

MINUTES of a meeting of **Cradley Parish Council** held on Tuesday, 14th October 2008 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from

- R. Gill and M.Brooksbank due to business commitments.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received -

- DCN,KN,CL & JE - Cradley Village Hall.
- MA in Storridge Churchyard.
- CL- Cradley Glebe land.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st September 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2008 were also taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

APPROVAL & ADOPTION of FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & STANDING ORDERS -

These had been prepared by the Clerk as amended as agreed at the last Meeting and forwarded to the Chairman for his approval prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by CL seconded by FB and carried, both documents were signed by the Chairman, and the Clerk advised that all members would now receive copies of the adopted documents for their information.

Progress report on –

Dog Fouling Signs – CL advised ten dog fouling signs had been erected, six of which have since been removed by person or persons unknown, with two retrieved from the hedgerow. Item to this effect to be included in the Newsletter stating which ones have been removed, and it was suggested that perhaps the Youth Group could be encouraged to assist in identifying who was responsible for removing the signs.

Rectory Lane Wall– RD advised she has spoken to John Stagg who advised that the Highways Dept. within the Council are of the opinion that the new access will be safer, but he feels that the owner should be required to rebuild the wall as it is a listed building and within the Conservation area. There has been no mention of the four trees which have also been removed.

Parish Councillors expressed their concerns that Highways should not have been invited to comment until such time as a retrospective planning application was made and that any planning application should go through the proper planning procedure rather than dealt with under delegated powers. It was generally felt that the Enforcement Officer should now take steps to have the wall rebuilt immediately until such time as a retrospective planning application was made. Clerk to let Cllr Rees Mills have copies of various documents to enable him to take the matter up on our behalf.

Rectory Lane - KN advised he had, as arranged, sought information under the Freedom of Information Act from Herefordshire Council concerning the health & safety check which would have been carried out prior to the Council using Cradley Village Hall as a Polling Station for elections last May. A reply had been received advising that they did **not** carry out an assessment prior to use of the village hall before the election, and they also confirmed that Rectory Lane Cradley is not an adopted highway and therefore no maintenance has been undertaken there by Herefordshire Council and that specifically, no maintenance was undertaken by the Council prior to the last election.

RESOLVED – KN was to reply advising that maintenance was done, enquire who carried out the work and under what Works Order the repair was made. He would also enquire why a health & safety inspection not carried out as Rectory Lane poses a danger to pedestrians.

DM

Post Office closures –Following Parish Meeting with Post Office Ltd., Postwatch and Anthony Bush from Herefordshire Council, a further letter had been sent regarding the proposed changes to the Post Office. Letter of thanks received from David & Sue Mayor for the Parish Council support and they advised that they expected to receive the final decision on the 29th October 08.

Compliance with Planning Permissions granted – RM advised that he had requested the Planning Dept. to prepare figures advising how many retrospective planning applications are passed as opposed to normal applications, and hoped to come forward with these figures at the next meeting. RD explained problems which have arisen in the past, the PC have stipulated various conditions which have not been carried out. RM explained that once planning permission has been passed, the matter is passed through to Building Control who take responsibility for enforcement and the Parish Council queried how effective building control has been regarding enforcement of blatant infringements, in particular with regard to the house adjoining Barretts Cottage recently constructed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

The Churchyard Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday 22nd October at 4pm at St. Katherines. **The Finance Committee** agreed to meet following on from that meeting to discuss level of Precept for 2009/10.

Accounts for payment – MA declared a personal interest in the proposed payment to Storridge Village Hall - the following accounts had been received -

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|------------------------------------|----------|
| • Storridge Village Hall, donation | £836.40. |
| • Viking, office stationery | £196.24. |
| • Clerks expenses/allowances | £178.10. |

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Planning Committee Chairman reported an application to convert buildings at Hope End Farm into living accommodation had been received. No objections were raised, but the Parish Council felt that the stone wall should remain exposed with some under pinning to support buildings.

A further application had been received for Birch End Farm for new stables and new entrance, no objections were raised and the Parish Council advised that they supported the application.

Advice had been received that the conservatory with a tiled roof had been approved at Stoney Villa.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation.

Attending the meeting was Mr. Johnson from Tanhouse Lane who advised that since the construction of the new road, heavy lorries were attempting to use the road and asked the Parish Council to support some signs indicating the road as a single track and unsuitable for HGVs. This was discussed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council take up the proposal – Rees Mills confirmed he would also look into the matter on our behalf. Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

The Chairman closed public participation time and re-opened the meeting.

Churchyard Committee – Meeting arranged for 22nd October 2008 to discuss donations to PCCs for 2009/10.

Playing Fields – KN advised inspection had been carried out this week. Complaints received regarding grass cutting due to unsuitable weather and grass cuttings had been left to lie. A further cut will be carried out next week which will remove the dead grass. KN agreed to look into cost of a replacement bin and obtain quotation for clearing the footpaths at Chapel Lane. The netball post has been reconstructed and JE agreed to check position with regard to the bearings for the Aerial flyer.

DMW

08/37

MA agreed to look at a large dead tree leaning into the playing fields at Buryfields which was thought was on land in his ownership.

Editorial Group – KN advised next edition being compiled and advised MS had agreed to do an article about being a new Councillor. Feedback had been positive on the new format and layout.

Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area – JE advised not too much to report; awaiting report from various working groups and a new project was being started in November with the local school to include asking if people would be interested in showing school pupils places of interest in the Village.

Following recommendation from HALC, funds will be left with the PC and the Chairman of the Steering Group would apply for funds as and when required.

HALC – MA advised last meeting took place at Bishops Frome with a talk on play equipment; number of people attending very disappointing with only four parish council representatives out of twenty at the last meeting. He advised that a senior Police Officer will be attending the meeting in November.

Correspondence received –

E-mail – Brian Kingsley enquiring if the Parish Council have any powers to compel/request property owners to make available passing areas, or if not, to ensure that any restrictions are visible.

Letter – Herefordshire Council re draft shop front design guide consultation.

Letter – Herefordshire Council re draft archaeology strategy and strategic plan 2008-2001 consultation.

Letter – Age Concern Inaugural meeting on 22nd October 2008 to discuss issues including transport, health, personal care, money, crime, housing etc.

E-mail – Frank Hare raising concerns over condition of Chapel Lane grass cutting and collection of grass when cut and replacement bin.

Letter – Herefordshire Council advising bookings for the Parish Freighter service for 2009 will be taken from 1st October 2008. Bookings will only be taken for the period 1st January to 30th June 2009 as a new refuse collection contract is due to come into effect in the autumn of 2009 and changes may need to be made in the service.

Letter – West Mercia Policy Authority with questionnaire on combined equality scheme.

E-mail – Mairead Lane regarding bus stop at Buryfields with drawing of proposals.

Letter – via fax from David & Sue Major at the Post Office expressing thanks to all Councillors for their support in the Post Office Consultation period.

Literature received –

Brochure – green playground solutions.

Marches Housing Association – Annual report 2008.

Worcestershire C.C. – refreshed issues and options report.

Communities & Local Government – making and enforcement of bylaws consultation.

South Worcestershire Joint core strategy – preferred options paper.

Standards Board for England – information sheet and latest news.

Ledbury CVA – Autumn 2008 information sheet.

Newsletter Items – New Financial Regulations and Standing Orders adopted, dog fouling, post office closure, churchyard committee meeting, finance committee meeting to set precept for 2009/10, new bin for Chapel Lane play area, Parish Plan report and PC looking to obtain sign to restrict HGVs in Tanhouse Lane.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting -

CL expressed concerns that work at Pound Bridge was not carried out under September Parish Initiative scheme, and it was agreed to add this item to Agenda for November meeting.

MA advised that the tree in the brook by the Post Office will be cleared this week.

Confirmation had been received from Herefordshire Council that they would look to install curbs on the road to prevent the illegal lay-by near Millbank Garage, and MA sought confirmation that Herefordshire Council had advised their Insurance Co. of the problems which were occurring.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS – Congratulations were expressed to Parish Councilor Fred Beard on his recent 80th birthday. Fred advised that he had been a member of the Parish Council for forty-three years, during which time he had seen many changes.

Next meeting -- 11th November 2008 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....11/11/2008