

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

16th MAY 2015 at 7.30 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: 38 people attended the meeting including Parish Councillors.

In Attendance: Mrs Diana Taylor, Clerk

The Acting Chairman – Cllr Andrew Grieve, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Cllr Peter Whatley (newly elected Chairman), Co Cllr Paul Tuthill, Mrs Jill Hammond

Suckley Primary School - Four pupils from Suckley School - Lily, Lottie, Carys and Harry – gave a Powerpoint presentation to the meeting. They explained how the different year ages were divided into Fledglings, Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers and Eagles. Each year group undertook different projects, with the Wrens making up books for the Fledglings, the Robins made a TV channel and a magazine, Woodpeckers explored the theory of bangs and explosions, and the Eagles made DVD's and invited their parents to a WW2 Tea Dance. Sports activities include rounders, swimming, netball, under 7's rugby, football and tennis, and using the Playing Fields next to the school. The school has its own Choir and they can also learn to play the violin, guitar, piano and drumming. They have an elected pupils School Council whose voice is heard over a range of issues – toilets/mirrors/selecting play equipment for the Playing Fields/appointing play leaders and buddies. Residential trips over the past year to West Malvern and Condover Hall offered challenges in fencing, zip wires, abseiling, tunnelling, body zorbing. This helped with team building and facing fears. The Head Teacher – Mrs Sheila Marshall – reported that the school was doing brilliantly, with all the pupils making excellent progress. The school layout had been changed as the numbers had increased, and there was now a waiting list for pupils to attend Suckley School. The school had made a successful bid for a new Wildlife Zone to open up the pond area. The Chairman thanked them for their Presentation and the assembly gave them a well deserved round of applause.

West Mercia Police – PCSO Martin Butcher reported that Suckley was a relatively very low crime area. Recorded crimes for 2015/16 stood at 22, compared to 24 in 2014/15. There were 12 recorded incidents of Anti-Social behaviour in the year, compared to 10 in the same period for 2014/15. The question of speeding in the Parish was raised, with PCSO Martin Butcher recommending that the recent VAS stats be sent to the Safer Roads Partnership for scrutiny.

County Councillor – Apologies – No Report

District Councillors – Dist Cllrs Anthony Warburton and Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. The South Worcestershire Development Plan had now been adopted which it was hoped would make a difference in controlling where houses would be built in the future. Malvern Hills District Council had adopted their Five Year Plan, but the Council was under pressure to maintain services with much reduced budgets. Both Dist Cllrs were opposed to an attempt to privatise the waste collection service. There would be some merging of MHDC with other Councils in the future, especially with regards to planning.

Chairman's Report - this report, covering the work of the Council over the previous 12 months, was circulated to all present with Cllr Andrew Grieve giving a short resume of the Council's activities. Cllr Andrew Grieve also thanked the retiring Chairman – Cllr Walter Huband - who had been elected Chairman for over 50 years. Fortunately for the Council, Cllr Huband was remaining as a Council member. All those present gave a round of applause.

COMMUNITY

Good Neighbour Scheme/Defibrillator - Cllr Anne Lewis reported that the Good Neighbour Scheme was still up and running and available for anyone in the area who needed help. The scheme was linked with Malvern CAB Community Liaison Volunteers. The defibrillator was installed on the outside wall of Suckley school and it was hoped to improve the signage to this. Suckley now had a CPR kit with DIY instructions on how to use it.

Footpath Walkers/Riders - Helen Philpotts and Jan Stapleton reported on the work of the footpaths team, which now numbered four – themselves, Peter Hibbert and Phil Milsom. The footpaths area had been divided into four sections and they each covered a section, reporting to WCC/the Clerk if any problems were found. Anyone discovering a problem with footpaths/bridleways could also report it to Julian Wilkins at the Post Office. However, it was important to recruit more volunteers for this task.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTS

Suckley History Society - Nessa Haworth reported on the continuing success of the Suckley History Society, with a current membership of 28. Regular meetings were held in the Village Hall and outside visits arranged. The Membership fee was £15. A new 2016 programme was in place.

Suckley Church & P.C.C. - the Revd Anne Potter reported that she had been in Suckley now for just over a year. She felt that the church was growing in many ways, linking with the community, especially with the school who use the church. The Space Project was moving very much in the right direction – fund raising was now ongoing, with over £25K already raised.

Suckley Playing Fields - Cllr Carol Luton reported that 2nd June had now been earmarked for the work to start on the new Playing Fields Project. The pupils at Suckley School had produced a list of play equipment they would like to see on the site. Ludus had been chosen from the three suppliers who quoted, as unlike the others they had come up with a plan to refurbish some of the existing equipment, with the cost being around £18K. New equipment included a toddler activity tower, a toddler swing frame, junior swing frame, a seesaw and a Baa Sheep Springer. More new equipment could be purchased in a few years time. It was hoped to generate more interest in the Playing Fields to increase its use in the future. Thanks were due to Cllr John Green for his weekly risk inspections and maintenance work and to Duncan Reynolds for his regular mowing and harrowing of the field inspections.

The Hill Trust - Mr Steve Boughton reported on behalf of the Hill Trust/Village Hall Committee. The Hill Trust was created in the 1900's to build a hall for community use and for the working men of the Parish. Last year had been quite successful, with work being done on the windows and other maintenance work which cost over £4K. Part of the cost had been covered by reserves and partly by a refund of £1,600 from the hall electricity supplier. More maintenance work needed to be done in the coming year, especially on the roof of the hall. Mrs Margaret Davies had kindly donated money received for her super birthday to the hall, which had been spent on buying new chairs. The next big event for the hall was the Best of British evening on 11th June.

Public Questions - None raised.

The Chairman 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 2014/15; The Parish Council Accounts (internally audited) for 2015/16; the Annual Accounts & Reports for local Charities and Trusts were available for inspection.

