

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 8th April 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received and duly approved from

- M. Brooksbank due to a business appointment.
- M.Allfrey due to a business meeting.
- M. Sheriff away on holiday.
- J. Edgar due to a business arrangement.
- R. Gill due to a business arrangement.

CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER – The Chairman welcomed Peter Diamond (PD) to the meeting. Peter signed the Declaration of Acceptance office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

- CL, RD, KN, EM, PD & JT - Cradley Youth Group.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman. The Closed session Minutes were also approved and signed by the Chairman.

Parish Meeting fixed for 22nd April 2008 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Budget of £50. proposed and agreed for light refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits).

CL advised the blacksmith had not returned his call to act as Speaker, but he had since spoken with the Youth Group Leader and will speak to him again. If he attends, RD will give a vote of thanks, or alternatively she agreed to act as Speaker on behalf of the Cradley Youth Group.

Progress report on –

Parish Talk Grant – Clerk advised cheque for original grant of £252. received from Parish Talk Grant for the Newsletter project. Unfortunately our second bid for a grant had proved unsuccessful. CL had however spoken with Nexus which is supported by Advantage West Midlands, where grants were available up to £5,000. to ensure people living in rural areas have access to services. Unanimously agreed that CL pursue this line of enquiry and report back at next meeting and it was suggested that the Youth Group might also find this project of some use.

Pressure Washer – KN advised approval obtained from Chapel for use of water and the Chapel had also offered to store it for us. Order placed with the Company and a pro-forma Invoice will be presented for payment at the next meeting.

Cradley PCC – Clerk advised she had written to Phil Lambert, Treasurer for the PCC advising that the Parish Council had agreed to cap a donation towards the maintenance of the Churchyard at £2,054.00. and advised that in future we do need to see a forecast of expenses by October every year. The Clerk also asked that they do carry out C.C.T. and had requested a meeting with Mr. Lambert to discuss future problems and rising costs. The Clerk had also advised the Treasurer that donations towards churchyard maintenance are made entirely at the discretion of the Parish Council. CL agreed to speak to Mr. Lambert about a meeting.



ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Roads/Bridges – Cllr Rees Mills advised he had spoken with Mrs. Robinson with regard to flooding in Chapel Lane and advised that the work could not be completed until the Building Contractors had finished work. He also reported that work on the Tanhouse Lane junction is nearing completion.

The Chairman asked Cllr Mills if there was a programme of work with regard to the Pumping Station and the eroded bank as nothing appeared on record about what the Environment Agency proposed to do. The construction of Pound Bridge had caused a bottleneck at that point, increasing the flood risk to nearby properties. Clerk to write Herefordshire Council asking for this to be resolved.

Clerk to write Highways Dept. reporting that one side of the bank of the stream that feeds Cradley Brook near Pound Bridge has been cleared, and asking for them to carry out necessary work on their side.

On a proposal by CL seconded by KN and carried, Clerk to ask for a site meeting at the Kingsbridge "T" junction in an attempt to get a large culvert to deal with the run off of water from the fields which causes considerable flooding in that area.

Clerk has reported that one of the arches at Kingsbridge is almost blocked, and will continue to ask for this to be cleared.

Pot-holes – Clerk to report large pot-hole in Chapel Lane near to new development and ask that the grating be cleared out on the left hand side of the road between the School and the shop.

Rectory Lane – On a proposal by KN, seconded by EM and carried, Clerk to ask Herefordshire Council to inspect work carried out by them in Rectory Lane around election time and to carry out further work to improve the surface of the lane which has broken up.

Old School Close – It was agreed that the Chairman arrange a meeting with Crest Development Directors to discuss (a) the verge opposite the development and (b) the footpath at Cow Hill. It was noted that the payment of £17,000. could not be claimed until the fifth non-supported house on the site had been sold.

Financial Report by Clerk – The Clerk reported funds had been received and banked resulting from the Parish Talk Grant amounting to £252. for the Newsletter project.

Following a query by MA at a finance meeting, the Clerk advised she had pursued a claim of income tax deducted on interest received on funds in the Business Money Manager Account. This had resulted in a repayment from the Inland Revenue of £521.22. which the Clerk had repaid into the MM Account. Future interest would now be paid gross.

Arrangements for opening up Cradley Village Hall for meetings – No reply had been received to the request that the Clerk hold a key to Cradley Village Hall. This item was however on the Agenda for the meeting in June of the Management Committee. In the meantime, KN had kindly offered to open up the hall for the Parish Council meetings.

FINANCE - On a proposal by CL., seconded by PS and carried, the following accounts were approved for payment -

• Cradley PCC, donation	£2,054.00.
• Local Council Review subscription	£13.50.
• Donation to Cradley Youth Group	£2,000.00.
• Clerk expenses/allowances	£145.21.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Chairman reported that two applications had been dealt with prior to the Council meeting -

- (1) Conservatory/orangery at Vincyards Farm, Vincyards Lane, Cradley and
- (2) Change of use of land to paddock and erection of new stable block at land on south side of Bromton Cottage, Crumpton Hill Road, Storridge –

No objections had been raised to either application

The Chairman also reported that permission for the conversion and extension of barn to form stables and ménage at Hope End Barns had been granted.

Churchyard Committee – Donation to Cradley PCC agreed and cheque approved for signature. CL will arrange meeting with Phil Lambert, Treasurer to Cradley PCC.

Playing Fields – KN advised inspection system up and running, but feed-back system required. Grass requires cutting and KN will meet with grass contractor. Hedge cutting has been arranged. Footpath on Chapel side needs cleaning out, and aerial flyer will be dismantled and repaired as very noisy when running.

Editorial Group – Next edition due out in about ten days time - DCN will proof read.

Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area – JE of opinion Parish Council should join Herefordshire Council Flood Plan. Original copy of County Flood Plan has been found, so additional copy can be returned, saving expense of purchasing additional copy.

HALC – Nothing to report.

Correspondence received –

Letter – Charles Greco regarding flooding and problems in Chapel Lane area.

Letter – Herefordshire & the Wye Valley re the University of the Great Outdoors 2008.

Letter – Wicksteed enquiring if we wish any work carried out as recommended in their Report.

Letter – Herefordshire Council acknowledging receipt of the Flood Data return.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding temporary closure order for Cradley-Storridge Road.

Letter – HALC enclosing grant of £252. Parish Talk Grant for Newsletter.

Letter – Worcestershire County Council regarding waste core strategy.

E-mail - Don Hurlle “that Storridge PCC is most grateful for the important contribution to their costs”.

Letter – Cradley Chapel “that the Chapel is indebted to the PC for the donation and advising that they assume the costs will remain at this level for the next financial year”.

E-mail – HALC that “unfortunately the panel were not happy to award grant money for our last application to produce a guide to social groups in the area”.

Literature received –

Northern Area Planning sub-Committee Agenda.

Wicksteed “playscapes”.

Local Council update.

Herefordshire Council – including update from Clare Wichbold on Grants, information on forthcoming Landlords’ Forum in April, Arts Service booklet on Village Artmarkers project and consultation document concerning modernization of day opportunities which will be of interest to Herefordshire’s older population.

The Clerk magazine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dew' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

08/17

Newsletter Items – Welcome to Peter Diamond, Parish Talk Grant and looking to other Agencies for funding for Cradley Guide, purchase of pressure-washer, roads/bridges, meeting with Crest Developments, Playing Fields working party will be cutting the hedge, the flyer will be taken out of action and asking local people to report pot-holes to Councillors.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

Clerk to chase Severn Trent Water for a report with regard to all the points they agreed to carry out when they attended a meeting with the PC and also with regard to sewage and the outflow from the sewage farm itself.

Next meeting will be the Parish Meeting on the 22nd April at Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 13th May 2008.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated..... 13/5/08