

MINUTES of a meeting of **Cradley Parish Council** held on Tuesday, 13th January 2009 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – Councillors D.Creed-Newton (DCN - in the Chair), C. Lowder (CL) K.Nason (KN) E. Mikata (EM) A. Eldridge (AE) M. Sheriff (MS) J. Edgar (JE) M. Brooksbank (MB) and R. Gill (RG).

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from

- R. Diamond, F. Beard, P. Stanley & P Diamond for family reasons.
- J. Tudor and M Allfrey due to business commitments.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

- DCN, KN, CL & JE - Cradley Village Hall.
- CL- Cradley Glebe land.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

PRESENTATION – Attending the meeting was CSO Paul Smith from Ledbury Police Station who talked about anti-social behavior in the Village which unfortunately is the worst in the area and is not being reported at the time the incident occurs. The Police have identified group responsible for 90% of the incidents and advised the often effective stages before it is necessary to issue an ASBO. The Parish Council was asked to get involved in encouraging people to report incidents very promptly so that immediate action can be taken. It was generally felt that local people were afraid of recriminations by getting involved. Prompt reporting, even without reporting names would be very effective. The level of crime in the area is low but some burglaries are taking place.

It was agreed the Police would let the Parish Council have some text which could be included in the Newsletter and the Reporter and that they would attend the Parish Council meetings as often as possible.

DONATION to Storridge PCC; Cradley PCC and Cradley Chapel –

CL advised on the figures received for upkeep of the various Churchyards during 2008.

Storridge donation had previously been agreed at £595.

On a proposal by CL, seconded by MS and carried, it was agreed to cap Cradley PCC donation at £2,054.

On a proposal by CL, seconded by RG and carried, the donation this year to Cradley Chapel was agreed at £230.

Cheques for these donations would be presented for signature at the February meeting of the Parish Council.

Progress report on –

Dog Fouling Signs – CL advised that he and MB were continuing to look at ways of securing the signs onto various existing posts in the Parish.

Following receipt of information from Herefordshire Council regarding the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, CL agreed to complete the Consultation Form regarding proposed areas under a Dog Control Order and bring this for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting which would include dog control orders to deal with a range of dog offences, including dog fouling and which gives the power to issue fixed penalty notices to alleged offenders as an alternative to prosecution in the magistrates' court.

Rectory Lane Wall – The Clerk read an e-mail from Roland Close, Herefordshire Planning advising that an application regarding the access is to be submitted by the end of January and that John Stagg and himself were inspecting the building on 21st January 2009 with regard to the house and its use.

The Clerk was to write to Herefordshire Council with regard to the two trees which had been removed in the conservation area without permission.

Rectory Lane – Following KN's request for information under the Freedom of Information Act with regard to the condition of the Lane and the fact that he had been advised no risk assessment had taken place prior to use of the Village Hall for the May elections, a further letter had been received which again confirmed no risk assessment had taken place, but the letter confirmed that some work had been carried out "as a gesture of goodwill" with regard to the potholes in the Lane. It was also confirmed that following complaints from the Parish Council on the standard of the work a second visit had taken place to carry out further remedial works.

RESOLVED - KN's paperwork was officially handed over to the Parish Council and in view of the contents of their letter, on a proposal by DCN, seconded by MS and carried, it was agreed the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council referring to the letter to KN, advising that the condition of the lane is now in a worse condition than when the work was done, and request that they now return to carry out a satisfactory job.

Bus stop at Buryfields – No further progress made. Clerk to ask Herefordshire Council to contact the land owner direct as he is not particularly happy with some of their proposals but that he has some suggestions to make to them to overcome the problem.

Sewage Problems – DCN advised of a sewage escape at Brookfields. Mr. Fraser had tried to contact Severn Trent regarding this problem but their telephone number no longer appeared in the local directory. The matter had now been resolved, but it was suggested the Council write to Severn Trent Water requesting them to reinstate their advertisement in the local telephone book and advise the public of the best number for making contact.

Freedom of Information Act – On a proposal by RG, seconded by CL and carried, the Parish Council formally adopted the new model publication scheme of the Freedom of Information Act without any modification with effect from 1st January 2009.

RESOLVED – RG and MS agreed to go through the Schedule of Information and charges and bring forward a draft response for consideration on how the Parish Council ensure that it is meeting its obligations.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had now been accepted by the External Auditors as drawn and they advised that “on the basis of their review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern and that all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met”.

A vote of thanks was expressed to the Clerk for the accuracy of the Annual Return resulting in a minimal audit fee.

Accounts for payment – DCN, CL, KN & JE left the room –

RG took the Chair – It had been agreed at the last meeting that a donation be made to Cradley Village Hall Management Committee in the sum of £2,242.35. and on a proposal by MS seconded by AE and carried it was agreed a that a cheque for the donation be signed at this meeting.

DCN, CL, KN & JE rejoined the meeting.

The following accounts had been received for payment -

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| • MCB path clearing at Chapel Lane | £138.00. |
| • MCB grass cutting | £188.00. |
| • Mazars, External Auditors fee | £158.62. |
| • SLCC membership subscription | £94.00. |
| • Clerk, allowances and expenses Dec 08/Jan09 | £230.74. |

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Vice Chairman reported that two applications had been considered at the Planning meeting –

- (1) New farm track at Church Stile Farm to which no objections had been raised, and
- (2) Proposed dog/cat boarding facility at Acton Mill, Barrow Lane, Suckley – no objections had been raised to this proposal, but the Council requested Herefordshire Council to consider the noise impact in the area.

Churchyard Committee – CL advised nothing further to report.

Playing Fields – KN advised nothing major to report, but remained hopeful for someone to take over his temporary Chairmanship of the Playing Field Management Committee.

Editorial Group – KN advised next edition little late but should be completed before 16th January and would now include a report from the Police regarding anti social behavior in the Village.

Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area – JE agreed to ask a non Parish Council member to attend February meeting to give a report on progress. JE confirmed that the application for a full size football pitch and pavilion was proceeding.

HALC – No report available in the absence of MA.

Correspondence received –

Letter, Herefordshire Council with latest bus timetables, letter about PACT meetings, letter from Rural Services Network offering regular information on rural services, newsletter called Biodiversity Action, update on dog control orders which explains the new legislation and the role of Parishes, and finally invitation to go to a Government website to find out more about householder permitted development rights. The Government Dept concerned (CLG) are not producing a booklet on the subject but relying on advice on the following website – www.planningportal.gov.uk

Letter - “Lappset” concerning playbuilder funding and lappset play equipment.

Letter – Herefordshire Nature Trust concerning Woolhope Dome to Malvern Hills Landscape link.

Letter – Ledbury and District News from CVA.

Letter – DC Gardening Services offering grounds maintenance works within the Parish.

Letter – Community First regarding community planning in Herefordshire.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding flooding data request – November 2008.

Literature received –

HALC Information corner, including staff names, office manning details, clerk’s salary increases for 2008/09 and bus/train timetable.

Communities & Local Government- Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity consultation.

Clerks & Councils direct magazine.

the Clerk magazine.

Calor Village of the Year leaflet.

Newsletter Items – Adoption of Freedom of Information Act, attendance at meeting by Paul Smith (Community Support Officer from Ledbury Police), donations to PCCs, dog fouling, and that the Annual Return had been approved by the External Auditors as prepared by the Parish Council.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

Clerk to request full budget projections following a request for the Parish Council to make a donation to the Cradley Toddler Group.

Clerk to report large pothole at Grittles End, and that there appeared to be a problem with under road drainage at the farm entrance to Church Stile Farm about 100m along Vinesend Lane.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....10/2/2009.....