

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 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. Cllr A Lewis

Apologies: Cllr Liz Devenish

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 reported on the proposed new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station to be sited at Norton, on the outskirts of Worcester. This would deliver improvements to rail services to and from London and connections to the cross country network. A public engagement exercise was under way. The work on the Southern Link Road was progressing well, but so far the County Council only had funding available for a draft design of a widened river bridge. The estimated cost of building a new bridge was £7M. Cllr Tuthill drew the attention of the Council to a new software programme he had access to which showed all the land "owned" by Worcestershire County Council. This revealed that the Suckley Playing Fields appeared to be in the "ownership" of the County Council. This was immediately disputed by the Parish Council, as the Clerk had copy deeds (originals being held by the bank) showing that the Playing Fields had been gifted to the Council in 1949. The Clerk to liaise with Co Cllr Tuthill and to contact the County Council Legal Department on this matter. Cllr P Whatley reported that the Parish Council section of the County Council did not appear to be working very well, and it was difficult to obtain Parish Councils information posted on their website.

**Report from District Cllr** – Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton reported that despite his and other Councillors opposition – majority approval had been given for the appointment of a shared Chief Executive for Wychavon & Malvern Hills District Councils. This would be the present Chief Executive of Wychavon Council. A redundancy package had been agreed with the Chief Executive of Malvern Hills District Council. Dist Cllr Warburton had contacted Paul Clements the Enforcement Officer at MHDC re recent earth works at Tundridge Stud. These had been inspected by Paul Clements and were found to be the creation of a drainage channel adjacent to the track. Paul Clements had written to the landowner to advise him that this work was considered to be operational development requiring planning permission if he was intending to carry out further work.

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

**Footpath Wardens – No Report.** The Clerk had not received any letters of interest regarding the vacancy. The Clerk to put the advertisement into the News Letter again.

**Local Police –** Cllr Peter Whatley had analysed data from Police website information. The spate of thefts from outbuildings had ceased, with the majority of offences being Anti-Social Behaviour problems.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr J Green.

### **87/14 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Drain outside The Batch, Suckley (Ref 5709836) - This had now been designated “ongoing” i.e. no time frame.
- (b) Potholes in Birchwood Lane. The 75 metre of road East of ByWays needing repair was still outstanding. Co Cllr Tuthill to follow this up with Highways.
- (c) Boulders on verges - the Clerk reported that Gerry Brienza had spoken to the owners of The White House, informing them that they needed to remove the white boulders. County Highways would be replacing the boulders with white/reflective marker posts
- (d) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 5824082). County Highways had done some minor pothole repair work, but we were still waiting for the “midi patcher” to carry out more major repairs.
- (e) Ditch silted up opposite Rose Cottage (near to the bus shelter/junction at top of Longley Green). Tom Palmer was still chasing County Highways to clear the ditch. Unfortunately, he could only request this action be taken and it was then up to County to decide whether or not to do the work.
- (f) Dangerous encroachment of branches into the road from the top of Crews Hill. Work had now been completed.
- (g) The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident about overhanging branches/hedges along the Knightwick Road. The Clerk had contacted Gerry Brienza and letters had gone out to owners requesting action.
- (h) Blocked ditch at Parsleys Patch – this had been reported to the Clerk and Cllr J Green. Tom Palmer, Land Drainage Officer at MHDC had been informed, and would be following this up.
- (i) Fly Tipping – a report of fly tipping at Griddles End (a bed had been left on the verge) had been passed to MHDC Fly Tipping Team. Ref 6432991.
- (j) Cllr J Green reported that the ditch opposite Woodland Road (owned by Severn Trent) was getting blocked up again. The Clerk to report this to Tom Palmer for action.

### **88/14 SPEEDING/VAS CAMERA**

The VAS camera was still in Alfrick Parish, but would be moving to Suckley on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The schedule would have to be reviewed after its stay in Suckley as Alfrick Parish was looking to add another location. Cllr P Whatley, the Clerk and Mr G Brewin (Clerk to Alfrick & Lulsley) had held a brief meeting prior to the Council Meeting to decide on how best to present the speeding stats to West Mercia Police, with the hope that action would be taken.

### **89/14 CHARITY REPORTS**

- (a) A report from Alfrick Educational Charity had been sent to the Clerk by Mrs Rosemary Harward. This had been circulated to all members of the Council. The Charity had held a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Investment had brought in reasonable returns and it had been

agreed to increase the sum given to student applications to £600 each. There had been thank you letters and thirteen further applications. The next meeting would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

#### **90/14 WIND TURBINES**

Cllr B Kearley reported that an extended date to 4<sup>th</sup> December for representations had now been allowed. Two applications were now being considered. The first one was at Half Ridge Farm at Acton Beauchamp and the second one at Pencombe. There had been hundreds of objections. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any official notification of the Acton Beauchamp application, even though it was close to Suckley parish boundary. The Clerk to contact Herefordshire Planning on this matter.

#### **91/14 COMMUNITY GROUP**

- (a) **Defibrillator** - Cllr Lewis reported that the defibrillator was now placed in its box on the wall of Suckley School. A significant group of Suckley volunteers had been trained in basic first aid and the use of the defibrillator. The device itself talks a volunteer through how it is to be used. Signs were to be put up on all notice boards. There were already notices in the pubs and the Post Office. She thanked the Council and Co Cllr Tuthill for providing funding to match the grant from the British Heart Foundation, and to Cllr J Green for coming up with the idea in the first place.
- (b) **War Memorial** - Cllrs P Whatley and A Grieve presented a basic plan of the siting of the memorial in the Old Quarry. This would be roughly in the middle of the site and as near as possible to the road. Work would be needed to create an access to the memorial, which would be enclosed by post and rail fencing. The quarry land was about 2' 6" above the road level. It was also hoped to put a couple of benches in the area, and to maybe create a plinth for the stone. Cllr P Whatley would be putting these ideas into the Suckley News Letter. He hoped to have costings available for the next meeting, and was looking into sources of funding.

#### **92/14 FINANCE**

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

- (a) **General Fund** – Clerk's expenses September/October 2014 £27.03; Clerk's Office Allowance Apr – Sept 2014 £125.00; Lengthsman – September 2014 £1252.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman October £198.00; Lengthsman November 2014 (to be advised). Data Protection Registration (Information Commissioner) £35.00  
**Playing Field Account** - Npower £44.98; DJR Services – Mowing Playing Field x 5 £300.00.
- (b) **Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
- (c) **Clerk's Salary Review – 2015/16.** The Council unanimously approved an upgrade to SCP 26 for the year 2015/16 – commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. This was an increase of 37p per hour on present rates – an annual gross salary of £6,063 (rounded figure). Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.

#### **93/14 NEW MODEL STANDING ORDERS**

The Council adopted the New Model Standing Orders compiled by NALC. These had been circulated to all Councillors via e-mail. Proposed by Cllr A Huband and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

#### **94/14 PLANNING**

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

- (a) 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 – An Appeal has been made – decision pending**
- (b) App Ref No: 14/00759/FUL  
Location: The Hurst, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EE  
Proposal: Extensions to rear and sides. Change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage.  
**Permission Granted**
- (c) App Ref No: 14/00792/HOU  
Location: Crews Court, Suckley. Worcs WR6 5DW  
Applicants: Mr & Mrs Lewis  
Proposal: Erection of single storey oak garden room  
**Permission Granted**

The Council considered the following planning application:-

- (d) App Ref No: 14/01347/FUL  
Location: Suckley School, Church Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DE  
Applicant: Mrs Sheila Fellows  
Proposal: Hall Store room

The Council had no objections to this application

- (e) **Planning Policy Statement** - The Council unanimously resolved to adopt the following planning policy principles to guide its decisions on planning matters :-

1. All previous policy statements, documents and output from study groups (including, but not limited to those of 2001 and 2010) are null and void and are completely superseded by these principles.
2. The wishes of residents as documented in the 2012 Parish Survey will inform the Parish Council's judgements regarding planning applications
3. In accordance with residents' feedback to the 2012 Parish Survey, planning decisions for domestic premises shall favour the need for affordable, starter and sheltered housing stock.
4. The Parish Council does not favour additional development in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
5. The Parish Council does not favour additional development in areas known to flood on a regular basis (at least once a decade) or act as "soakaway" areas.

Proposed by Cllr A Grieve and seconded by Cllr J Green.

#### **95/14 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr J Green - everything was okay.

#### **96/14 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

Cllr C Luton reported that the mole problems had come back, but this was being sorted out. She had a representative from a Play Equipment Company who would be drawing up a design and costings. The children at Suckley School were all very keen to be involved with the re-designed Playing Field and were busy drawing pictures of what they would like to see. Cllr J Green reported that he had collected eight bags of rubbish plus bottles from the all weather pitch.

**97/14 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported that the SPACE project continued to move through the Faculty process to the Chancellor for his opinion and decision. Locally, the Archdeacon would facilitate discussion between members of the PCC and those who have expressed some reservations about the re-ordering project in order to find a way for the church to move forwards. The "Parish Profile" has been passed first to a Bishop's preferred candidate whom the Bishop considers could be right for the Parish. If this person is interested, then he/she could be appointed by Easter. If not, the position would be advertised and the whole process would take longer. The Christmas Fayre would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall.

**98/14 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

No Report

**99/14 ROUGH SLEEPING - MHDC**

Councillors were not aware of any rough sleepers in the Parish

**100/14 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing.

**101/14 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Precept 2015/16

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.00 pm**