

08/28

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12th August 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – Councillors D.Creed-Newton (DCN - in the Chair), C. Lowder (CL) P. Stanley (PS) R. Diamond (RD) K.Nason (KN) F. Beard (FB) P. Diamond (PD) M. Allfrey (MA) R. Gill (RG) M. Sheriff (MS) and J. Tudor (JT).

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from

- E.Mikata due to holiday arrangements.
- J. Edgar, M.Brooksbank and A.Eldridge due to business commitments.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

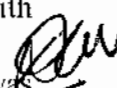
- KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Sports Club.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest

- MA declared a prejudicial interest in the land for the Sports Club.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Progress report on –

Cradley Guide – CL advised nothing further to report. Arrangements were in hand to meet with PS and M&S to discuss project and he agreed to present recommendations at the October meeting. 

Dog Fouling Signs – CL advised he and M&S had decided on sites for these signs. A list was circulated and it was agreed that he and M&S would collect the signs and arrange for them to be fixed on various posts throughout Storrige and Cradley.

Thanks expressed to both CL and M&S for all their work on this project.

Rectory Lane – The Clerk had circulated details of various discussions regarding Rectory Lane. The status of the lane was questioned and discussed. The Clerk informed Councillors that Martin Watts, a member of Herefordshire Council's Legal Dept. had advised that as the road was unmade, then he assumed it was not part of the public highway and, as a private roadway, they were unable to assist. As the Village Hall had been used as an Election centre, KN agreed to ask under the Freedom of Information Act for a copy of the risk assessment which Herefordshire Council would have carried out prior to use of the Village Hall for elections purposes.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Financial Regulations & Standing Orders – The Chairman reported on the necessity of these documents for the benefit of new Councillors. The Clerk had been advised that the Parish Council could not merely adopt the model documents, but that these needed to be "tailor made" to fit the requirements of the Parish Council. Copies of the model documents to be circulated to all Councillors for their information to enable these to be finalized at the next meeting, with copies supplied to all Councillors in due course in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Post Office closures – The Chairman advised he had attended the meeting last month regarding the proposed Post Office closures and reported criteria for closure included –

Population nearness to the Post Office and the terrain on the way; Customer visits per week; size and ability to deal with customers from other closed post offices and financial viability for the Post Office - the size of the subsidy.

When a post office is closed, consideration will be given for a core and outreach structure, to give physical access to Post Office services to serve small rural communities. There are three types of outreach services, depending on circumstances –

- a. Partner service – a core subpostmaster appoints a partner in a retail outlet;
- b. Mobile post office – hours served would be set to "suit the needs" but be for say 90 minutes at set times on set days and
- c. Hosted service set up in a space provided for the sub postmaster in a village hall and/or pub. The service would be provided at set hours on set days.

The process started some time ago and post offices have been informed already. They are bound by confidentiality until the date of the public announcement.



On the public announcement day of 27th August 2008, the narrative and the Branch Access Report for the West Midlands will be posted on Postoffice.co.uk. Anthony Bush of Herefordshire Council (Parish Council Liaison Officer) will send documents to Parish Councils.

There will be another meeting at Herefordshire Council for Clerks and Chairmen on 2nd September at the start of the consultation process.

Petitions are a waste of time. It is down to the facts of each case and Post Office fact finding has been pretty good.

Recognition of Villager of the Year Award – KN circulated a draft proposal for consideration regarding the yearly nomination of a person in the Parish who it was felt had devoted time and energy selflessly to the good of the community. DCN sought the views of individual Councillors regarding this proposal.

Resolved – MA proposed that the PC should not proceed with this proposal. This was seconded by FB and put to the vote, resulting in the proposal being defeated.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to KN for his idea and hoped that the defeat would not stop any ideas being put forward in the future.

Skateboard facility - PS advised she had been approached by the Youth Group about the supply of such a facility in the Parish. Various prices were quoted with the cost of a decent skateboard, plus the base resulting in an overall cost of approx. £30,000. plus the yearly cost of upkeep, maintenance etc. MA advised that Nexus have grants available of up to a quarter of a million and suggested that perhaps the Youth Group could apply for such a grant.

Resolved – On a proposal by PD (who declared a personal interest in this project) seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed that this proposal be passed back to the Youth Group for them to look into possibilities of funding availability for this type of venture.

Request for funding from Cradley Sports Club – The Clerk had circulated copies of letter received from Frank Hare requesting the PC to consider a grant of £2,000 to Cradley Sports Club to assist with a further planning application covering change of use of the field adjacent to the school being turned into more football pitches. The constitution of the Club does not allow them to receive loans, but the Parish Council had previously donated some money under the Village of the Year funds. The Chairman sought the views of individual Councillors regarding this request for a grant.

Resolved - RG put forward a proposal that we give them the £2,000. applied for. This was seconded by PD and carried and a cheque for the grant would be presented for signature at the meeting of the Parish Council in September.

Offer by Lynda Wilcox (HALC) to attend September meeting and advise re Parish Plan – The Clerk reported that Lynda had telephoned her and offered to attend our September meeting to both offer advice and reply to any concerns which the Parish Council might have with regard to the Parish Plan project which was under review.

Resolved – On a proposal by DCN, seconded by PS and carried, it was agreed the Clerk invite Lynda to attend the September meeting for the purpose of advising on the Parish Plan and any other items which Councillors might wish to raise with her.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

Accounts for payment – The following accounts had been received -

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • T. Robshaw, Honorarium | £75.00. |
| • Royal British Legion – grant from Village of Year funds | £750.00. |
| • MCB – Grass cutting | £188.00. inc VAT. |
| • Clerks expenses/allowances, including telephone | £275.48. |

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



COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Planning Committee Chairman reported that the following applications had been received from Herefordshire Council Planning Dept –

Stoney Villa, Cradley – Build conservatory (amendment to existing planning consent) to construct with tiled roof to match existing building roofline – **No objections raised.**

The Halescend, Storrige – installation of four windows (two in North and two in West elevations) **No objections raised provided the windows matched the existing.**

The Planning Committee had been told that an application at Church Stile Farm, Cradley to construct a track within the curtilage did not require planning consent but the PC had been advised for information purposes only.

The query raised by the Clerk concerning lack of advice regarding applications dealt with had resulted in her being told that Herefordshire Council had changed their mail delivery arrangements and many items had been returned to them although they had been correctly addressed. The Planning Authority had requested the Clerk to monitor the situation, as they might find the information useful at some time in the future.

Churchyard Committee – CL advised nothing further to report.

Playing Fields – KN advised that a new schedule was in circulation which now included whether the grass was cut.

Clerk to request Den Horne to cut the hedges.

Quote received for £350. for repairs to the netball hoop and the flyer.

Resolved – On a proposal by MA seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council order the bearings for the flyer direct, which would result in the PC being in a position to re claim the VAT. The Clerk was authorized to speak with Tony Brown regarding the Order

Editorial Group – New format circulated for approval. Publication and distribution planned for mid-August.

Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area – Steering Group of twelve members meeting later this week, five of whom are Parish Councilors. Sixty-six volunteers had offered to take part following open meeting, six of these being Parish Councilors distributed through the groups.

HALC – MA advised on East Herefordshire meeting when Planning Representative had attended advising on increased numbers in the supply of housing which Herefordshire Council had to accommodate over the next fifteen years, most of which will be in the city of Hereford, some in rural towns such as Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury and some in the small Villages. Advice was also given on the training scheme offered by HALC and also on various seminars proposed.

Correspondence received –

Letter – NALC enclosing cheque for training bursary for Clerk amounting to £146.25.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding grant funding advice for Parish Plan actions (sent to JE).

Letter – Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding extended consultation period for telephone kiosks, post office closure programme, scrutiny review of Planning Services (seeking PC views) and July funding update, free CD Rom to help the Parish organize festivals and events, details of The Orchard Art competition and some useful advice entitled “slim down on energy use”.

Letter – Frank Hare regarding funding.

Letter – E-mails concerning condition/ownership of Rectory Lane.

08/31

Information Corner – HALC – free seminar on affordable housing, briefing on the New Code of Conduct, Cross Border Event, HALC AGM, HALC website, Clerks on the move, motorcross events, power of wellbeing, QPS Regional event, West Midlands sustain ability team and various enclosures concerning items included in Information Corner.

Emails regarding Rectory wall.

Literature received -

Furnitubes Ltd. - street furniture solutions.

SLCC National Conference in October at Reading.

The Clerk magazine.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Product catalogue from Urbanscape.

Newsletter Items – Dog fouling, Rectory Lane, Post Office closures, skateboard facility, Cradley Sports Club, advising that Lynda Wilcox from HALC will be attending our meeting in September and that Herefordshire Council are required to supply more housing over the next few years.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

Speed Indicator devices; mud at Lower Brookside lane, whether planning items are in accordance with the Planning Permission obtained and that people are in fact doing what they say they are going to do and awareness of possible changes of use in the Village.

Next meeting – 9th September 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....