

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10th June 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from

- M. Brooksbank due to a business appointment.
- J. Tudor due to business appointment.

PRESENTATION by John Stagg – Attending the Meeting was John Stagg from Herefordshire Council with regard to the proposed changes in the boundary of the Conservation Area at Cradley. He advised that there were 64 Conservation areas in Herefordshire, 15 of which were being appraised at the present time, most of which had boundaries which were far too big. A draft appraisal document was produced with comments requested by 10th August 2008, before the document went out to public consultation early next year. Mr. Stagg advised that Malvern Hills District Council had prepared the previous conservation area document, and that he had not referred to their reasoning in preparing the draft new boundary.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Plan group would be in touch with the Council's comments on the proposed changes and thanked Mr. Stagg for his attendance at the meeting.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received --

- MA declared a personal interest in Cradley School.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Progress report on –

Nexus Grant – CL advised that it appeared the amount of the Grant sought by the Parish Council was too small, and it was agreed he would look into ways of increasing the amount of the loan required for the proposed project.

Cradley PCC – CL advised that he, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had met with the Treasurer of the PCC and also John Rowe, Churchwarden, to look at ways of reducing the ever increasing costs in maintaining the Churchyard, but had failed to come to any firm conclusion. It had been agreed the best way forward was for the Parish Council to continue their contribution at the sum which had been agreed and advised that whilst it was appreciated the church and churchyard is a very valued part of the Community, the Parish Council wished them to look at creative ways of keeping their costs down.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Training offer from Pat Edwards – The Clerk advised on offer of a free training session with Pat Edwards to include risk management and budget planning which would also fit in with the Parish Plan review. Clerk to advise that the Parish Council appreciated her kind offer and that we would keep her in mind and continue to discuss our requirements with her, as training was considered to be vital for all Councillors.

Feedback from training in Colwall – The Chairman, two Councillors and the Clerk had attended the training on offer through Colwall Parish Council. The Clerk read through the list of questions raised at the training session and it appeared that the Parish Council was working in accordance with rules and regulations.

Dog Fouling – Attending the meeting was Lyn Mitchell, local resident, complaining about the serious problem throughout the village by dog fouling. It was agreed to mention the problem in the Reporter with a separate item in the Newsletter. The Vice Chairman agreed to contact Herefordshire Council to enquire how they could help us, and it was agreed to place an up-date on the Agenda for the next meeting.

DLW

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

Approve Accounts and Annual Return – The Clerk had circulated the Accounts and Annual Return as prepared by Terry Robshaw. The Chairman advised that the balance in hand at the end of the financial year did include residue of funds for the Parish Plan.

On a proposal by RG, seconded by MA and carried, the accounts were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Increase in Standing Order for the Clerks salary – On a proposal by RG, seconded by MA and carried, a letter was signed to the HSBC Bank authorising an increase in the monthly salary paid to the Clerk.

Accounts for payment – The following accounts had been received -

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| • MCB Landscapes, grass cutting | £282.00. |
| • SLCC, Clerks training (less Bursary to be claimed) | £195.00. |
| • Clerks back dated pay following increased hours | £918.35. |
| • Clerks expenses/allowances | £313.73. |

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Chairman reported that the following notifications had been received from Herefordshire Council Planning Dept -

- Proposed change of use of land to paddock and erection of new stables block at Bromton Cottage, Crumpton Hill Road – approved.
- Proposed two storey side extension at 3 Oaklands – approved.
- Proposed rear conservatory/orangery at Vincyard Farm, Vinesend Lane - approved
- Proposed agricultural machinery storage building at Winthill, Cradley – permission not required.
- Proposed site for five dwellings, access road and parking at Spring Lodge, Bosbury Road - refused.

Churchyard Committee – CL advised nothing further to report.

Playing Fields – KN advised jet washer had arrived. Repairs necessary to basket ball hoop and bearing on the flyer, prices expected for repairs. Vital inspections are carried out every week.

Editorial Group – Next edition due out shortly.

Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area – JE advised meeting on Sunday well attended by approx. 97 local residents. Lots of people expressed interest in joining various groups. Large Ordnance Survey map being purchased and also a Planning for Real Kit.

Chairman expressed thanks to JE and the group for the first class presentation at the meeting.

PD had circulated document about the ten proposed changes concerning Education in the County with a note of his proposed responses and he asked Councillors to let him have any comments they wished to make on his reply as soon as possible before response date on 20th June 2008.

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

Dew

Correspondence received –

Letter - Mencap requesting donation.

Letter – Cradley Youth thanking PC for generous grant and advising number of children attending is growing with a variety of activities on offer, and stating that young people themselves will be involved in fund raising and taking responsibility for agreeing rules and regulations.

Letter – Malvern Hills AONB advising they are undertaking a review of the Management Plan and inviting local participation in a consultation process.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding diversion order on Footpath CD9 with copies of the Notice of Confirmation and Certification, confirmed and certified order and order plan.

Letter - Herefordshire Council enclosing draft Primary Strategy for change prepared in response to the Dept. of Children Schools and Families invitation to local authorities. Response requested by 20th June 2008 to be reported to Cabinet who will approve the final document for submission in the summer with a decision expected in October/November 2008.

Letter – Herefordshire Council “Shaping our Place 2026” Core strategy developing options consultation.

Literature received –

Newsletter from Community First regarding community planning.

Ledbury & District News – Volunteer fair on 28th June 2008.

HALC – Information corner.

Newsletter Items – Consultation by John Stagg on Conservation area; Dog fouling throughout Village; Parish Initiative; drainage; sandbags and possibility of larger pipe being installed at Kingsbridge.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

Flooding at Ashvale; Lost Ways Project has ended; renewable energy project grants available for public buildings; agree diversion of Footpath CD18 should be done; take up Rectory Lane with Herefordshire Council as remains within proposed amended Conservation area and possibility of loss of phone-box at Storridge.

Next meeting will be the on the 15th July 2008 at Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

D. G. Pratt-News
Chairman.

Dated.....

15/7/08