

08/05

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

**PRESENT** – Councillors R.Gill (RG) in the Chair, M. Allfrey (MA) C. Lowder (CL) E. Mikata (EM) J. Edgar (JE) P. Stanley (PS) R. Diamond (RD) J. Tudor (JT) M.Brooksbank (MB) K.Nason (KN) and Cllr. Rees Mills (RM).

**APOLOGIES for absence** were received from F.Beard (FB) and D.Creed-Newton (DCN) and approval was given for their absence due to Hospital appointment and annual holiday.

Also not in attendance was Cllr A. Eldridge. – *Holiday*.

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

- CL, EM & RD – Cradley youth.
- MA – Drainage/sewerage issues and Storridge PCC.
- RG – drainage issues.

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

**MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

**DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** – M.Sheriff signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the Parish Council meeting. He also handed the Clerk his signed Notification by Councilor of a Parish or Town Council of Financial and other interests. The Clerk had forwarded MS & MB a copy of the Code of Conduct for their use.

**Progress report on –**

**Drainage issues** – Problem occurring at Ashvale Cottage due to run off of water from Pixiefields. Owner has letter from Herefordshire Council that necessary work is on the list. Development has contributed to problem and felt that this item should be passed to the consulting engineers. It was agreed to ask the owner to send copies of the correspondence to RM and ask the owner to contact RM direct. We were also to write to Brian Lee, Herefordshire Council, asking that, once the flood plan report has been published, he should attend a PC meeting to make a presentation.

**Tanhouse Lane, extension to bus standing area and illegal lay-by –**

Clerk advised that work was proceeding at Tanhouse Lane.

Mairead Lane at Herefordshire Council had not submitted an update report on the bus standing area. Richard Leppard had not been able to progress the idea of concrete bollards for the illegal lay-by due to time and funding constraints. Work falls outside normal routine maintenance and therefore needs to be considered for programmed work which is unlikely to be in this financial year. Matter will be considered for next year. Clerk to write asking Herefordshire Council if they have advised their Insurance Co. of the possibility of a land-slip and enquire if they will pick up the bill for the necessary work in the event of this happening.

**Parish Paths Scheme –**

JE advised that as the PC have 52K. of footpaths in the Parish, it is not worth the PC entering into this project, however, on a proposal by MA, seconded by JE and carried, it was agreed that this item should be left on the table for some time in the future.

JE advised also advised that a copy of the Flood Plan will be sent direct to the Clerk thus enabling amendment No. 8 to be added accordingly.

**Parish Talk Grant** – CL advised on Quotes obtained for printing Cradley Guide. Two A4 sheets would be about £400., extras (to include a map) would increase cost to approx. £850. The Guide would be delivered to every household and also sent to every newcomer in the Parish for their information. However, as the Village Hall has a full colour laser printer, it was felt that the printing could be undertaken by the PC for the cost of the paper.

MA advised that HALC felt a notice board would be eligible for the grant.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by CL., seconded by KN and carried it was agreed that we pursue a grant of up to £300. from the Parish Talk Grant at HALC for the purpose of distributing a Parish Guide.

*Law*

**Inspection at Chapel Lane** - Clerk advised that Wicksteed would carry out an accompanied inspection on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 11am. It was agreed & KN would attend -- Clerk to advise DCN of date and time. +CL

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION** –

**Cradley Youth** – The Clerk reported she had been advised that it *would* have been possible to increase the Precept, but due to lack of time to enable an Extraordinary meeting to take place, it had not been possible to pursue this line of enquiry.

MA advised that he had met with DCN and it had been agreed that there were sufficient funds in the Account for a donation to be made this year.

**RD,KN & CL left the room**

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by MA, seconded by JE and carried, it was agreed the PC make a donation to the Youth Group of £2,000. with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, and then review the funding for the next year.

**RD,KN & CL rejoined the meeting**

**Cradley Brook and flooding** – see report under sewerage/drainage issues.

**Co-option of new Member** – The Clerk reported that the vacancy occurring as a result of Katrina Turnbull's resignation had to be advertised. Notices had been placed on the various boards, and we now awaited confirmation from Herefordshire Council whether an election would need to be called.

**FINANCE** On a proposal by JE, seconded by RD and carried, the following accounts were approved for payment -

- Peter Denley, felling tree at Buryfields £75.00.
- MCB – laying slab in front of notice board £50.00. plus VAT.
- Clerk expenses/allowances £207.13.

**HALC** – MA confirmed meeting last week which included item that PCs need to make sure that Herefordshire Council has been paid money by Developers as a lot of them are not paying. It was agreed the PC need to keep pressure on the Council for payment of the £17,000. owing to us for the development at Old School Close.

West Midlands may have to take responsibility for additional 70,000 houses in Herefordshire by the year 2020, in addition to those they have already been allocated.

It is hoped that Parish Councils will not have to pay for elections in the future.

Police Liaison meetings are now being cancelled. It was agreed the Clerk write to the Police that the PC are unhappy about the cancellation of these meetings and asking that in future they liaise with us and we liaise with them on Council matters.

New service available for Local Councils from the local channel Web-page – Handed to KN to advise.

**MA then left the meeting due to family commitment.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

**Planning** – The chairman reported that the Planning Committee had dealt with two applications

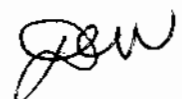
(1) conservatory at 6 Oaklands, and

(2) conversion and extension of barn to form stables and a ménage at Hop End Barns.

No objections had been raised to either application.

The Chairman also advised on items granted, refused or withdrawn, as notified by Herefordshire Council.

The Chairman also reported on proposals received from both MHDC and the Government affecting planning applications in the future.



08/08/07

**Churchyard Committee** – CL advised on figures received from Storridge PCC, Cradley PCC and Cradley Chapel.

RESOLVED – It was agreed to pay Storridge PCC the sum of £595. representing 70% of their maintenance costs of £850.

It was further agreed to pay Cradley Chapel the sum of £98.49. representing 70% of their maintenance costs, plus a further 30% ex-gratia payment of £42.21. for maintenance of the hedge at Cradley Chapel, making a total payment of £140.70.

On a proposal by CL seconded by MS and carried, it was agreed a letter should be sent to Cradley PCC requesting a breakdown of their maintenance figures which had increased by over 100% for the grass cutting resulting in a total maintenance cost for the year of £3,880.88.

**Playing Fields** - New check-list for inspection of equipment prepared by KN and distributed for discussion.

It was agreed to ask Den Horne to attend to the hedge at Chapel Lane to include a reduction in the height, and expenditure was agreed at a figure not to exceed £50.

New members from the PC were required for this Committee.

**Editorial Group** – KN & CL working together, problems still arising with distributing the Reporter. Next edition will soon be ready for production.

**Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area** – Footpath CD9 diversion -- footpath has been put back to where it should have been in the first instance.

Conservation Area – RD agreed to present a report on this item at the next PC meeting.

Parish Plan/VDS – At the stage of forming new working groups - new members heading up various groups.

**Correspondence received** –

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding election costs.

Letter – Herefordshire Council “consultation on the validation of planning applications”.

Letter – MHDC concerning open space supplementary planning guidance consultation draft dated January 2008 plus letter advising of inconsistencies between tables in the draft.

Letter – Audit Commission advising of change of external Auditor.

Letter – Central Group roofing and building services enquiring if they could advertise in our parish magazine.

Letter – Wicksteeds - acknowledgement of order to carry out an accompanied safety inspection and risk assessment.

Letter – Herefordshire Council advising precept of £17,000. for 2008/09.

Quote – MCB Landscapes for grass cutting and installation of slab in front of notice board at Finchers Corner.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding review of polling district and polling stations.

Letter advising of Storridge Village Hall AGM.



**Literature received –**

Housing Portfolio – Halsall Lloyd Partnership on Affordable Housing.

Clerks & Councils Direct.

The Clerk.

Local Council Services (training by Pat Edwards)

Herefordshire Voluntary Action News.

Herefordshire Council Parish Plan implementation grants for Parish Councils.

Herefordshire Council schools review.

Herefordshire Council funding directory.

Herefordshire Council information re schools, Heritage lottery fund, transport asset management plan consultation, community forums and community development strategy and sandbags.

Consultation relating to the Conduct of Local Authority members in England.

**Newsletter Items** – Pixicfield drainage, Tanhouse Lane, Parish Paths Scheme, Parish Talk Grant, new guide, Cradley Youth donation as a one off payment and Police Liaison meetings have been cancelled.

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

Blocked drain by the new building adjacent to Qucenswood – Clerk to ask Herefordshire Council to do a jet wash, and also at the bottom of Chapel Lane beside Pound Bridge and the footpath.

KN will deal with vehicles parking at the top of Buryfields.

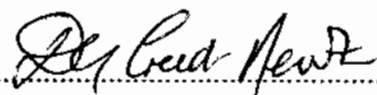
KN wished an item on the Agenda for next meeting regarding the purchase of a jet-washer for the Parish Council.

Co-option of new member.

Next meeting to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at Storridge.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman.



Dated..... 11 March 2008