

# **SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall**

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

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

10 members of the public also attended the meeting to put forward their views on item 6(a) on the Agenda.

### **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.**

Cllr Mrs P Griffiths declared a Pecuniary Interest in item 6(a) **Cllr A Lewis had been granted a Dispensation up to May 2019 for item 6(a) on the Agenda, or for any item relating to Traffic on the Knightwick Road.**

### **The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation**

**Lorry traffic on Knightwick Road** - 10 parishioners attended the meeting to find out what progress had been made in relation to their concerns about the size and number of heavy goods vehicles (HGV's) using the Knightwick Road, particularly in relation to the Cold Store.

The Chairman reported that as far as he was aware, the Traffic Commissioners had not yet made a decision on the Operating Licence application for the Cold Store. He gave a resume of what had happened during the six months period that this item had been on the Parish Council's Agenda. As requested, actual numbers of HGV traffic using the Knightwick Road had been logged, both by himself (including the use of CCTV camera) and by Worcestershire County Council Highways who had placed measuring strips along the road. On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Cllr Whatley noted that of 23 HGV's travelling along the Knightwick Road 12 went to the Cold Store, 2 went to Holloways, 2 to Sindons North Farm, and 7 were other farm related vehicles. This analysis was entirely consistent with other surveys done so far. The overall number of vehicles varied – from 4 HGV's per hour to other times when there were none at all. The numbers overall were very low in terms of numbers per hour, the average being 2 HGV's per hour. Cllr Whatley fully accepted the irritation caused by these vehicles, (even though they are doing business for the Parish) but the Parish Council had done all it possibly could – it had collected independent data as promised, and had approached WCC Highways who were repairing the road, in preparation for resurfacing in the summer. WCC engineers were also looking into ways and means of improving the road, including road markings and more passing places. He was open to suggestions from parishioners as to what else they thought the Parish Council could do.

Cllr P Griffiths did not take part in the discussion of this matter in public question time, then left the room during the Parish Council discussion that followed.

**The Chairman re-opened the formal Meeting of the Parish Council to discuss Agenda item 6(a)**

**01/18 (a) HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS - Lorry Traffic on Knightwick Road**

A number of points were considered by the Council. These included - the offer of restricted times and movements of vehicles from the Cold Store which had been put forward by the owners; the acknowledgement of the disturbance and discomfort that HGV's can cause; damage to the road allegedly caused by lorries; the claim by the cold store owners that by moving the operating licence to Park Farm, this would reduce vehicle movements; weight restrictions for lorries being unworkable and the legal right of lorry traffic to use the road. Co Cllr P Tuthill confirmed that the AONB had made a submission to the Traffic Commissioners, but only part of the Knightwick Road is in the AONB area. The Chairman, Cllr P Whatley, urged the attending group to find further data, as there was no more the Parish Council could do. He also endorsed a suggestion that this whole matter be adjourned for the moment, and looked at again in 12 months time.

**The Chairman adjourned the formal Meeting for continuation of Public Question Time/Participation (as per the Agenda). All members of the public were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting if they so wished.**

**Report from District Cllrs** - Dist Cllrs A Warburton and S Rouse reported that a vote had been taken re planning committees, which resulted in both the Northern & Southern Area Planning Committees being retained.

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the Council was still considering the results of the survey relating to Church Street in Malvern. He also circulated a leaflet from the Herefordshire/Worcs Fire & Rescue Service which detailed a further expansion of their role to encompass Health & Wellbeing issues throughout the area, such as providing vibrating fire/smoke alarms and fire safety advice for the elderly and vulnerable. He agreed to find out the first contact officer for the Suckley area, and a potential talk to the Council or at the Parish Meeting.

**Lengthsman** - Following on from his last report to the Council, it was agreed that Cllr J Green and Cllr V Bradley have a meeting with the Lengthsman to ensure that work was done to the standard required by the Council. Worcestershire County Council would be inspecting Lengthsmen work on an ad hoc basis to ensure that grant money was being spent correctly.

**Footpaths** - Helen Philpotts reported that she had found someone to fit the easy latch poles along the bridleways. She would mark the footpath map and liaise with the Clerk/County Hall Countryside Department. Mr T Griffiths agreed to put in a new footboard for the stile at the Tundride end of the horse track in Longley Green.

**Local Police** – Cllr D Findlater had sent in a report to the Clerk. This covered the crime stats for October/November 2017, which revealed 1 ASBO, 2 Criminal damage/arson in Woodland Road in October; 1 ASBO Stocks Road, 1 ASBO Whitehouse Court, 1 criminal damage/arson in Church Lane, 1 violent crime in Woodland Road, and 1 Burglary in Whitehouse Court during November.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green.

**01/18 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

(a) Lorry Traffic along Knightwick Road - Minuted as above 01/18 (a) above.

- (b) Drainage problems at The Steps, Blackhouse Lane - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported that this work was now scheduled for the summer.
- (c) Church Lane – resurfacing. As previously minuted, the Clerk had put in a request for resurfacing of this road (Ref 364279). Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the jetting team had visited Church Lane and reported that there was no problem. Cllr J Green and Cllr P Whatley agreed to have a further look and send an e-mail to Co Cllr P Tuthill.
- (d) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – this was still ongoing with WCC.
- (e) Hedge cutting – The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Holloway re cutting back his hedges along Stocks Cross to Longley Green, and along the Knightwick Road.
- (f) Stocks Road – Cllr A W Huband drew the attention of the Council to the very narrow stretch of road from Mousehole to the Blackhouse Lane junction. This road was far too narrow for the numbers of 4 x 4's and similar vehicles using the road, and as a result the verges were eroding. Co Cllr P Tuthill was asked to find out from WCC Highways if more passing places could be constructed and a white line be put in the middle of the road to assist drivers.
- (g) Cllr V Bradley put in a request for the gritter lorry to grit along Church Lane, and proposed that a parish grit/salt bin to be purchased and positioned at the corner of Church Lane/Knightwick Road. This was seconded by Cllr C Luton. The Clerk to contact WCC Highways re the site for the bin.
- (h) Cllr P Whatley reported that yet again confusing signage had been put up during road works, where a diversion sign had directed traffic to a closed section of the Knightwick to Suckley road (due to patching work).

**02/18 VAS CAMERA** - No report as the camera had only just been moved to Suckley.

**03/18 CHARITY REPORTS** - Nothing to report

**04/18 COMMUNITY**

- (a) Superfast Broadband - Cllr P Whatley reported encouraging news re superfast broadband. A new cabinet had been installed at the White House Cross Roads, and work was being done in the Storridge road area to put in fibre optic trunking. WCC had issued a new map indicating where additional works will be done, showing two markers in Suckley parish.
- (b) Remembrance Service 2018 – plans for this were in hand. The Clerk to contact Lynsey Davies at MHDC re road closure during the service on 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- (c) Litter Picking Project – Co Cllr P Tuthill had agreed to use some of his discretionary funding to support a litter free poster competition at the School. Catherine Armstrong had contacted the Chairman and the Clerk with a request for the Council to support the next Womble Litterpick on 17<sup>th</sup> March, perhaps including the adjoining parishes of Alfrick/Lulsley & Knightwick. The Clerk to print out posters and to check on the insurance cover required. Cllr A Lewis stressed the importance of including the mums as well as the children in this event. Cllr V Bradley and Cllr A Lewis to liaise with Catherine Armstrong and Suckley School.
- (d) St Richards Hospice - the Clerk read out a letter from St Richards Hospice from Alice Spearing, the Engagement Officer, who was asking to attend a Council Meeting to raise awareness locally of the extended care that the Hospice can provide. The Clerk to write to her asking for a bullet point resume of Hospice services that could be included in the Sphere Newsletter.
- (e) Leafleting team – Cllr A Lewis agreed to look into setting up a team for leaflet distribution within the parish.
- (f) Other Reports – future projects – to be advised.

### **05/18 FINANCE**

- (a) The following cheques were approved and authorised for payment :-  
Proposed by Cllr A Lewis and seconded by Cllr P Griffiths.  
**General Fund** – Clerk’s expenses Nov/Dec 2017 £35.66; Lengthsman Nov/Dec 2017 £345.60; HMRC PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec 2017 - £324.00; D W Taylor Clerk’s Office Apr 2017 – March 2018 £250.00; M Baldwin – mowing/maintenance of Old Quarry for 2017 £300.00  
**Playing Fields** – D Reynolds (DJR Services) – Mowing/Strimming Playing Field £207.00; P Nightingale – mowing of park area of Playing Field March – Nov 2017 £150.00; Water Plus (Severn Trent) Aug-Nov 2017 £16.07; Definitive Electrical Solutions – P/Fields Lighting £398.59.
- (b) **Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017** were approved. Proposed by Cllr A W Huband and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.
- (c) **Precept 2018/19** – The Council agreed to a precept figure of £13,859 for 2018/19. This was an increase of 1.9%, which for a Band D household would be under £1 per week. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

### **06/18 DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to new Data Protection regulations coming into force in May 2018. She would be seeking further advice and training on this matter.

### **07/18 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr J Green had undertaken risk assessments – no problems.

### **08/18 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

Cllr C Luton reported that the football team using the pitch had verti-grazed the pitch and sprayed the worm casts. A new lock was needed for the pavilion door and for the gates to the Playing Field.

### **09/18 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllr A Lewis reported that a new heating system for the church would start to be put in at the end of April. They had yet to raise funding to connect it up.

### **10/18 SUCKLEY SCHOOL**

Cllr L Devenish reported that the school was currently running at full, and going from strength to strength. However, continued cuts to funding meant that “extras” to enrich the children’s curriculum were becoming unaffordable. Although there was no wish to change the number of pupils attending, the school would like the flexibility to welcome families moving into the catchment area. The year 5/6 classroom is currently too small, even for the 24 pupils the school is obliged to take. A bid was being proposed to extend it to match the frontage of the current kitchen and to facilitate access for disability. A request was made for the collapsible goals to be stored in the Playing Fields Pavilion.

**11/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** - None raised. Change of dates for meetings as follows :- 9<sup>th</sup> July to move to 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> September to move to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00 pm - Suckley Village Hall**

