

07/17

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Cradley Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 8th May 2007 in Cradley Village Hall at 7pm.

DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE were signed in the presence of and witnessed by the Clerk by D. Creed-Newton (DCN) M. Allfrey (MA) F. Beard (FB) K. Nason (KN) C. Lowder (CL) R. Gill (RG) E. Mikata (EM) K. Turnbull (KT) R. Diamond (RD) and A. Eldridge (AE).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN for 2007/08 –

MA proposed RG, who advised he was unable to accept the Office of Chairman.

On proposal by RG, seconded by KN and carried, David Creed-Newton was elected as Chairman for the coming year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

AN APOLOGY had been received and accepted from John Edgar who was away on business.

PERSONAL DECLARATIONS of interest were declared as follows -

- MA – Storridge PCC.
- KN - Village Hall and NCRA.
- CL – Clock and Cradley Village Hall.
- DCN – Cradley Village Hall.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN for 2007/08 – On proposal by MA, seconded by FB and carried Roger Gill was re-appointed as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SUB-COMMITTEES for coming year as follows

Planning Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, RD, MA, FB, & KN.

Playing Fields – Chairman, Vice Chairman, KT, CL & AE.

CL to arrange first meeting.

Churchyards Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, KT, FB & CL.

Footpaths Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, EM, AE, CL & JE.

Cradley Village Hall Management Committee – CL.

Storridge Village Hall Management Committee – FB.

HALC – Chairman and MA.

Charities of Richard Hill – Dr.S. Herriot, Mr.M. Clarke, Mrs. D. Cale & Mr. F. Beard.

Whitmans Hill Quarry Representative – FB.

CHEQUE SIGNATORIES – On proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, it was proposed AE & MA be appointed as additional signatories to the Bank Account.

New Mandate was signed and completed.

EDITOR OF REPORTER – KN was appointed on proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried.

CORRESPONDENT FOR PARISH NEWSLETTER – On proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried, CL was appointed as correspondent for the Newsletter.

CODE OF CONDUCT – On proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried the Parish Council adopted the New Code of Conduct which came into force on 3rd May 2007.

REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS – These were handed out to all members and Councillors asked to complete and return them to the Clerk, as soon as possible.

MINUTES of Meeting held on 10th April 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR – On proposal by DCN, seconded by FB and carried, Terry Robshaw was re-appointed as Internal Auditor to the Parish Council for the coming year.

SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL REPORTING – On proposal by FB, seconded by RG and carried, it was agreed to hold a half yearly audit to the end of September with a final audit of the Accounts to the end of March every year.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

NCRA – KN advised he had been unable to get the group together to discuss the possible commitments required in accepting a lease of the Buryfields play area, but would do so and report back at the next meeting. The Chairman explained the situation for the benefit of new members.

SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT – Draft letter being prepared to be forwarded to the Clerk for submission regarding problems with sewerage in the Village.

Authority given to RG & MA to carry on pursuing this matter on proposal by FB, seconded by CL and carried.

SERVICE AGREEMENT for St. James' Clock – The Clerk advised on figures received from Smiths of Derby for a 3,4 or 5 year Contract, with the five year contract resulting in a 15% saving on the basic yearly price of approximately £198.26.

RESOLVED – On proposal by RG, seconded by CL and carried that the Parish Council enter into a three year Service Agreement for the Clock, at a price of £459, offering an approximate saving of £71.67.

Storrige PCC – CL reported on advice received from HALC and the contents of the Good Councillor Guide, both advising that the Parish Council are not obliged to make any payments to PCC's for burial ground expenses. HALC also advised that the Parish Council should not make retrospective payments. With regard to the payment to Storrige PCC, the Council had made a payment of 50% of the cost of tarmacing the paths in the Churchyards, and 70% towards the other expenses incurred, as agreed in previous correspondence.

RESOLVED – On recommendation from CL, seconded by KT and carried, it was agreed that the Parish Council write to Storrige PCC that the Parish Council had abided by its agreement in the past two years, and that we were not prepared to increase the payment towards the tarmac work to the paths. It was also recommended that the Parish Council write to all three PCCs advising what we are empowered to pay for and that the Parish Council is not bound to pay anything, and repeating request to be notified by October each year of their requirements for the next financial year, starting in April 2008.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Crumpton Hill Common Land – FB reported that a group of residents in the area had cleaned up the small piece of land which was registered as common land in the early 70's, and recommended that the Parish Council writing thanking them for taking over what might have been the responsibility of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – On proposal by FB, seconded by RG and carried that the Clerk write to Mr. J. Barber thanking him and the other residents for their hard work in cleaning up the small area of land.

Riley Motor Cycling - FB reported on nuisance by motor cyclists in the field below three houses on the Bromyard Road on a Sunday and causing a considerable amount of noise. It was agreed we need to know exactly which field is referred to and then the Parish Council can take more action and FB agreed to report back at the next meeting.

JW

07/19

Parish Council entry to Cradley Flower Festival – EM and RD kindly agreed to make a small floral arrangement on behalf of the Parish Council for entry into the Cradley Flower Festival, advising that they felt they could get most of the materials from around the Village.

RESOLVED – On proposal by MA, seconded by RG and carried, that the Parish Council would make funds available if any expense had been incurred.

FINANCE – The Following accounts had been received for payment –

- Lengthsman, April 2007 £400.00.
- HALC – Subscription to 31.3.08 £283.84.
- Storrige Village Hall hire fees £50.00.
- MCB Landscapes, grass cutting £82.25.
- Viking Direct, stationery & colour cartridges £59.15.
- Local Council Review subscription £13.50.
- Clerk's allowances and expenses £167.44.

MA & FB left the room

On proposal by CL, seconded by DCN and carried, it was agreed to pay hire fees of £50. for the hire of Storrige Village Hall.

MA & FB rejoined the meeting

On proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed to pay the remaining Accounts and cheques were signed accordingly for all the payments.

The Chairman closed the Meeting to allow public participation

Jane Pilling enquired if the Parish Council knew what was happening to the small piece of ground on the corner of Russell Goode's property. MA of the opinion that he had sold the bungalow, retaining the land and had cleared the scrub.

The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE received –

Letter, John Rowe concerning 30mph repeater sign located opposite Barretts Cottage and also the speed indicator displays.

Letter, Hugh Bond regarding HGVs using the lanes in the Village.

Letter, Standards Board for England regarding new Code of Conduct for members which came into force from 3rd May 2007.

Letter, M. Hames concerning anonymous complaint regarding removal of holly hedge and the Clerk's reply to that letter.

Letter, Herefordshire Council with dates of Community Forums.

Letter, Hugh Wagstaffe advising that Governors of Cradley School could not accept any responsibility for the fence, not only was it reinstated correctly after the laying the sewer, but, following subsequent damage by children, it was re-created by their Contractor with an extra straining post.

Letter, Smiths of Derby advising that Service Agreement for the clock at St. James' Church would need to be paid for in advance.

John

LITERATURE received –

HALC Information Corner adopting new Code of Conduct. 7th National Seminar on Common Land and Town and Village Greens, Good Councillor Guide, Clerks on the move and Solicitor used to dealing with Parish Council Matters.

Herefordshire Volunteers of the Year Awards 2007.

Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2007.

Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy Summary 2006.

Herefordshire Council for circulation – Bus and train timetable, Fire Service

Information, Funding opportunities and update on rural Post Office situation produced by the Rural Shops Alliance (RSA).

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER – appointments, Crumpton Hill common land, Hugh Bond's letter, Service Agreement for clock, and vacancies for four Councillors.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –

Standard of painting of the equipment on Chapel Lane playing field.

KN will approach all new Councillors for items for the next issue of the Newsletter.

FB reported where children stand to catch school bus at top of Buryfields is not large enough and requires extending. KN will look at it and report back at next meeting.

MA enquired whether the Parish Council need to fill in a "Nil" expenses return.

CL reported that verges around Lower Brookside need a cut.

DCN reported that the playing fields need to be cut.

Tree in the brook at Kingsbridge has still not been moved, and there is now a Council sign in the brook at the same place.

Nothing further to report on Bearswood Lane.

On a proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried the Council agreed to go into closed session.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed.....  Dated..... 12/6/2007.....