

MINUTES of a meeting of **Cradley Parish Council** held on Tuesday, 10th March 2009 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – Councillors R. Gill (RG 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) M. Sheriff (MS) and R. Gill (RG).

Also in attendance were Cllr. Rees Mills and Cllr. Roy Stockton, and two members of the Public.

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from D. Creed Newton and M. Brooksbank due to holiday arrangements and J. Tudor due to business commitments.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

- CL – Cradley Glebe land.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

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

PARISH PLAN PRESENTATION – PD reported that consultations had begun with interested parties and that the Group were expecting to meet one of the Planning Officers, probably Roland Close. This should be completed by April/May and the group then expected to commence the consultation process and advised that the Parish Council will be kept up to date on a regular basis, although the Minutes from the last Steering Group meeting were not available.

The Chairman raised a query regarding the exact interpretation of the outcome of the February meeting when the Chairman, at that meeting, had offered full backing, if required, but that in the meantime the group should press on with the work, seeking support from Herefordshire Council, Community First and HALC. The Chairman sought assurance from all Councillors that they were satisfied there was no misunderstanding on what had been agreed and on a proposal by PS, seconded by MS and carried, this was confirmed.

Cllr Roy Stockton asked whether the Parish Council had received any information regarding the restructuring of the Conservation area and was advised that this had been received.

PROGRESS REPORTS on –

Rectory Lane – Following the request from Ken Nason for information under the F of I. Act regarding what work had been carried out on the lane, the Clerk reported an e-mail had been received from Tim Thompson in which he stated that agreement had been reached to deliver stone when the weather improves enabling Martin MacAleese to organize the filling of the pot holes. This was discussed and

RESOLVED on a proposal by KN seconded by CL and carried, that the Parish Council again ask the Council to come back and do the repair which should have been done in the first place as it was considered a roller would be required, and that we will thereafter take up the offer of the stone enabling repairs to be carried out in the future.

Rectory Wall – It was confirmed the retrospective planning application had been received and this matter would be dealt with under the Planning Committee Report.

Bus stop at Buryfields – KN advised Herefordshire Council had agreed a new design for this work and that the land owner is happy. Included in the design was provision for a waste bin at a cost of £350. which the Parish Council would be responsible for, although Herefordshire Council would empty the bin on their rounds. KN agreed to come back to the next meeting with the full proposals.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION -

Parish Meeting – PD presented his proposals for speakers at the Parish meeting which would include the thoughts of a young person about life in the Village. He proposed that we print some tickets for distribution free of charge so that the speakers have something to bring with them to the meeting. It was confirmed an open invitation was included in the Reporter and that the usual Notices would appear on the parish notice boards. The question of “refreshments” could be agreed at the April meeting of the Parish Council.

Freedom of Information Act – The Vice Chairman advised that some documents have been posted on the web-site. KN agreed to speak with David Creed Newton regarding back copies of the Minutes. Members of the various groups were asked to consider terms of reference and bring these forward to the next meeting as at present we only have terms of reference for the Planning Committee. The scale of charges was discussed and it was agreed on a proposal by CL seconded by PS and carried that there should be a maximum charge of £5. for the first page of any information requested plus 20p. per additional sheet.

It was also advised that the Parish Council need a policy for documents/title deeds held including where the documents are and who should be responsible for them.

Future bus services 417 & 472 – The Clerk had distributed the letter from Herefordshire Council regarding the future of the local bus service contracts. This was discussed and

RESOLVED – On a proposal by CL seconded by RD and carried, the Clerk should reply advising that “the Parish Council recognise that this budget is under pressure and under those circumstances, they understand that the Cradley-Bromyard service may be expendable. However, we note that if the Cradley-Ledbury service is abandoned, the Parish Council consider the Cradley-Worcester service to be more important and request that the last bus out of Worcester should leave no earlier than 6pm to enable people to use this bus after work”. It was generally felt that this would result in an increase in the use of the bus and discourage people from using cars.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

The following accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Cradley Toddler Group – donation | £200.00. |
| • CAB – donation | £140.00. |
| • HALC – Training fee | £20.00. |
| • Clerk’s allowances and expenses | £327.48. |

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

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

- 1) The Old house, Bosbury Road, Cradley – amended plans – No objections.
- 2) Bay Tree Cottage, Storridge, Malvern – proposed second storey extension – No objections.
- 3) The Old Rectory, Cradley – new access and gateway in existing stone wall (part retrospective). Alterations to wall are to a curtilage listed structure – This had been discussed at the Planning meeting and it had been agreed to put the application in front of the whole Council for their comments on the proposal.

All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the report to the Planning Committee and on a proposal from MA, seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed that we object in accordance with the information circulated and it was also agreed we forward a copy of this objection to English Heritage.

RG raised with the District Councillors the fact that we are observing a lack of enthusiasm from Herefordshire Council to pursue breaches of planning regulations.

KN asked again for details of information regarding retrospective planning applications granted, but Roy Stockton did not think a record of these figures were kept.

On a proposal by PS, seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed that we invite John Stagg to a Parish Council meeting in the future.

Churchyard Committee – CL advised that he had met with Terry Hackling to discuss the party hedge at the Chapel. Mr. Hackling was happy to go along with scheme to fill in the gaps by the Chapel and confirmed that the Chapel would meet half the cost of this work. CL agreed to report back at the next meeting with costings.

Playing Fields – KN advised an accompanied annual inspection had taken place; no serious problems reported. Regular checks taking place. Two Quotes received for grass cutting as follows –

- 1) MCB - £92. Including vat per cut.
- 2) DG Gardening Services - £110. per cut.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by PS, seconded by EM and carried, it was agreed to accept the Quotation from MCB.

Editorial Group – Copies of Reporter available at the meeting for distribution.

HALC – MA reported on meeting in Bosbury with a talk on flooding – again reporting poor attendance.

Correspondence received –

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding request for footway in vicinity of B4220 Cradley between A4103 Stoney Cross and U65621 The Farleys. Our application is ranked 47/53 so because of its ranked position, it is unlikely that sufficient funding will be available to implement this scheme.

Letters from Cradley and Storrige PCC and Cradley Chapel thanking the Parish Council for their donations.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding local bus service contracts, see above.

Letter – Herefordshire Council (copy received from Diana Taylor, Clerk to Mathon PC) regarding Parish Notice Board opportunity for footpaths in the area. Clerk had taken this up with Herefordshire Council and had been advised that this should be available to Cradley during next financial year.

Letter – Andy Bywater regarding condition of adjoining property to his home “Setalol” being over-run with rats. Clerk to report this through to Environmental Health. **MA declared a personal interest in this matter.** Funding directory from Herefordshire Council.

Herefordshire Council “No wrong door” workshops developing locality teams for children and young people and their families in Herefordshire. Next workshop to take place on 26th March 9-1pm at Three Counties Hotel, Hereford.

Herefordshire Council – briefing for Parish Councillors on the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act, letter from CPRE about fly tipping and litter, letter on future waste management strategy from Councillor Jarvis and two posters and leaflet promoting the proper use of blue badges by the disabled.

Literature received –

CPRE – letter and rural public transport leaflet enquiring if we wish to become a member of CPRE.

Northern Area Planning sub-committee Agenda for 11th March 09.

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine.

Local Council Review magazine.

Ledbury Area Older people’s forum letter and notice of public meeting.

Standards Board of England leaflet (copy supplied to all) regarding complaints to Parish Councils.

Newsletter Items – Rectory Lane, bus stop, Parish Meeting, future bus service and F. of I. Act.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next meeting –

PS advised of complaint regarding speeding vehicles travelling in the wrong direction on road up the side of Pixiefields. It was agreed we write to the Police.

CL advised of tree fallen over the brook at Brookside Lane. It was agreed to report this under Parish Initiative scheme due to risk of flooding and also to report to highways.

Pot holes were reported on Grittles End Lane and problem with litter on A4103.

The owners of Buryfields Cottage were attending the meeting, and advised that they had sought all necessary permission with regard to work proceeding in the property and also with regard to the residential caravan which was situated in the front garden. The Clerk reported that she had not received any reply from the Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council with regard to this.

Next meeting – 14th April 2009 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....