

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 14th NOVEMBER 2016 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr S Rouse, Helen Philpotts (Footpaths)

Apologies for absence: Cllr A Grieve, 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

No Report from County Councillor

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported that the Council House in Graham Road was due to close for refurbishment and staff would be relocated to Brunel House in Portland Road whilst the work was being done. She had been busy doorknocking and delivering information leaflets in Alfrick/Leigh & Bransford giving out contact information for MHDC and help offered by other organisations in the District. Suckley Parish would be next on the list.

Lengthsman Report - Cllr J Green and the Chairman reported to the meeting. Problems regarding drains along the Acton Beauchamp Road had been raised with the Chairman. Cllr J Green reported that following the road works in Blackhouse Lane, all the drain covers needed lifting and the drains needed clearing out. The Clerk was asked to contact Rob Lambert with a request to lift and clear these drains of all debris leaving the drains free flowing.

Footpaths - Helen Philpotts reported that following a meeting on 26th September, a training session for walkers/riders had been held at Suckley School, which had been very informative and helpful. She had just received equipment/signs etc. from Amanda Hill at the Countryside Department.

Local Police – Cllr P Whatley reported on the crime stats to the end of September (the latest available). No crimes reported in August, but in September ASBO's had been issued in the Damson Way/Woodland Road area of Suckley.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths. The Minutes of Suckley PC Planning Meeting held on 24th October 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

65/16 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Potholes – Blackhouse Lane (Ref 6838978) Cllr J Green reported that for the first time in 40 years he had been able to drive along Blackhouse Lane without any potholes! The whole lane had been resurfaced. Worcs County Highways had tried to unblock a pipe linked to the drain opposite the entrance to Blackhouse Wood, but so far had not succeeded. As the road surface was now pothole free and smooth, the lane in winter would be an ice rink. He suggested that a grit bin be provided by the Council at the Tundridge end of the Lane. Cllr J Green was asked to action this on behalf of the Council. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr A W Huband.
- (b) Three Bar metal fencing in Longley Green - Although Worcs Highways were now prepared to replace this metal fencing with Post & Rail fencing, this had not yet happened.
- (c) Drainage problems at The Steps. The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Roy Fullee who had now replaced Gerry Brienza as our Liaison Officer for Worcs County Council Highways. The problem at the Steps had now been logged into the County Council system, and would be investigated within 28 days.
- (d) Church Lane - Leaking Pipe - Cllr A W Huband reported on the leaking pipe in Church Lane, which might have been hazardous waste from the septic tank belonging to the school. However, the environmental health team had investigated and this was not the case. It would appear this was a problem for Severn Trent to resolve, and the Clerk was asked to contact them as chlorinated water was running down Church Lane and into the water course at the bottom of the lane.
- (e) Salt & Grit Storage - Cllr J Green reported that the salt bags stored at Duncan Reynold's premises were now on pallets. Cllr C Luton suggested Duncan be asked to move the salt from Griffiths Engineering to his own building, so the salt would all be in the one place. Cllr J Green agreed to ask him if he would do this, and he also reported that Duncan was willing to fill up the grit/salt bins when necessary.
- (f) Vegetation obscuring the view at junctions of White House Cross Road and also in Longley Green - the Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mo Dutta asking him to trim back the hedges along his boundary in Longley Green. She had also contacted Roy Fullee (Worcs Co County Council Highways) regarding the overgrown hedges at White House Cross Roads. He would be following this up with the householders concerned and reporting back.
- (g) Cllr P Griffiths reported that the road from Suckley Knowl to Linley Green would be closed from 21st November to 16th December for repairs to Yearsett bridge.

66/16 COMMUNITY

- (a) Memorial Service – 11th November. Cllr P Whatley reported that about 30 people had attended the Annual Remembrance Service which was held at the Old Quarry at 11.0 am on 11th November. This was a very good turnout following the invitations which had been distributed around the Parish. The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to Mike Baldwin who had mowed the Quarry and to Peter Hibbert who had played the Last Post & Reveille at the Service.
- (b) Defibrillator signage & training - The Clerk reported that she had not yet received any responses back from Alfrick or Leigh & Bransforde re sharing training equipment costs. Cllr A Lewis had spoken to Holloways about signage.
- (c) Suckley Newsletter – Cllr P Whatley reported that in the absence of any extra help coming forward, Helen Pitt was unwilling to take up the editorship of this Newsletter on her own. However, he had set up a FaceBook page for Suckley Parish Council on an

- experimental basis and so far there had been a fair number of viewings. He was looking for a co-editor should this experiment prove successful.
- (d) Village Green – the Clerk reported that she had visited NatWest Bank in Malvern to deposit the papers relating to the Village Green. However, the bank had refused to store them along with Suckley PC’s other documents, as they were not taking in any new storage requirements. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk scan and/or copy the documents to all Cllrs, and keep the original papers on file in her office.
 - (e) SuperFast Broadband – Co Peter Whatley reported that he had been in direct contact with the Project Director of the Broadband Scheme for Worcestershire. It appeared that Suckley (together with other very rural areas) should not expect any great improvement to their broadband speeds unto the end of 2017 at the earliest. However, more funds were being made available in the next financial year.
 - (f) BT Phone Box - the Clerk reported that she had received notification from BT that they were looking to remove phone boxes that have not been used or are underused, and the BT Box at the Village Hall was on the list for removal. After some discussion, the Council decided it was not minded to make any use of this phone box.
 - (g) Severn Rivers Trust - Cllr P Whatley reported on an approach that had been made by the Springs of Rivers – Severn Rivers Trust – relating to a project to eradicate the invasive crayfish from watercourses in the area, including Suckley brook. The Council agreed with the request to write a letter of support for this project. The Clerk and Cllr P Whatley to action this.
 - (h) Community Awards Scheme - two Councillors from the Parish had been nominated for awards under this Scheme run by Malvern Hills District Council. Cllr Anne Lewis/the Good Neighbour Scheme was the Judges Choice for the “Safe & Sound” category. Three GNS volunteers had been invited to the Awards Ceremony on 1st December. Cllr Carol Luton had also been nominated for an Award for her work with the new Suckley Playing Fields Project, and would be receiving a certificate.
 - (i) Good Neighbour Scheme - Cllr A Lewis thanked the Council for its support of the Good Neighbour Scheme in the past and requested further financial help towards the reprinting of leaflets and a cash float. It was proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr C Luton that the Council donate £100.00

67/16 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses September/October 2016 £71.48; Lengthsman services & VAS September 2016 - £141.25 (paid but to be approved), Lengthsman VAS October 2016 £42.50; Lengthsman Services October 2016 £240.00; Lengthsman November 2016 (to be advised). Information Commissioner (Data Protection) £35.00 (paid but to be approved); Grant Thornton – audit fee for 2015/16 Accounts £240.00.
Playing Fields - Npower £36.46 (already paid but to be approved); Severn Trent Water £30.15p; DJR Services £531.60.
- (b) **Accounts to 30th September 2016** were approved. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green.
- (c) Clerk’s Salary Review - The Council approved the Clerk’s Salary Scale point to SCP 28 effective from 1st April 2017. (Gross salary p/a would then be £6,744). Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J Green.

68/16 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green - no problems to report. Risk assessment forms completed.

69/16 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Cllr C Luton reported that she had received a quote for a new stainless steel hot water tank (to replace the copper one which had been stolen). This was around £700 including fitting. The grass around the new play area/matting needed to be strimmed, or cut with a petrol mower. Cllr C Luton and Cllr J Green to look into the best way of keeping this area under control.

70/16 PLANNING

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

- (a) App Ref No: 16/00773/LBC
Location: Cherry orchard Cottage, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DG
Applicant : Mr Charles Hambri
Approval of Listed Building Consent

71/16 SUCKLEY CHURCH

Cllr L Devenish reported a request for financial help on behalf of the PCC. It had been suggested that a landline be installed in the church for security reasons. It was hoped that this line could be in place at an early stage of refurbishment and that eventually the church would have a community internet hub. The cost of the line would be £125 plus an ongoing quarterly fee of £60.00. The Council felt that this installation should be costed into the integral business plan for the whole Space project, and suggested other avenues of funding that might be pursued. Cllr L Devenish also reported that approximately £41K had been raised for the project so far.

72/16 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

Cllr L Devenish reported that the school was still very active and thriving. Swimming had now been included in the pupils' sports activities. Car parking remained a problem.

73/16 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2017/18

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.00 pm