreciated.

84/13 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr Liz Devenish reported that a Harvest Lunch would be held on 12th October, the idea being to try and get more people into the church. From 6th October flexible seating would be on display in the church for people to look at as a public consultation exercise. Leaflets would be distributed around the village.

85/13 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr Liz Devenish reported that the new classroom had now been completed and was looking very good. The school now had four classrooms. Two new teachers had started work at the school and the pupil roll was up to 80 – the highest ever.

The Clerk reported that she had twice e-mailed the cvc4 team at the Land Registry, stating in both instances the date of the Parish Council Meeting. So far, absolutely no response. The affidavits from people who had actually seen the original deed gifting the site/school to the Parish Churchwardens /Trustees was still an outstanding item. Co Cllr Paul Tuthill offered to take up this matter with the County Council Legal Department to try and find out any further information.

86/13 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

87/13 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept – 2014/15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 11th November at 7.00 pm