

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 10th MARCH 2014 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr A W Huband, Dist Cllr D Hughes, Dist Cllr A Warburton
Mr R Harward & Mr P Markins (Footpath Wardens)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Co Cllr P Tuthill.

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

Public Question Time/Participation - two members of the public were present

Report from County Councillor - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. The Consultation on subsidised Bus Services revealed that these were used mainly by young and older people, all of whom did not wish the services to be withdrawn. Some extra funding had now been made available, and the two County Councils – Worcestershire & Herefordshire – were now looking into more detail about the best way of planning routes. The proposals for the reduction in fire stations/engines had now been modified, with five stations/engines now being closed. However, Malvern Link Fire Station was being retained and rebuilt. The County Council Budget had now been agreed with a £30M reduction. Fortunately his discretionary Parish Council budget was still in place. The refurbished Malvern Link Station would be having a grand opening on Friday 14th March. Parking charges there had been reduced to £1 per day. A start had been made on the widening along the Southern Link Road by the Ketch, with most of this work being done overnight to minimise disruption to traffic. No money was yet available for the widening of the Carrington Bridge, but he was hopeful that Central Government would be considering this in the next financial year.

Report from District Cllrs – No Report

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green – no problems to report. Barry would be away on holiday from 12th – 27th March.

Footpath Wardens Report – Mr Richard Harward had sent the Clerk a report. The Wardens had been out checking and marking the rights of way above Tundridge Stables. The land has been subdivided and fences put up regardless of the right of way, and as a result walkers are finding the paths difficult to follow. The Wardens have waymarked to Bells Bank in both directions. Where this path leaves the road at Bells Bank it has been altered to make access for horses and as a result the path is very rough and muddy. The Countryside Officer needs to come over and have a look at the situation. They have been approached by local residents about the works at Tundridge Stud. The path in question is now the access to the stables as they are not

allowed to use the track above Lower Tundridge. The Wardens can only advise on the right of way which at present was in a fair state considering the weather. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the Countryside Department was contacted about the issues raised in this report.

Local Police – The Clerk had not received a Crime Report for January/February. However, the Council was informed by a parishioner present at the meeting that she had had £6,000 worth of saddles and bridles stolen in January, which she had reported to the Police. Another theft had also taken place in Alfrick (oil and tools). The Council expressed concern that this information had not been reported to them. The Clerk was asked to write to the Area Police Inspector about this lack of communication.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2014 were approved and signed, Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 17th February 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.

19/14 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Footpaths – nothing further to report.
- (b) Lengthsman – The Council resolved to renew the annual contract with Mr Barry Bennett, with the pay rate remaining the same. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
- (c) Replacement of domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge). Ref 4430212. Co Cllr P Tuthill and Cllr J Green reported that a new metal grid would be put in place (but still outstanding for the moment).
- (d) Silted ditch at Corner Cottage – all required work now completed.
- (e) Holloways Garden Centre – blocked ditch/road drains. This ditch caused problems with outfalls directly to the road. According to the Worcs Hub this had now been designated as “Advisory only.” New Ref 5765619.
- (f) Drain outside The Batch, Suckley (Ref 5709836) - This had now been designated “ongoing” i.e. no time frame.
- (g) Drain Gully opposite Crews Court, Suckley (Ref 5709863). This would be done “as and when”.
- (h) Blocked drain outside Hurst Cottage at the top of Grove Hill. Ref No 5913873 reported by the Lengthsman. This had now been unblocked.
- (i) Potholes in Birchwood Lane (reported by Mr Bill Holden (Ref 5803497)
Larger potholes had been filled in, but smaller ones remaining. Preferably the road should be totally resurfaced.
- (j) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082) Some larger potholes had been filled in, but they all needed to be refilled, including the smaller ones. The lane should be resurfaced as above.
- (k) Drain blocked opposite Conference Cottage (Blackhouse Lane/Crews Hill) this had been reported to the Hub by the Lengthsman. This had been unblocked.
- (l) Blocked drain Tundridge end of Blackhouse Lane – water flowing over the road. This had been reported to Gerry Brienza by the Clerk after a complaint from Cllr J Green. A team had been sent out and had unblocked the drain. However, the landowner was in fact responsible for this, and Mr Tom Palmer of MHDC would be writing to him.
- (j) Boulders on verges - the Clerk had been informed by Gerry Brienza that a letter would be sent to the owners of the White House about the white painted stones on the highway verge.

20/14 SPEEDING ISSUES

VAS Camera - the Clerk reported that due to recent heavy rain and flooding, Barry had been unable to move the VAS to some of the sites. The VAS batteries had also failed, but had now been replaced. The cost was £115.73 but this would be shared between the three parishes.

21/14 CHARITY REPORTS - Cllr P Whatley reported that he had attended a meeting of the Suckley Charities. No requests for help had been received.

22/14 COMMUNITY PLAN/GROUP

- (a) Defibrillator - Cllr A Lewis reported that she was waiting to receive a letter from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) confirming that we had been successful in our grant application. She had been given a verbal assurance that this was the case. This meant that the Council would only have to pay £400 towards the cost of the defibrillator, with the remaining £300 of Co Councillor Tuthill's grant of £700 and funding from the Parish Council being available to pay the cost of the special box to store it in. the Council agreed that it would be a good idea to put a notice in the Playing Field as to the location of the defibrillator (on the outside wall of Suckley School).
- (b) First World War Centenary – 2014. The Clerk reported that she had now received the packets of poppy seeds from Morrisons (free of charge). Suckley School was keen to get the pupils involved in a planting project and had already organised a trip to France linked to the First World War centenary. The Council decided not to go ahead with a war memorial as Cllr P Whatley reported that there did not seem to be a great deal of interest in this project. However, Cllr A Grieve reported that the History Society was planning an exhibition of photographs and profiles of those who had served in the First World War.

23/14 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
General Fund – Clerk's expenses Jan/Feb 14 £132.84; Lengthsman – January 2014 £255 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman - February 2014 £168.00; Lengthsman – March 2014 (to be advised); HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb/March 2014 £282.00. Cheque for defibrillator – British Heart Foundation £400.00; VAS Camera batteries – D W Taylor (Clerk) – already paid but to be approved £115.73; Worcs County Council 6 bags rock salt £340.00; Cost of mowing the Quarry 2013 – A Gillett - £242.29; J Green Lengthsman management Oct 13 – March 2014 £144.00; J Green – bus shelter cleaning £60.00; Clerk's o/head office/equipment expenses Oct 2013 – March 2014 £125.00; Suckley PC Gen Fund cheque VAT payment to Playing Fields Account £55.42
Playing Field Account - NPower electric £66.59 (already paid but to be approved); DJR Services - £156.00.
- (b) **Accounts to 31st January 2014** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
- (c) The Council approved the Audit Review checklist for 2013/14. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

24/14 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green - no problems to report. Risk assessment forms completed.

25/14 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that she was looking into the cost of new playing field equipment. Co Cllr Tuthill had generously granted £2K from his parish budget, and the Council would be match funding this amount. However, from an initial scan of the brochures, equipment was very costly indeed. The Clerk reminded the Council that if possible three estimates were required before a decision could be made. Cllr J Green reported that a vehicle had been driven onto the pitch and a post had been demolished. Cllr C Luton agreed to look into the cost of installing CCTV camera(s). The Clerk reported that Mr J Hicks had forwarded his fees for the annual safety assessment - £47 plus VAT. This assessment was a legal requirement. The Council agreed to this fee. The Clerk to complete the form and send it to Mr Hicks. The Clerk reported that an approach had been made by Signature Garden Services of Castlemorton to quote for maintenance work. She had informed Mr Roberts that the Parish Council policy was to use local contractors where possible. However, Cllr J Green agreed to meet Mr Roberts but unfortunately Mr Roberts was unable to keep the appointment, and so far had not made contact again.

26/14 PLANNING

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

- (a) App Ref No: 13/01558/FUL
Location: Tundridge Stud, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DR
Applicant: Mr T Hayes
Proposal: Replacement stone yard with concrete apron, including the provision of surface water drainage channels and system to existing drainage with outfall.

Permission Refused

The Council considered the following Planning Application :-

- (b) App Ref No: 14/00090/HOU
Location: Park House, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DJ
Applicant : Mr & Mrs I Haynes
Proposal: Two storey extension providing additional accommodation
Grid Ref: E371568 N253625
App Type: Householder – Full Planning Permission
The Council had no objections to this Application

27/14 NEW MODEL STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk was waiting for CALC to summarise the differences between these new Orders and the present ones. She had been advised that the Council could adopt these Orders at any time in the year it wished to. She would be putting this item on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting in May.

28/14 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk reminded all present that the revised date for the Annual Parish Meeting would be Tuesday 27th May, starting at 7.00 pm.

29/14 MINUTE BOOKS

The Clerk had contacted Pat Perks re the lodging of old Minute Books with the Archives – now at the Hive in Worcester. Pat had never lodged any Minute Books with them, but thought she might have given them to Mrs Caine, or filed them at Suckley School when she worked there. The Hive had confirmed to the Clerk that they definitely did not have any Minute Books after 1988. Cllr A Grieve agreed to speak to Margaret Davies to see if she knew anything about them.

30/14 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The Clerk reported that she had obtained authorisation from Geoffrey Brewin the Clerk at Alfrick to enable her to look at the Alfrick Parish Council Minute Books circa 1983/84. She had visited The Hive in Worcester but after searching through the Minutes no references were made re Suckley School. She had also written to Mr Paul Sherriff re affidavits, but his personal (not official) view was that even if the persons concerned did provide statements, what they could actually say would fall well below the standard required for any action to be taken by the Land Registry.

31/14 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr A Lewis reported that the plan for Suckley Church had now been completed and was going to be sent to the DAC for approval.

32/14 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available for viewing.

33/14 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 19th May 2014 at 7.00 pm