

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **Cradley Parish Council** held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT** – Councillors D.Creed-Newton (DCN - in the Chair), M. Allfrey (MA) C. Lowder (CL) K.Nason (KN) E. Mikata (EM) A. Eldridge (AE) J. Edgar (JE) R. Diamond (RD) P. Diamond (PD) F. Beard (FB) P. Stanley (PS) J. Tudor (JT) and R. Gill (RG).

Also in attendance were Cllr. Rees Mills and also M. Higgins, J. Thomas and T. Lloyd-Jones (Chairman and members from the Parish Plan Steering Group).

**APOLOGIES for absence** were received and duly approved from M. Sherriff and M. Brooksbank due to business commitments.

**PERSONAL declarations of interest** - the following were received –

- MA – Parish Plan Steering Group and Storridge PCC.

**PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest** – None received.

**MINUTES** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman on a proposal by CL, seconded by KN and carried.

**PRESENTATION** – Attending the Meeting was Mark Higgins, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group whose progress report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting (see attached). Mr. Higgins (MH) reported on the need to identify and manage change, and reported on a major change which might be occurring near to the new primary school in Cradley consisting of a new Doctors' surgery, sports pavilion and additional housing. He expressed the need for public consultation and was of the opinion that this should take place before planning permission was sought, and felt that this project should be looked at on its own merits.

DCN advised MH that assistance would be available from Herefordshire Council, Community First and HALC and that additional assistance would be available from the Parish Council if they felt they needed any further help.

MA (**who declared a prejudicial interest**) advised under Section 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct that he had been approached regarding these proposals as owner of the land, informed MH that he had that day spoken to Roland Close, the Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council who was entirely against the proposal, but the Planning Officer did advise that he had an alternative site available for consideration. DCN enquired about the Steering Group budget but was advised that this has not yet been finalized, and it was agreed the Parish Council would in future receive regular monthly reports on progress.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried the Parish Council recognized the hard work put in by the Parish Plan Steering Group, supported them and the working parties and advised how they can take this matter forward by taking advice from the various bodies, and offered the full support of the Parish Council in the best ways of running the consultation process.

**PROGRESS REPORTS on –**

**Dog Fouling Signs** – CL reported that he and MB had read through the paperwork regarding the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and advised that Herefordshire Council appeared eager to put the legislation into effect. Following consideration of the five principal dog control orders available, on a proposal by DCN, seconded by PD and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council implement order (d) consisting of not permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.

**Rectory Lane Wall** – The Clerk read an e-mail from Roland Close advising that the Parish Council will be consulted on the application in due course once Herefordshire Council have had the chance to register it and advised that the registration team currently have a back-log. The assistance of Cllr. Rees Mills was sought on the matter of retrospective applications and he agreed to look further into the matter and advise the Planning Dept. that the Parish Council remain extremely unhappy concerning the illegal knocking down of the wall and RG agreed to draft a letter for Rees Mills to submit to the Planning Dept.

Following receipt of full details of the trees which had been removed, the Clerk advised she had passed this on to Chris Mayes from Herefordshire Council but, to date, no reply had been received from him.

**Bus stop at Buryfields** – The Clerk reported that Herefordshire Council had now made contact direct with Les Darrall, the land/hedge owner and that they were forwarding him revised proposals for his further consideration. The carriageway condition in the vicinity of the bus stop will be passed on to the Area Team, and if there is sufficient funding available, Herefordshire Council can suggest that they carry out this additional works concurrent with their proposed works.

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**Freedom of Information Act** – The Vice Chairman advised that he and Mike Sherriff had gone through the Schedule of Information and Charges and proposed that the best way forward was for information to be supplied via the website with additional information and updates also included in the Reporter. RG handed the Clerk the list of information required and it was agreed to bring this forward to the next meeting for final resolution.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –**

**Donation to Storridge PCC** – The Chairman advised that due to an error, the donation to Storridge PCC should be reduced to £424.20. The figure of £595. quoted in the previous minutes was incorrectly based on a projected expenditure figure for 2009/10.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by RG, seconded by RD and carried, it was agreed to pay Storridge PCC a donation of £424.20., and write an explanatory letter to Mr. Hurle advising how the figure of £595. had been incorrectly calculated and reported in the Minutes for January 2009.

**Donation to Toddler Group** – The Clerk had obtained and circulated to all Councilors a forward projection of costs involved, and also a list of ideas which they had in mind if successful in their request for a donation. This was discussed and

**RESOLVED** following a proposal by RG, seconded by PS and carried, that the Parish Council make an immediate donation of £200. whilst drawing to the attention of the Toddler Group the possibility of fund raising and request, where possible, that they mark the items purchased as “the property of the Toddler Group”.

**IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** - Following a proposal by FB, seconded by RG and carried, a further donation of £50. would be forthcoming on a match funding basis when the Toddler Group could provide evidence of fund raising to this amount.

**Parish Meeting** – Date fixed for Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PD agreed to present his full ideas for guest speakers etc. at the next meeting. Further thought also to be given for a drinks budget and a person to give a vote of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Old School Close/Crest Developments** – Following an announcement in the Malvern Gazette members were advised that the Developer had gone into Administration. Some tidying up of the site has been done and a pathway has been reinstated, and it appeared that the site will be completed, works to include tarmac of the road into the site, none of the drains on site appear to be working, Cow Hill needs to be reinstated to a satisfactory condition and the verge on the main road opposite the site also needs to be reinstated.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by RG. Seconded by MA and carried, it was agreed the Council contact Roland Close, Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council, to ascertain the Council’s status and position with regard to the sum of £17,000. which it had been agreed would be paid to the Parish Council when they agreed to release the Developer from including a play area on the site of Old School Close.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS –**

The following accounts had been received for payment

##### **MA declared an interest in the payment to Storridge PCC and left the room -**

- Storridge PCC – donation £424.20.

##### **MA rejoined the meeting**

- Cradley Chapel - donation £230.00.
- Cradley PCC - donation £2,054.00.
- Clerk’s allowances and expenses £136.36.

On a proposal by RG seconded by JT and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

**Planning** – The Planning Committee Chairman reported that four applications had been considered at the Planning meeting –

- (1) Sundown Lodge, Upper Churchfields, fell one cherry and one plum tree in a conservation area to which no objections had been raised.
- (2) Longmeadow, Upper Churchfields, proposed two storey and single storey extension, alterations and provision of an ecospace unit as a guest room to which no objections had been raised,
- (3) The Old House, Bosbury Road, ground floor side extension to which no objections had been raised but attention was drawn to the difficult access to the rear of the property, and
- (4) Hope End Farm, Ridgeway Cross, proposed conversion of hay barn and stables to residential and conversion of implement shed to storage, to which no objections had been raised but it was felt that the stone wall should be left as a feature in the building and remain exposed.

Advice had been received from Herefordshire Council that the post and rail fence had been approved at The Cottage, Westfields and also that installation of four windows at The Halesend had also been approved.

The Clerk was to contact Planning with regard to the caravan and alterations which appeared to be taking place at Buryfields Cottage and enquire whether any breach of living conditions was taking place.

**Churchyard Committee** - CI advised nothing further to report.

**Playing Fields** – KN advised Quotations were being obtained for grass cutting from DC Gardening Services, MCB Landscapes had agreed to hold last year's prices for this work, the waste bin had been retrieved from the hedge-row and that Wicksteeds had been contacted with regard to an accompanied visit to inspect the play equipment.

**Editorial Group** – KN advised new bumper edition was in progress as Christmas edition had not been issued.

**Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area** – JE advised nothing further to report.

**HALC** – MA advised he had been unable to attend last meeting.

**Correspondence received –**

Letter, Herefordshire Council advising of precept payment dates for 2009.

Letter, Herefordshire Council containing survey into services available in village (requiring completion and return) next edition of Biodiversity, leaflet called “adapting your home for independent living” and January funding newsletter from project development team.

**Literature received**

Newsletter from Smiths of Derby.

Wicksteed play equipment brochure.

Community Voluntary Action Spring 2009 newsletter, including invitation to community lunch on 18th March 2009 at The Market Theatre, Ledbury.

PACT meeting on 16th February 09 in Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury, and

Poster on flower festival from 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July in aid of St. Michaels Hospice.

**Newsletter Items** – Parish Plan, Parish Meeting, Donation to Toddler Group, Freedom of Information Act details would be posted on web-site, pursuing outstanding issues at Old School Close and that the waste bin at Chapel Lane playing fields had been retrieved.

**Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –**

Condition of roads following bad weather, grip repairs had been reported, and Clerk advised she had reported to FB that repairs were necessary to the notice boards at Storridge Village Hall.

**Next meeting** – 10th March 2009 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.07pm. and the Council went into closed session to discuss employment issues.

Signed *ARC [Signature]*  
Chairman.

Dated *10 March 09*