

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: 35 people attended the meeting including Parish Councillors.

In Attendance: Mrs Diana Taylor, Clerk

The Chairman, Cllr A W Huband welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Mrs Sheila Marshall, Head Teacher of Suckley School

**Suckley Primary School** - Three pupils from Suckley School - Bea Barnes, Imogen Jammal and Harvey Symonds - gave a powerpoint presentation to the meeting. This covered a range of activities they all enjoyed at the school, including music (violin, guitar and piano), making fires and dens in the Forest School, play equipment designs for the Playing Fields, sports - playing netball and swimming. They were also involved in making poppies for the Suckley War Memorial Dedication on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Chairman thanked them for their presentation, and the assembly gave them a well deserved round of applause.

**County Councillor** – Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that the County Council spent c£1M every day, around £36M per year. The County Council had recently published a brochure called World Class Worcestershire, featuring the attractiveness of the area for both living/working and for business. He reported on the progress of the Southern Link Road improvements, and the need for widening the Carrington Bridge which would cost in the region of £60M. New railway stations for Bromsgrove and Norton Parkway which would improve rail links to Bristol & London were under way. The £160M Waste Incinerator at Hartlebury was now in operation, which was generating power from the waste. The Council had also been spending considerable sums of money on resurfacing and patching roads in the County, including Suckley. Due to the demand for primary school places, Leigh & Bransford School was being extended and doubled in size. He had been spending some of his £10K his discretionary fund for Parishes on Suckley, including a donation for Blackhouse Wood.

**District Councillors - No Report**

**Chairman's Report** - this report, covering the work of the Council over the previous 12 months, was circulated to all present.

**West Mercia Police – No Report**

## **COMMUNITY**

**Good Neighbour Scheme/HeartStart** - Cllr Anne Lewis reported that the Good Neighbour Scheme was still in operation, and available for anyone in the area who needed help. It had joined forces with Malvern CAB, and all the volunteers had gone through CAB training. The defibrillator was installed on the outside wall of Suckley school. 50 people had now been trained in defib and basic first aid skills, so Suckley was well equipped for emergencies. A further course would be held in the summer.

**Suckley War Memorial** - Cllr Peter Whatley reported that the War Memorial for Suckley was now in place at the Old Quarry in Longley Green. Thanks were due to Ringway – contractors to Worcestershire County Council – the good offices of Co Cllr Paul Tuthill – Madresfield Estates - and many others who had responded so generously to the project. A huge amount of goodwill had been forthcoming from all who had been approached for their help. The dedication service would be held on Armed Forces Day - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 11.0 am and all were welcome to attend. The Parish Council would be renewing the fencing and putting in place two oak benches.

## **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTS**

**Footpath Wardens** - As had been widely reported, our two Footpath Wardens Richard Harward and Peter Markins had retired from this role, and the Council was urgently looking for volunteers. Fortunately Helen Philpotts and Jane MacDonald had stepped forward to keep an eye on the bridleways and footpaths, and report problems. Both Jane and Helen spoke to the meeting asking for volunteers to form a small group who could work together to cover the many footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

**Suckley History Society** - Cllr Andrew Grieve reported that the History Society now held regular monthly meetings, and enjoyed a high turnout of members. The next event on 11<sup>th</sup> June was a visit to Tudor House in Worcester. In conjunction with the Suckley War Memorial Dedication on 27<sup>th</sup> June, the History Society would be hosting an exhibition of background information on those from Suckley who had died in the First and Second World Wars, together with a talk on Worcestershire at War. The Trench Choir would also be in attendance. This would be held at the Nelson Inn at Longley Green after the dedication service.

**Suckley Church & P.C.C.** - the Revd Anne Potter, the new Vicar for Suckley, introduced herself to the meeting. She felt very strongly that the Church should be part of the community life in Suckley. Cllr Liz Devenish reported on the Space Project for the church. Many rural churches in the county were closing, and the Space Project enabled Suckley Church to have a future. The idea was to open up the space within the Church, change the layout, and enable the church to be used by Suckley School (as the school did not have a hall) and for the church to be available for the whole community to use. A number of issues still had to be resolved, but the core plans included underfloor heating, a toilet and a small kitchen in the tower. Further consultations would be taking place.

**Suckley Playing Fields** - Cllr Carol Luton reported that it had been a fairly quiet year for the Playing Fields. A break-in at the Pavilion was disappointing and the water tank had been stolen. This had not yet been replaced. Fly tipping and vandalism was reduced from the previous year, but still taking place. Cllr Andrew Grieve and Carol had attended a fantastic display at Suckley School where the pupils had designed a new play area at the Playing Fields incorporating new play equipment. The Council would be working on securing funding for this in the next few years – looking at grants that might be available. Thanks were due to Cllr John Green for his weekly risk inspections and general maintenance work, and also to Duncan Reynolds for mowing the Playing Fields on a regular basis.

**The Hill Trust** - Mr Steve Boughton reported on behalf of the Hill Trust/Village Hall Committee. The accounts for the year showed a £1K deficit from the previous year, and might be higher in the coming year. Even with some increased use of the hall, the income was not sufficient to maintain, yet alone improve, the facilities at the Village Hall which was an important part of Suckley's history. The Trustees were, therefore, exploring a range of options, including a part time business opportunity. However, it was still essential for the Hall to be used on a regular basis, and a calendar of events was being planned including an American Independence Day Supper on 4<sup>th</sup> July with the Appellation Dancers. A recently held Fashion Show had been very well supported, and it was hoped to repeat this event in the near future.

**Public Questions** - A parishioner raised a question about Cycle Racing through the Parish – was permission required from the Parish Council for these Races? Cllr Peter Whatley replied that the only permission required was from the Police. However, the speed and numbers of cyclists was very intimidating, and could be dangerous for horse riders and walkers. He asked Co Cllr Paul Tuthill to contact West Mercia Police about this. It would also be an item on the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their support to him and the Council over the last year with special thanks to the Clerk Diana Taylor for all her hard work. He then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. All were invited to stay and have a glass of wine/fruit juice with nibbles provided by the Parish Councillors.

**The Minute Book & Audited Accounts for 2013/14; The Parish Council Accounts (internally audited) for 2014/15; the Annual Accounts & Reports for local Charities and Trusts were available for inspection.**

