

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 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 B Kearley.

Apologies: Cllr Liz Devenish, Cllr A Lewis, Mr R Harward & Mr P Markins (Footpath Wardens)

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr A Warburton, 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)**

**The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation**

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill went through the various highway problems that had been repaired or were outstanding. He would liaise with Gerry Brienza on any outstanding items that might be able to be funded from his Parish Highways budget. He was aware of the possibility of wind turbines being erected in the area, but Worcestershire County Council's policy was against turbines. Cllr C Luton assured him that the Playing Fields Committee was progressing the plan for new Playing Fields Equipment (part funded by Co Cllr Tuthill's Parish Budget). Co Cllr Tuthill also informed the Council that there could well be funding available for any World War I & II memorial for the Parish.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton reported to the meeting. The question of the shared Chief Executive for Malvern Hills and Wychavon Districts was still very much in contention. He would keep the Parish Council apprised of the situation.

**Lengthsman Report** - Cllr J Green - no problems to report.

**Footpath Wardens Report** – The Clerk had received an e-mail from Richard Harward in connection with Tundridge Stud. Because the gateway opens on to what is now neighbours land, the Stud have no need of access to it. They will remove the existing gate and install a self closing pedestrian gate which will be supplied by the Countryside Department. They will post and rail fence the remainder of the gap using their materials. The Clerk also read out a letter from Richard Harward and Peter Markins informing the Council that for health reasons they were both resigning as Footpath Wardens for Suckley as from November. The Council wholeheartedly agreed that both Wardens had done a marvellous job for the Parish and asked the Clerk to write a thank you letter to both of them. The Clerk to also put notices in the Suckley Newsletter and the Sphere asking for new volunteers.

**Local Police** – Cllr Peter Whatley had analysed data from Police website information. A recent ASBO had been reported in July. However, there had been a number of thefts recently from

outbuildings in the area (including the Parish Council's Pavilion) and he would wait to see what figures would be shown for August..

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieve. The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

### **73/14 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Replacement of domed metal cage at the bottom of Birchwood Lane (at the side of the water depth gauge). Ref 4430212. A large metal grate had been installed. Cllr J Green reported that this finally looked to have solved the problem.
- (b) Holloways Garden Centre – blocked ditch/road drains. Cllr J Green reported that a new drain had now been installed, but a 6” pipe was now feeding into a 4” pipe.
- (e) Corner Cottage at The Knoll, Suckley Knowle. Silted ditch referred to Tom Palmer who was taking action. (Ash Grove had now been done)
- (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 had now been done.
- (h) Potholes in Birchwood Lane. Cllr P Whatley felt that overall the work in Birchwood Lane had been done very well, but the team had left the section in most need of doing! He asked Co Cllr Tuthill that the 75 metre section East of ByWays be repaired.
- (i) Boulders on verges - the Clerk had been informed by Gerry Brienza that a letter had been sent out, but she would follow this up again.
- (j) Potholes at Mousehole Bridge - these had been done
- (k) Potholes – Nelson Pub – these had been done
- (l) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082). The Clerk had contacted Gerry Brienza again stating the urgent need for total resurfacing of this Lane, the whole of the fabric of the road was breaking up and very large craters were making the Lane almost unusable. Gerry Brienza had now replied that some temporary pothole repair work would be carried out in the next two weeks. Later in the year the team would return with a “midi patcher”
- (m) Ditch silted up opposite Rose Cottage (near to the bus shelter/junction at top of Longley Green). Tom Palmer has investigated and will be recommending action to be taken by Worcs County Council Highways to clear the ditch.
- (n) Fly Tipping –Blackhouse Lane, just below Spring Cottage. Clerk had reported this to MHDC and this has now been cleared.
- (o) Dangerous encroachment of branches into the road from the top of Crews Hill. Gerry Brienza had informed the Clerk that Worcester Conservation Trust was actively looking for a contractor to cut back the overhanging branches. However, not all the land was owned by the Conservation Trust, and he had asked the Clerk to find out who owned the adjoining land.
- (p) The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident about overhanging branches/hedges along the Knightwick Road. Cllr J Green was investigating. The Clerk to contact Gerry Brienza with names of owners so that action could be taken.

#### **74/14 SPEEDING/VAS CAMERA**

Cllr P Whatley had analysed the data from the VAS camera from 14<sup>th</sup> July through to 26<sup>th</sup> August. The latest data was consistent with previous recordings, with the majority of vehicles exceeding the limit by under 5 mph. The number of vehicles exceeding 40 mph was very low, and a very small number of vehicles recording speeds of 55-60 mph was generally in the early hours of the morning. Knightwick Road remains more prone to speeding than Stocks Road through Longley Green.

**75/14 CHARITY REPORTS** - Cllr P Whatley reported that the next meeting of Suckley Charities would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr A Grieve reported that he had attended the meeting of the Hill Trust/Village Hall Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The survey had now been completed, but the response had been very poor. The Committee was looking into the costs involved to bring the Hall up to standard and was also seeking the advice of the Charity Commissioners.

#### **76/14 WIND TURBINES**

Cllr B Kearley reported that G2 was the Company applying for permission to erect a 77 metres high wind turbine in the Acton Beauchamp area. Although this was not in Suckley Parish, it was on the border and there could be more applications in the future. More details would be circulated in the Suckley News Letter.

#### **77/14 COMMUNITY GROUP**

- (a) Defibrillator - No detailed report available from Cllr A Lewis, but the defibrillator had now been installed. HeartStart training would be starting in October. Cllr A Lewis had agreed at the last meeting to look into the question of signing from Knightwick Road as to where the defibrillator was located.
- (b) First World War – Cllrs Peter Whatley and Andrew Grieve were still investigating the idea of a large piece of granite as a memorial with an engraved plaque. It was agreed that this would have to be a worthy tribute to the men and women of Suckley Parish who had given their lives in the two World Wars and others since. Cllr C Luton agreed to contact her business suppliers about the cost of granite.

#### **78/14 FINANCE**

The following cheques were authorised for payment:- Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Grieve.

- (a) **General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses July/August 2014 £57.71; Lengthsman – July 2014 £192.00 (already paid but to be approved); VAS July 2014 £23.00; Lengthsman/VAS August 2014 £105.00; Lengthsman September 2014 (to be advised). HMRC PAYE July/August/September 2014 £291.00; Grant Thornton – External Audit Fee for Annual Return 2013/14 £120.00; J Green – Lengthsman management April 2014 – Sept 2014 £144.00; Came & Co Insurance renewal £1,321.34.  
**Playing Field Account** - DJR Services £120.00 (already paid but to be approved); Npower £49.15; J Green – supply and fit one door to the Pavilion £195.00
- (b) **Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr C Luton.
- (c) Annual Audit Return 2013/14. The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been approved by the External Auditors Grant Thornton.

- (d) Pension Scheme – the Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the future requirement of providing a Pension Scheme for any employee of the Council up to the age of 74. A Declaration of Compliance would have to be sent to the Pensions Regulator. The Clerk to find out more details at the next Clerks meeting.
- (e) The Clerk had circulated a letter from Worcs Calc regarding the investment of Parish & Town Council reserves. A pilot project had analysed the patterns of income and expenditure in a sample of parishes which had shown that at the year end 2012/13 around £1.15 million was being held collectively across the District. The Council's Policy Group (CPG) was exploring the possibility of establishing a collective investment fund into which Town and Parish Councils could be invited to deposit reserves. It was unanimously agreed that this was not a venture of interest to the Council, and the Council asked the Clerk to make this known to Calc.

#### **79/14 NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The new Financial Regulations compiled by NALC had been looked through by the Clerk and Cllr P Whatley, who had now adapted these to the requirements of Suckley Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths that the Council adopt these new Financial Regulations which had been circulated to all Cllrs via e-mail.

#### **80/14 PLANNING**

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

- (a) App Ref No: 14/00852/CPLW  
Location: Old Post Office, Suckley WR6 5EE  
Applicant: Mrs J MacDonald  
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness of proposed works to a listed building – double glazing to windows at rear of listed building on a later circa 1920 extension. Porch to join existing kitchen to existing utility room. (information only)
- (b) App Ref No: 14/00169/OUT  
Location: Land adj Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley WR6 5DU  
Applicant: Mrs J Peplow  
Proposal: 2 no detached dwellings

#### **Permission Refused**

The Clerk informed the Council that Mrs J Peplow had appealed against this decision

- (c) App Ref No: 14/00750/HOU  
Location: Owls Kiln, 5, White House Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DF  
Applicant: Mr M Armstrong  
Proposal: Form a new bedroom in the roof space of the roof that links Owls Kiln to Greenhill Farm. Minor alterations were proposed to modernise the property including the replacement of all of the existing windows with new bespoke timber windows.

#### **Permission Granted**

#### **81/14 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr J Green - everything was okay.

#### **82/14 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

Cllr J Green reported that despite fitting a new lock and door, the Pavilion had been broken into and the copper hot water cylinder had been removed. A lock and new keys had now been

replaced. Cllr J Green also reported increased mole activity on the Playing Fields. Cllr C Luton to contact the pest control company again.

**83/14 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

The Christmas Fayre would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall.

**84/14 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

Cllr C Luton would be visiting the school to find out what type of playing field equipment the children would prefer..

**85/14 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing.

**86/14 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Grass cutting on the sides of the roads.

New Standing Orders

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.00 pm**