

SUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 11th MARCH 2019 at 7.00 pm in Suckley Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Whatley, Cllr J Green, Cllr D Findlater, Cllr P Griffiths,
Cllr C Luton, Cllr A W Huband

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

Twenty members of the public attended the meeting

Apologies: Cllr V Bradley, Cllr L Devenish, Cllr A Lewis, 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

With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman brought forward the Planning Item on the Agenda (No 7) - Planning Application Ref No 19/00303 – Baston Hall, Crew Hill WR6 5HF

Proposal: Change of Use of part of existing detached garage for use as Function Room with retention of one garage space. Provision of car parking. Change of Use of main house to mixed use for overnight guest accommodation (as required) and as B & B.

The Chairman invited members of the public present to put forward their views on this application.

A wide range of issues and objections were raised, covering noise pollution, problems with increased traffic flow and access to the site, inadequate parking facilities, and incompatibility with the statutory Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) purposes and objectives. All these were noted by the Council, who unanimously agreed to recommend a **Refusal** of this application.

Report from County Councillor - No Report available

Report from District Cllrs – Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported on her plan to set up a “Shopper Service” for the areas of Suckley & Leigh under the auspices of Community Action. Dist Cllr Anthony Warburton confirmed that he would not standing for re-election in May as a District Councillor, and this would be his last meeting with Suckley Parish Council. The Chairman Cllr P Whatley thanked him for all his hard work and support during the 12 years he had represented the Ward and Suckley Parish in particular.

Lengthsman - Cllr J Green reported that the Lengthsman had basically covered all the tasks required. The Clerk reported that WCC Highways would be maintaining the Lengthsman grant at the same level for 2019/20 as the in the current year.

Footpaths - Mrs Helen Philpotts reported on a complaint re obstruction of a footpath bridge by an overhanging tree branch, and the general state of the footpath. She had contacted the landowner concerned, and walked the path with a member of the family who had made the complaint. There did not appear to be any action needed.

Local Police – Cllr D Findlater reported that the reported Police crime figures for December 2018 revealed: 1 violent crime at White House Court and 1 at Stock Road – 2 vehicle crimes at White House Court. Overall, total reported crime was up in 2018 but still below the 2015/16 levels.

The Chairman then re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr J Green

13/19 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- (a) Church Lane – hole at the side of the road with warning cones in it – work scheduled for half term in February 2019. This had now been done, but had caused problems with the water supply to the Pavilion. Cllr J Green and C Luton to investigate.
- (b) Winter ice on the Cradley arm of Stocks Cross – Ongoing – waiting for an update from Co Cllr P Tuthill.
- (c) Overhanging trees - Knightwick Road - waiting for an update from Co Cllr P Tuthill.
- (d) Blocked ditch – Stocks Cottages – this was still an ongoing issue being dealt with by MHDC Drainage Officer Jack Adams/WCC. The Clerk to keep chasing and to contact Dist Cllr S Rouse if necessary.
- (e) Drain covers – Blackhouse Lane – Ref Nos 636957 and 636955. Clerk & Cllr J Green reported that Drain Ref No 636957 had been done, but Ref 636955 was still outstanding. Clerk to chase this up again.
- (f) Damaged railing – corner of Blackhouse Lane/Stocks Lane. This had been made safe by WCC Highways but repair work was still outstanding.
- (g) Cllr C Luton reported that she had received a complaint that the sign for Longley Green (opposite the bus shelter) obstructed the view of oncoming traffic for vehicles wishing to turn right to Cradley (when travelling towards Longley Green from the Knightwick Road turning). The Clerk to write to WCC Highways asking for the sign be moved nearer to the 30 mph sign or further back towards Longley Green.
- (h) Damage to 30 mph signs - the Clerk to write to Highways pointing out two damaged 30mph signs – one opposite Holloways and one at the Longley Green triangle.

14/19 PLANNING APPLICATION

As referred to above, the Council considered the Planning Application Ref 19/00303/FUL re Baston Hall, Crews Hill, Worcs WR6 5HF. The Clerk was instructed to send the Parish Council Response (as attached to these Minutes) to MHDC Planning - recommending **Refusal**.

15/19 SECONDARY SCHOOL BUDGETS

The letter from the Schools Minister in response to the Parish Council's letter to Harriet Baldwin had been circulated to all Councillors. School Budgets were becoming a matter for concern across the country. At the moment the Council agreed there was very little more they could do.

16/19 VAS CAMERA

Cllr D Findlater presented his VAS report. A very consistent set of data, showing a slight improvement at the Village Hall. Church Lane site had a 75 mph offender on 24th January at 7.1 5pm./ 22nd January afternoon had a number of 50 mph+ journeys. A flyer re volunteers to form a speed watch team went out at the end of February. VAS camera was not due back in the Parish until May. Cllr Findlater was also analysing the VAS figures for Alfrick. More bin stickers seemed to be in evidence. Village Gateway prices start from £350 plus VAT, but potential sites would need the approval of WCC Highways. He wanted to have more data to identify repeat offender vehicles first.

17/19 CHARITY REPORTS

Cllr P Whatley reported that the next meeting of Suckley Charities would be held on 9th April.

18/19 COMMUNITY

- (a) **SuperFast Broadband** – Nothing further to report at the moment. To be removed from the Agenda
- (b) The Womble Litterpick had been moved to 16th February and proved to be very successful again.

19/19 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were authorised for payment :- Proposed by Cllr P Griffiths and seconded by Cllr C Luton
General Fund – Clerk’s expenses January/February 2019 - £40.12; Lengthsman – January 2019 (paid but to be approved) - £259.20; Lengthsman February 2019 £187.20; HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb/March 2019 - £296.40; DWT Clerk’s Office 1st Oct 2018 – March 2019 - £125.00; J Green L/Man Management/risk assessment etc. 1st Oct 2018 – 31st March 2019 - £144.00; J Green – bus shelter cleaning - £60.00
Playing Fields – Nil
- (b) **Accounts to 31st January 2019** – were approved. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton
- (c) The annual Cllr Allowance of £288.00 payable to Cllr J Green for Lengthsman Management & Risk Assessment duties was approved. Proposed by Cllr C Luton and seconded by Cllr P Whatley.
- (d) **Budget & Precept** – The Chairman reported that as instructed by the Council, the precept figure of £14,053.03 requested for 2019/20 created an increase of exactly 1.4%.
- (e) **Lengthsman Contract 2019/20** - As previously reported, the WCC Highways grant for 2019/20 remained at £2006.62. In view of this, the Council agreed to renew the Lengthsman contract with Mr R Wilks from 1st April 2019 on the same terms and conditions. Proposed by Cllr J Green and seconded by Cllr C Luton.

20/19 LOCAL ELECTIONS – 2nd MAY 2019

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the deadline for the return of nomination forms etc. to MHDC electoral department in Malvern was 4.0 pm on 3rd April 2019.

21/19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 20th MAY 2019

The Council noted the time and date of the meeting. Suckley School pupils would be giving a presentation about the school’s activities.

22/19 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr J Green - All Risk Assessment Forms had been completed – no problems

23/19 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr C Luton reported a payment of £160.00 was in the pipeline to be paid in from the use of the all weather pitch, plus £60.00 from City Juniors. The Football Team had also paid for the irrigation of the field pitches they used. As previously reported, following the drains work in Church Lane there was no water supply at the Pavilion - Cllrs C Luton and J Green to investigate and inform the Clerk if necessary.

24/19 SUCKLEY CHURCH - no report

25/19 SUCKLEY SCHOOL

The school had complained about mud being brought into the school from the pathway up to the Church which was frequently used by the children. Cllr J Green agreed to speak to the Church Fabrications Officer about this problem. A request for financial help to fund accommodation for pre-school children was raised. The Council agreed that they needed to see a costing plan before they could discuss this matter.

26/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13th May 2019 at 7.00 pm

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