

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr J Green, Cllr P Whatley, Cllr P Griffiths,  
Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A Lewis, Cllr C Luton, Cllr V Bradley

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr S Rouse, Dist Cllr A Warburton,  
Co Cllr P Tuthill, Mrs H Philpotts (Footpaths Team)

Apologies: Cllr A Grieve

**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 closed the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation**

**County Councillor** - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that the Fire & Rescue Services Chief was leaving after 30 years of service. The Deputy Chief from Oxford would be heading up the Service for the next six months. The new incinerator should be fired up by the end of this year and fully operational by February 2017. 200,000 tonnes of waste would be processed, and would be creating energy at the same time. The plans for the new school at Malvern North Site (now Malvern Vale) had been displayed – the school would come under the umbrella of Somers Park School. Leigh & Bransford School would be incorporating on site parking in its development plans. A new mini patcher piece of equipment was in the pipeline for repairing very narrow roads such as Blackhouse Lane. County Hall was planning to let our spaces to a number of other organisations such as HMRC and DEFRA. Every Government building in Worcestershire was being logged and would be scrutinised as to how effectively it was being used. Cllr P Whatley reported that the Broadband speed in the Parish was lamentable compared to what had been promised by the Faster Broadband project. Cllr P Tuthill stated that a Scrutiny Committee would be meeting at County Hall to look at this project as it was not meeting expectations in rural areas. He would be extending an invitation to Cllr P Whatley to attend this Scrutiny Meeting.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllrs Anthony Warburton and Sarah Rouse reported that the South Worcestershire Development Plan had been adopted. It was hoped that this would now give some control over developers' planning applications. Malvern Hills now had a five year land supply. The MHDC Precept was being raised by 3.65%.

**Lengthsman Report** - Cllr J Green & the Clerk reported that they had put together a Parish Drains Map to help the new Lengthsman. All known drains had been marked on the map and numbered (143 to date).

**Footpaths** – Helen Philpotts reported on behalf of the Footpaths Team. A number of complaints/problems which had been flagged up over the last few months had still not been fixed. The Clerk confirmed that she had reported all the problems to the Countryside Department, and they were being added to their database. The Clerk reported that she was hoping to obtain a small grant from the Countryside Department to help with clearing vegetation and replacing

broken or damaged footpath signs. The grant was not available for major repairs/replacements such as foot-bridges. These would be covered by the Countryside Department, although they themselves were operating on a very reduced budget. She would be arranging a meeting with the footpaths team very shortly to allocate areas within the parish, and discuss how best to co-ordinate the team's activities. The question was raised about the bridge across the brook at Red Castle, which was unsafe and had been taped off to stop people using it. The Clerk was asked to contact the Countryside Dept and find out who was responsible for this bridge.

**Local Police/Crime Stats** – Cllr P Whatley reported on the crime stats now complete for 2015. The number of crimes in total was up on previous years, though very low in comparison with most areas. 50% of the recorded crime was due to ASB (Anti-social behaviour) consistent with the previous year. In reality, therefore, the amount of crime experienced by the vast majority of parishioners was nil. The only point that needed watching was the rise in burglaries (10) which required everyone to take sensible precautions, especially at business premises. The Council was concerned that due to the Police national statistical grid-mapping, the crime stats were misleading as they tended to show higher crime activity in the White House Court area of the parish, which in reality was not the case. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police Crime Commissioner about this, as the present figures were not clear enough to be of any real use.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths

#### **15/16 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Hedge Cutting - The Clerk reported that she had contacted the owners re the roadside hedge at The Butts, towards Sindons Mill. They were taking action to get this cut back.
- (b) Potholes/resurfacing – Blackhouse Lane. (New Ref 6838978) the Clerk and Cllr J Green reported that some potholes had been filled in at Blackhouse Lane, but the tarmac had been put down onto frozen mud and was now breaking up. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with Gerry Brienza at County Hall, as the standard of the work was questionable. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the landowner regarding the water trough overflowing into Blackhouse Lane just above Duggans House.
- (c) The Clerk had reported to Highways re the poor condition of the old metal three bar fencing on the verge of the highway in Longley Green (Ref 6797940) – spanning about three houses in length – from the cottage at Parsleys Patch. She had received a notification from Highways that they would be advising a replacement fence be put in place, but so far no action appeared to have been taken. She was asked to write again to Highways, stressing the health & safety risk to children as there was a three metre drop and no pavement.
- (d) Cllr J Green reported that he had a site meeting with Mr Paul Green the new MHDC Drainage Officer regarding the water running across the road near to The Steps Cottage at Crews Hill which then froze and caused a hazard. Mr Paul Green had stated that he could only make recommendations – not enforce them. Mr Paul Green agreed to have a meeting with the landowners, as a possible solution involved pipework and ditch digging.
- (e) Cllr Mrs V Bradley reported that some of the trees opposite the Nelson pub on the land adjoining Parsleys Patch appeared to be in a poor condition, with branches breaking off. The Clerk was asked to contact MHDC Tree Officer to ask for an inspection and advice.

### 16/16 VAS CAMERA

After a short discussion, the Council agreed that the camera should return to Suckley for a short time. The Clerk to arrange this.

### 17/16 CHARITY REPORTS

- (a) **Suckley Charities** – Cllr P Whatley reported that at their Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, £500 had been donated to the Space Project and £536 donated to Suckley Playing Fields. A sum of money was also being given to Suckley School to enable pupils to have transport on their Discovery Day.

### 18/16 COMMUNITY

- (a) **Defibrillator** - As previously noted, the Clerk had contacted Highways about the possibility of a direction sign to the defibrillator on the Knightwick Road, pointing to Church Lane. The response was that there was no official “defibrillator” direction sign. Cllr A Lewis had sent the Clerk an “official logo” sign, but this was not the directional sign the Council felt was needed.
- (b) **Suckley News letter** - The Clerk reported that she had e-mailed Hilary Pitt re the Newsletter, and discovered that Hilary was no longer editing the paper due to family commitments. It appeared that so far no one had come forward to take her place and the Suckley News Letter was on “hold”. Cllr L Devenish proposed that Hilary should have a public vote of thanks for all her hard work at the Annual Parish Meeting. This proposal was endorsed by all members present.
- (c) **Tree Planting Project** - The Woodland Trust was planning to plant millions of native trees across the UK, as a “thank you” to all those who made sacrifices in the First World War. A number of different schemes were being proposed for tree planting and the Trust had 3 million free trees available to schools, community and youth groups. The Clerk was asked to find out if the Council could get a tree for Suckley School.

### 19/16 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.  
**General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses Jan/Feb 2016 £62.22; Lengthsman January 2016 £180.00 (already paid but to be approved); Lengthsman February 2016 £258.75; Lengthsman March 2016 (to be advised); HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb/March 2016 £303.00; Clerk’s Office Oct 2015 – March 2016 £125.00; A Gillett – Old Quarry Maintenance & Mowing £295.00; Cheque to Playing Fields Account (Lottery Grant) £9,140; VAT refund cheque to Playing Fields Account £218.46; J Green – Lengthsman Management Oct 15 – March 16 £144.00; Cheque to Playing Fields Account - donations from Cllrs A Warburton & S Rouse £1,000.00 (2 x £500); D W Taylor refund of purchase of Toshiba laptop & bag & Epson Printer £329.97; D W Taylor Refund of purchase of Logitech wireless keyboard and mouse set £19.99; J Green – cleaning bus shelters £70.00; Cheque to Playing Fields Account (Suckley Charities donation) £536.00.  
**Playing Field Account** - Npower – electricity for Pavilion £39.40 (already paid but to be approved).  
**Playing Fields – Credit to electricity account £30.00** from Npower for missing an appointment on 23.02.16
- (b) The Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. Cllr L Devenish asked that the Accounts be e-mailed to Cllrs prior to the meeting, and the Clerk agreed to do this.

- (d) Transparency Code Grant Application – (£350.00 now received – see above – Gen Fund cheques totalling £349.96)
- (e) The Internal Audit Review was circulated to all Councillors and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk confirmed that Linda Cotterill had agreed to undertake the internal audit of the Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

### **20/16 PLANNING**

The Council noted the following refusals/permissions/approvals (MHDC):-

- (a) App Ref No 15/00964/FUL – **REFUSAL**  
 Proposal: 2 no detached dwellings on land adj to Parsleys Patch  
 Location: Land adj to Parsleys Patch, Longley Green, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DU
- (b) App Ref: 15/01657/HOU – **APPROVAL**  
 Proposal: Side & Rear extensions (resubmission of previously withdrawn scheme 15/00717/HOU)  
 Location: Conference Cottage, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DW
- (c) App Ref: **PLANNING APPEAL – App Ref: APP/J1860/W/15/3132952**  
**APPEAL ALLOWED**  
 Proposal: Change of use of section AA of existing track to allow access for equine use. Improvement of Section BB to allow equine & agricultural access between agricultural land and equine land to match Section AA. Complete Section C to Match Section AA  
 Location: Tundridge Stud, Stocks Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DR
- (d) App Ref: **PLANNING APPEAL – App Ref: APP/J1860/W/15/313952**  
**APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF COSTS REFUSED**  
 Proposal: Costs application in relation to the above Appeal  
 Location: Tundridge Stud, Stocks Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DR

To consider the following Application :-

- (e) App Ref: 16/00367/FUL  
 Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing glasshouse & construction of new showroom building on the same site  
 Location: Holloways at Lower Court Farm, Church Lane, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DE  
 Applicant: Mr E Holloway

The Council had no objections to this application, and recommended APPROVAL of the Plans.

### **21/16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE**

Cllr C Luton reported that she had negotiated a discount on the original cost (£18,283) of the Playing Fields Project, which brought the total amount needed down to £17,500. As reported to the previous Meeting, the Lottery Fund Grant application had been successful and had been paid into the Suckley PC Bank Account (£9,140). Total funding raised so far amounted to £13,676 made up of (£9,140 lottery grant, £2,000 from Co Cllr P Tuthill, £1,000 from Dist Cllrs (2 x £500), £536 from Suckley Charities and £1,000 from an anonymous donor.) The Council agreed to pay the outstanding balance of £3,824.00. Proposed by Cllr P Whatley and seconded by Cllr A Lewis. Cllr J Green reported that the bolts from the framework on the Playing Field had been removed deliberately, which was a worrying development.

**22/16 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr J Green had completed the forms. No issues at the moment, other than those reported above.

**23/16 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr L Devenish reported that the Space Project had now moved on from the Permission stage to the fund raising stage, with several funding applications in the pipeline.

**24/16 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

Cllr L Devenish reported that the school was doing exceptionally well, with a waiting list for places. The Revd Anne Potter was now on the Governing Body of the School. Planning for a staff only car park was under way. The school was now offering an after school facility and a breakfast club.

**25/16 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

New Model Financial Regulations

**26/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available for viewing from 6.45 pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (Annual Parish Council Meeting) at 7.00 pm and on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm the Annual Parish Meeting.**