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THE ANNUAL MEETING of Cradley Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 13th May 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – D. Creed-Newton (DCN), K. Nason (KN), R. Diamond (RD) E. Mikata (EM) F. Beard (FB) M. Allfrey (MA) C. Lowder (CL) J. Edgar (JE) P. Diamond (PD) P. Stanley (PS) A. Eldridge (AE) M. Brooksbank (MB) M. Sherrif (MS) J. Tudor (JT) Cllr. Rees Mills (RM) and Mr. D. Johnson

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN for 2008/09 –

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

AN APOLOGY had been received and accepted from R. Gill who was away on business.

PERSONAL DECLARATIONS of interest were declared as follows –

- CL, KN, & DCN – Cradley Village Hall.

PREJUDICIAL DECLARATIONS – none received.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN for 2008/09 – On proposal by MA, seconded by JE 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 – Committee agreed to be Chairman, Vice Chairman, MA, RD, MS, FB, KN, AE and PS.

On a proposal by KN, seconded by JE and carried, MA was elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2008/09. The Planning Chairman agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference as existing.

Playing Fields – Chairman, Vice Chairman, ~~PS~~ PS, MS, CL, KN & AE. *Deu*

On a proposal by CL seconded by PS and carried KN was appointed as Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee.

Churchyards Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, MB, PS, FB & CL.

On a proposal by MS seconded by RD and carried, CL was appointed Chairman of the Churchyards Committee.

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

On a proposal by CL, seconded by AE and carried JE was appointed Chairman of the Footpaths Committee.

Cradley Village Hall Management Committee – On a proposal by MA, seconded by MS and carried CL and DCN were happy to carry on as the Parish Council Representatives for the Cradley Village Hall Management Committee.

Storrige Village Hall Management Committee – On a proposal by MA seconded by CL and carried FB was appointed as the Parish Council Representative for the Storrige Village Hall Management Committee.

H.A.L.C – MA advised that this was open to any Councillor who wished to attend. MA said he would endeavour to attend and report back at meetings.

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

Mrs. Cale was the retiring member this year but had indicated that she was willing to be re-appointed onto the Committee.

Employment matters – Committee to consist of former Chairman, the existing Chairman and Vice Chairman. On a proposal by CL, seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed this arrangement should continue.

Finance Working Group – Chairman, Vice Chairman, MA and JT.

Editorial Group – CL and KN.

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Parish Plan Group – Committee to consist of JE, RD, CL, EM, PD, JT, MB and MS. JE advised that the group were looking at Planning for Real and would be applying to the Parish Council for a budget and also needed to buy new Planning for Real Kit. As before, the Parish Council acts as facilitator for the Parish Plan with a view to involving as many members of the Parish as is possible, so that it is their Plan

Cheque Signatories – On proposal by FB, seconded by RD and carried, it was agreed existing signatories should be reappointed consisting of AE, DCN, RG, MA and the Clerk.

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.

On a proposal by JE seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed to increase the Honorarium to £75.

REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS – The Clerk requested all Councillors to ensure that their Declarations of Interest Forms were up to date and accurate.

THE MINUTES of the Meeting held on 8th April 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL REPORTING – On proposal by JT, seconded by MS and carried, it was agreed the existing arrangement of financial reporting to the end of September and March every year should continue.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

Nexus Grant - CL advised he had nothing to report, but hoped to be in a position to report back at the next meeting.

Cradley PCC – CL reported that a meeting was to take place on 27th May 2008 with Phil Lambert, Treasurer of the PCC in Cradley Village Hall when he and DCN would attend on behalf of the Parish Council and report back at the next meeting.

Roads/Bridges – The Chairman reported that he and CL had met with Joe Neil from Herefordshire Highways. Some work had already been done at the Mathon “T” junction including a guard rail at Kingsbridge. They had also inspected the Pound Bridge area and the drain has been cleared.

Joe Neil reported that Highways have set up a “Parish Initiative” which should improve reporting of work required and the work being carried out.

The Chairman thanked RM for all his work, and the Clerk was instructed to write to two land owners Brian Harrison and Geoff Voss pointing out difficulties we have had with flooding and enquiring if there was anything they could do to clear overhanging foliage and blockages occurring in the future.

The Clerk was also to write to Joe Neil thanking him for his prompt action in getting some remedial work done.

Liaison with Crest Developments at Old School Close - The Chairman reported that they hoped to complete the site in September. As soon as the major earthmoving had been completed, reparations would be made to Cow Lane and to the verge opposite the site entrance. At this time, there would be further liaison with them.

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Rectory Lane – The Clerk advised that Tim Thompson had inspected Rectory Lane and advised that it was considered “fit for purpose”. The Clerk was to write to Rob Hemblade, with a copy to Tim Thompson and Phil Lambert, advising that this was unlike standard footpaths because it was used both day and night, quite often by people of a frail disposition and enquiring if Hereford Council have notified their Insurance Co. of the likelihood of claims being made.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Response to Herefordshire Council for education reform – PD proposed that following the report by Dawn Hyett at the Parish Meeting, the Parish Council carry out some research and put forward their views to Herefordshire Council on their proposals for school mergers. In addition, there was a possibility that Cradley might lose their Doctors’ surgery under proposals to form Polyclinics throughout the County. He suggested the Council might form sub-committees to put forward some proposals for the Parish Council to consider.

MA declared a prejudicial interest and left the room

On a proposal by PD, seconded by MB and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council take an interest in preparing a reasoned response about education and form a working group to deal with this issue. JE considered that this could be undertaken by the Parish Plan Group as a separate topic and this was agreed following a proposal by PD seconded by JT and carried.

MA REJOINED THE MEETING

On a proposal by PD seconded by PS and carried, it was also agreed that the Parish Plan Group would take on the probable threat to the Doctors surgery in the Village to be replaced with a Polyclinic in Hereford. JE agreed to submit a timetable for this at the next meeting and report back in due course to the Parish Council with some reasoned response from this Council to the Chairman of the Primary Care Trust.

The Chairman closed the meeting at this time to allow public participation

Attending the meeting was Hugh Forsyth from Stoncy Villa complaining about the numerous potholes throughout the Village and he advised that he had taken this up direct with Herefordshire Council. The Chairman commented that he hoped the formation of the Parish Initiative scheme would help in the future and CL agreed to work with Mr. Forsyth on behalf of the Parish Council to deal with these matters.

Also attending the meeting was Mr. D. Johnson who expressed his thanks to every member of the Parish Council, and also to County Councillor Rees Mills in pressing for Herefordshire Council to carry out improvements to the Tanhouse Lane junction on the main Hereford/Worcester Road. An official opening had taken place earlier in the week. DCN thanked both Mr. Johnson and the Revd. J. Moseley for their private assistance in the improvement to the junction.

FINANCE – The following accounts had been received for payment –

- HALC – Subscription to 31.3.09. £330.52.
- Storridge Village Hall hire fees £50.00.
- Viking Direct, stationery £133.00.
- Intranetics, jet pressure washer £224.99.
- Herefordshire Council, election charges £37.29.
- E.Mikata, refreshment charges for Parish Meeting £31.00
- Clerk's allowances and expenses £157.48.

On proposal by RD, seconded by KN and carried, payment of the above Accounts were approved and cheques signed accordingly.

CORRESPONDENCE received –

Letter, Herefordshire Council newsletter regarding grant for Parish Councils, funds for young people/Youth Opportunities, grant for conservation project that enhances countryside, Samaritans Open day and advertisement, Breast Cancer poster, Herefordshire pride award and letter regarding on-going consultation with schools and governors.

Letter, Cradley PCC thanking PC for donation.

Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding project development funding advice sessions at Colwall.

Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding Parish Initiative which is to provide each parish with a fair and consistent service to deal with reported minor highways defects.

Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding bus stop at Buryfields. ***Clerk to reply that we did not want a shelter, but merely the existing standing area extended for safety reasons.***

Letter, Chris Hook, Editor of the Newsletter for Cradley Mathon and Storridge requesting names of Chairman, Clerk and others to be included in the Newsletter.

On proposal by MA, seconded by KN and carried, Clerk was to provide the requested information.

Letter, Andrew Cripwell, Homehouse Farm, Tanhouse Lane that they had applied for diversion of bridleway CD18.

E-mail from Chairman advising on agreed points at meeting with Joseph Neil.

E-mail, Alison Hodge, ST Water, following their attendance at PC Meeting.

Letter, Herefordshire Council re possible funding for renewable energy projects.

Letter, Herefordshire Council advising end of "lost ways" project.

Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding provision of sandbags.

Local Authority ~Event, Questionnaire, H.M.Customs & Excise.

Training Course for the Clerk "Working with your Council" – ***on proposal by MA, seconded by PD and carried, Clerk was to enrol on this Course.***

LITERATURE received –

Invitation to AGM of Ledbury Alcohol & Drug Forum.

Herefordshire Voluntary Action free consultation on employment law.

Clerks & Councils Direct.

Local Council review magazine.

NALC conference in Eastbourne.

Festival Housing Group newsletter.

HALC Information Corner.

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ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER – New members on various Committees, roads/bridges meeting, Rectory Lane, and response to Herefordshire Council's proposal for education reform and the consideration to changes for Doctors surgeries under the Primary Care Trust.

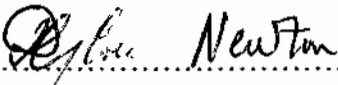
ITEMS for future Agendas –

Pot holes at the bottom of Tanhouse Lane outside entrance to Pitlock Farm.
Report that residence of Brookside appear to be emptying their cuttings down into the brook – Clerk to write to all residents in Brookside asking them to refrain from doing this.

NEXT MEETING to take place in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday, 10th June 2008 at 7.30pm.

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

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.....  Dated..... 10 June 2008.....