

## SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2018 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr J Green, Cllr D Findlater ,  
Cllr P Griffiths

In Attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Dist Cllr S Rouse, Co Cllr P Tuthill

One member of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr A W Huband, Cllr C Luton, Cllr A Lewis, Dist Cllr A Warburton,  
Mrs Helen Philpotts (Footpaths)

**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)**

Cllr P Griffiths declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7(f) – HGV movements on Knightwick Road.

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

**Report from County Councillor** - Co Cllr P Tuthill reported on the attempt by the Police & Crime Commissioner to take over the running of the Fire Service – this has now gone to a judicial review. The Health & Scrutiny Panel was putting together a sustainable plan for all community health workers to be merged into 14 teams throughout the county, linked to hospitals and GP practices. The new Chief Executive of the Worcs Acute Trust has decided that the hospital is not big enough to cope with the demands being made of it. £3M has been set aside to link the new hospital with the older buildings on the site which would create more wards/bed space. By the end of next year 80 more beds should be available. Worcester hospital will have an additional budget of £22M and Redditch £7M. Scaffolding is in place along the Southern Link Road to move the pylons in readiness for the road widening/new bridge. Co Cllr P Tuthill also offered donations from his Divisional Fund to Suckley Church Space Project, Suckley School books appeal and £300 towards the Parish Council's purchase of a World War I soldier silhouette for the Old Quarry memorial site.

**Report from District Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. She offered the Council a donation of £100 from the Dist Cllrs Parish Fund towards the World War I soldier silhouette. Due to the huge success of the Suckley “Womble” litter picking project, she was trying to expand this idea throughout the District Council area. Following on from the Suckley Annual Parish Meeting, she was in discussions with Worcs County Council Highways and Malvern Hills AONB regarding the conservation of wild flowers along the road borders in Suckley and other rural parishes. WCC Highways have a 10 year contract with the present hedge/border cutting contractor. A suggestion was made that the contractor be asked to raise the height of the mower blades which would allow the flowers to grow back each year. She and other Cllrs would be strongly resisting a proposal that a development up to 9 dwellings could be

approved by the Planning Department without being subject to Cllr reviews at the Area Planning Committees.

**Lengthsman** - Cllr J Green reported that a lot of the drains were getting overgrown. The Clerk to e-mail Rob Wilks with a request that all tops of drains be cleared. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to WCC Highways regarding their directive re blocked gullies. They had confirmed that blocked gullies should be identified and reported via the WCC web site, as any material removed would be classified as contaminated waste which required a licence to move it. The Clerk was assured that blocked drains would be dealt with efficiently. The Clerk had informed the Lengthsman of this directive. The Clerk reported that she had written twice to the landowner adjoining the footpath from Woodland Road to Church Lane, asking him to cut back overhanging trees. After some discussion regarding ownership of the trees in question, the Clerk was asked to write to WCC Highways to try and resolve this situation. People were having to walk on the road rather than being able to use the footpath – a problem which had been highlighted by the Lengthsman

**Footpaths - No Report** - However, it was understood that the landowner would be removing fallen trees from footpaths 679,678,675 as reported by one of the Footpaths team walkers.

**Local Police** – Cllr Darran Findlater reported that the reported crime figures for April/May showed a further quiet period. Stats for April revealed 1 criminal damage/arson in Woodland Road and 1 violent crime in Damson Way. May – 1 anti social behaviour Stocks Road; 1 violent crime Stocks Road; 1 vehicle crime in Church Lane, and 2 other thefts in Stocks Road and Damson Way.

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

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (to include the attendance of Cllr D Findlater) were approved and signed Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr L Devenish.

Annual Parish Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 - the Clerk had circulated the summary of this meeting to all Cllrs.

### **47/18 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS**

- (a) Drainage problems at the Steps, Blackhouse Lane - Cllr J Green reported that this had finally been resolved by WCC Highways
- (b) Church Lane – resurfacing and drainage problems. Co Cllr P Tuthill reported that the work to be done was moving along the system. Cllr J Green reported that although the drainage problems had not yet been solved, white and yellow markings had been made along the Lane.
- (c) White House Cross Roads – junction safety. Cllr P Whatley and Co Cllr P Tuthill had met up with WCC Highways to re-assess this situation. Highways view was that Knightwick Road at that point had the correct speed limit for the circumstances – i.e. 60 mph. To help improve visibility they were proposing to remove a length of hedge to the North of the White House and put in extra road markings. Solid white edge lines on both sides of the approach road to the north of the cross roads, new slow road markings along the Haventree /Knightwick Road boundary and a new hatched area at the Suckley Knowl junction to move right turn drivers to the far left (north) of the road. After some discussion, the Council asked Co Cllr P Tuthill to make sure that the hedge north of the

- White House was **not** removed (just cut back), as they felt that opening up the space would encourage drivers to speed more.
- (d) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – Co Cllr P Tuthill was trying to bring some pressure to bear on Highways re this potential winter hazard.
  - (e) Salt/Grit Bin – Church Lane. Cllr J Green reported that the new salt/grit bin had still not been put in place - he was waiting for the rubbish to be cleared.
  - (f) HGV movements on Knightwick Road - Cllr P Griffiths left the room whilst Cllr P Whatley made a statement to the Council as follows :- Cllr Whatley had received information from parishioners which alleged movements of HGV's were occurring on the Knightwick Road in breach of the agreement with Messrs Griffiths Transport and the Traffic Commissioner earlier this year in respect of Park House Farm (the Coldstore). Specifically he had been provided with a list of times/dates of vehicle movements between late May and mid-July. As a consequence of this item appearing on the Agenda for this meeting he had been invited to examine lorry movement records held at the Coldstore. These were in the form of a handwritten "day book" and a computerised GPS tracking system which logs the movements and activities of Griffiths Transport vehicles. As a result of his visit it had become clear that the truck movements logged by residents had taken place, but not from the Coldstore site. Rather, they were to/from the Chapels depot which is not subject to any restrictions on movements. He was of the opinion that this data would be what DVSA would look at should any further queries be raised. He asked the Cllrs present to make these facts known.

#### **48/18 VAS CAMERA**

Cllr D Findlater reported that the traffic data for June and July showed a small reduction in the number of illegal journeys – 33% were above the speed limit compared to 40% for the two months previously recorded. Band C offences (51 mph and above) – Church Lane 16 incidents in 14 days; Bruff Bank 1 incident in 8 days; Village Hall 4 incidents in 14 days. Band B offences (41-50 mph) – Church Lane typically 15 vehicles a day; Bruff Bank 18 vehicles a day; Village Hall 13 journeys a day which was a pleasing reduction. However, the worst days were Fridays which still had 30+ journeys above 40 mph. Excessive speeds appeared to be restricted to a small but significant number of drivers. Cllr Findlater suggested that the Council purchase Wheelie Bin Stickers displaying a 30 mph sign on them which could be placed on the bins at the end of householders drives on collection days. This was agreed by the Council – proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr P Whatley. The Clerk to action this.

**49/18 CHARITY REPORTS** - No reports received.

#### **50/18 COMMUNITY**

- (a) SuperFast Broadband – Nothing further to report at the moment.
- (b) Memorial Service 2018 – Cllr P Whatley reported that the Clerk had discovered that the Revd Mike Vockins had left Storridge and moved to Somerset, so would obviously not be available to conduct the Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Liz Devenish agreed to look into this for the Council. The Clerk reported that she and her husband had visited the Big Pit Museum site in Blanaevon where two "There but Not There" soldier silhouettes were on display. Although the silhouettes were quite striking, they had been laser cut from a thin metal sheet (possibly aluminium) – they were quite flimsy and would not be suitable to be placed outdoors. In fact the museum had placed them outdoors initially but then had to move them indoors. She had tracked down an alternative "Single Silent Soldier" made by a company in Scotland – at a cost of £395 plus delivery & VAT. This solid silhouette was made of steel plate, was made for placing outdoors and came with a 25 year guarantee. The details were circulated to all

Cllrs in the meeting. After some discussion, the Council agreed to purchase one Single Silent Soldier, with the option of perhaps purchasing another one via donations in the future. Proposed by Cllr L Devenish and seconded by Cllr D Findlater.

#### **51/18 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 May/June 2018 - £69.27; Lengthsman – April/May/June 2018 - £608,40; M Griffiths Payroll services 2017/18 - £70.00; Clerk’s Annual Parish Meeting expenses £60.02; J Green – Allowance for supervision & risk inspection duties - from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30 September 2018 - £144.00  
**Playing Fields** - Npower (Pavilion) £92.30; Water Plus (Severn Trent) £15.71; DJR – Mowing - £171.00; A Cross – Mole Control - £30.00
- (b) **Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018** were approved. Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr D Findlater.

#### **52/18 STANDING ORDERS** – to be reviewed at the September meeting

#### **53/18 GDPR REGULATIONS - 2018**

All Councillors had received a copy of the Personal Data Management & Audit Policy (HALC 6). Cllr D Findlater circulated a schedule of the six Data Protection Principles for the Parish Council together with a Questionnaire for all Cllrs and the Clerk to complete. The purpose of the Questionnaire was to find out what data the Council is processing, what it is used for, where it is located and who has access to it. Completed forms to be ready for the next meeting in September.

#### **54/18 PLANNING**

MHDC Planning Department – **for information**

- (a) App No: 18/00548/FUL  
Location: Baston Hall, Crews Hill, Worcs WR6 5HF  
Proposal: Change of use of existing garage to function room to create mixed use of function room and residential (with use of house for overnight accommodation). Minor alterations to garage building and provision of car parking.  
**Application withdrawn**
- (b) App No: 18/00299/FUL  
Location: Lingen, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DG  
Proposal: New access and single storey side extension & alterations to existing outbuilding to form a guest annexe.  
**Application Approved**
- (c) App No: 18/00394/LB  
Location: Wagon House, 8, White House Court, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5DF  
Proposal: Listed Building Consent to remove ground floor window plus brickwork to floor level and install French Doors.  
**Application Approved**

#### **55/18 RISK ASSESSMENT**

All Risk Assessment Forms had been completed – no problems

**56/18 PLAYING FIELDS**

Cllr J Green reported that grass growing round the Posts needed strimming. It was agreed that the Lengthsman be asked to do this. The Clerk reported that she had visited Gheluvelt Park in Worcester to have a look at the pergola for shading mentioned by Cllr V Bradley at the previous meeting. She had contacted Worcester City Council Parks Department who eventually came up with the name of the company who had constructed the pergola for them. On making enquiries, the cost of making a similar pergola for the Playing Fields would be £12,800. In view of the cost the Council decided not to pursue this project. The Clerk had received an e-mail from Cllr C Luton informing her that the cost of mowing the field twice for the forthcoming football tournament on 5<sup>th</sup> August would be met by the football club. The Clerk reported that after checking with the insurance company, the Parish Council cover/liability is only for events organised/sponsored by the Parish Council – not a third party organising an event/tournament on the Playing Fields.

**57/18 SUCKLEY CHURCH**

Cllrs Liz Devenish reported that the church was now open again. The floor had been laid. The Space Project was now looking for funding to connect up the boiler, and to get on with the next stage of the project.

**58/18 SUCKLEY SCHOOL - No Report**

**59/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None raised

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 7.00 pm**