

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 13th November 2007 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received from J. Tudor (JT) and K. Turnbull (KT).

Approval was given for J.T's absence due to business meeting. The Chairman advised that KT had verbally resigned from the Council but this was to be confirmed in writing.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

- KN – Buryfields Lease and Village Hall.
- CL – Glebe land and Village Hall.
- JE & DCN - Village Hall.
- RG – Drainage issues.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – None received.

MINUTES –The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman on a proposal by FB, seconded by JE and carried.

Progress report on -

Buryfields Lease to NCRA - KN advised the Chairman of the NCRA had advised the proposal for a lease had fallen through due to various unsafe and possibly illegal events taking place on the land, but confirmed that the Police had not been advised.

Extension to bus standing area at Buryfields – Clerk reported e-mail received regarding proposed extension to the bus standing area. KN has spoken to the land owner who would not be happy for the hedge being removed, but happy for it to be cut back to enable some work to be carried out. – Clerk to advise accordingly.

Old School Site – Concerns expressed by local resident regarding size of affordable homes on offer, which appear not to meet required standard. It was hoped to receive Specification for the homes in due course. Housing Association have now confirmed that affordable homes should have a local connection to Cradley, and the Clerk confirmed she had advised Herefordshire Council that a change to Old School Close, as opposed to School Grange had been agreed by them.

Upheaval over the road continued, the Police have been advised. MA felt road closure had not caused too much inconvenience, and it was agreed a letter should be sent to Balfour Beatty thanking them for their assistance and consideration during this difficult time.

RG of the opinion that the PC should have got more involved in project from the outset with lessons to be learnt for any future development of this nature.

Cradley's Conservation Area – JE advised nothing further to report; full committee now appointed with first meeting due next week.

Sewerage Management – It was agreed to await the arrival of the Representative from ST Water. RG confirmed he would send draft letters to the Clerk for submission to Ofwat and the Environment Agency regarding information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Drainage issues – Await arrival of Representative from Severn Trent Water.

Parish Talk Grant – Clerk advised this was not available retrospectively for her purchase of a new Computer. Councillors asked to come forward with ideas at the next meeting for any eligible improvements which could be made for better communication with parishioners.

DCN

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Tanhouse Lane junction – RG advised Mr. Johnson had heard from Herefordshire Council that this work will be commenced before the end of this year. Revd. Moseley very keen for work to be put in hand. Clerk also advised she had been informed work should hopefully commence in the near future.

Accidents on the Hereford/Worcester Road – MA advised efforts had been made for the last thirty years to get something done on this road, which does not have one particular “black-spot”. However, between The New Inn and The Severn Stars, 12 people have been killed in the last ten years. FB advised a speed van had been in the area on a fairly regular basis, and he was asked to monitor when the van is on the road, and an enquiry should be made regarding the average speed recorded.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed a letter should be sent to the Safety Camera Partnership enquiring what the average speed is that they record.

Consideration to join Parish Paths Scheme – JE advised the Footpaths Officers are very keen to do something about this. It was agreed to form a working party to give consideration to this proposal in view of the capped benefit available from Herefordshire Council and the fact that Cradley had approximately 57 kilometers of footpaths in the Parish. JE agreed to report back in January.

Quotations for tree felling – Two quotations had been received –

- R. Hadley – £80.
- Peter Denley - £75.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by RG and carried, it was agreed to accept Peter Denley’s Quotation for removal of the tree which had fallen over the fence at 17 Buryfields.

KN advised Ron Hadley had agreed to submit a Quotation for repair to another fence at Buryfields. MA agreed to let the Clerk have the name of another Contractor who might also be prepared to submit a price for the repair of the fence, so that this could be discussed at the next PC Meeting.

Restoration of bank at Cradley Brook, work on Culvert etc - Work to the culvert had been done. Work at Cradley brook has not been done. Ron Richardson advised he was waiting for Severn Trent to do their part of the work before he is able to proceed with his responsibility. Rats have been seen at Pound Bridge and it was agreed that if Representative from ST Water does not attend this meeting, arrangements must be made for attendance at another meeting as a matter of some urgency.

Half yearly Accounts to 31st September 2007 – Prepared by T. Robshaw and circulated to all Councillors before the meeting.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by KN seconded by CL and carried, it was decided to accept these as drawn and they were signed by the Chairman.

Gross Payment of Interest – Following a query by MA, the Clerk advised she had received confirmation from HALC that interest on investments should be gross rather than net, and the Clerk was authorised to pursue this with a view to obtaining a possible refund of tax paid over several years.

Budget/Precept to March 09. – Finance Working Group had met in October to look at projections for second half year and for 2008, and a Precept of £17,000. had been recommended for submission and approval by full Council.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by MA and carried, it was agreed the PC set the precept for 2007/08 at £17,000. Clerk to enquire how and when the agreed payment of £17,000. would be paid by Herefordshire Council for the play area at Old School Close so that the PC could consider projects for these funds.

FINANCE CL, JE, KN & DC-N left the room –

The Vice Chairman took the Chair -

On proposal by MA seconded by FB and carried the following accounts were approved for payment

- Donation to Cradley Village Hall £2,136.19.
- Cradley Village Hall hire fees £72.00.

CL, JE, KN & DC-N rejoined the meeting.

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

- Terry Robshaw, honorarium £50.00.
- Severn Trent Water – drainage plan £23.50.
- Welsh Water – drainage plan £28.00.
- Viking Direct, stationery £156.07.
- Clerk expenses/allowances £192.19.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Planning Committee chairman reported that three tree applications had been considered at the planning meeting prior to the parish council meeting. He also reported on approved, withdrawn or refused applications as notified by Herefordshire Council.

With regard to Certificates for lawful use of premises, the Vice Chairman asked Councilors to be mindful of anyone in the village inhabiting against any regulations to let either Herefordshire Council or himself know so that the matter can be investigated.

Playing Fields – KN advised no committee meeting had taken place, but they had met at Buryfields regarding the fence. It was planned to hold a meeting in November.

Editorial Group – Draft Reporter circulated, with publication and distribution planned for next week – all comments to KN as soon as possible.

Parish Plan Group – Nothing to report until after meeting next week. Report available in January.

HALC – MA confirmed nothing to report.

Correspondence received –

Letter – M. Hames to Bill Wiggin regarding sat-navigation systems.

Letter – M. Hames to Parish Council regarding Chockbury Lane and Pixie Lane, including copy letter from Fiona Miles at Herefordshire Council to M. Hames concerning Chockbury Lane.

Clerk to ask for sign at Pixie Lane.

Letter – Ron Attridge to PC regarding amount of mud and other debris deposited on road in vicinity of Kings Orchard from the building site at the old school premises.

Clerk to reply advising he should report matter to Police.

Letter – HCC regarding review of Polling District and stations within Herefordshire.

Letter – HCC – regarding costs of election, invoices for which should be received by end of November.

Clerk to advise PC most unhappy about closure of Storrige Village Hall as a polling station.

Letter – Standards Board for England – regarding adoption of Code of Conduct.

Letter – Herefordshire Council advising of Senior Management role changes in Highways and Transportation.

Copy handed to Chairman – with copies to follow for MA, CL & RD.

Letter – Herefordshire Council information pack.

Letter – ST Water regarding adequacy of public sewer.

Letter – HCC for The Grove, Chapel Lane, re certificate of lawful development for single storey conservatory to rear of property, and enquired if the Council could offer any background information regarding the application site that may be beneficial to the Case Officer in determining the application.

Handed to vice-Chairman for attention.

Literature received –

Speaking Out, including getting village greens registered.
Clerks & Councils Direct,
Herefordshire NHS results of survey on future of public services in Herefordshire.
Local Council Review from NALC.
Leaflets on Malvern Hills AONB.
Northern Area Planning Sub-Committee Agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation .

Gentleman advised that Churchfields Lane was also in a bad condition, as well as the road up to the Cradley Village Hall, and the Chairman confirmed that this Lane would be included in request for repairs.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Newsletter Items – Accidents on main road Worcester/Hereford, Severn Trent failed to attend meeting, proposed enlargement of bus standing area at Buryfields, approval of half yearly accounts, precept, resignation of K. Turnbull, Polling Station closure at Storridge (encouraging people to write in to Herefordshire Council and local MP), Tanhouse Lane, sat-navigation and HGV sign at Chockbury Lane, and wishing all Parishioners a Happy Christmas.

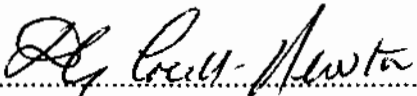
Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

Cradley Youth (RD), thanks to everyone involved in Cradley Play, Dog fouling problems and co-option of members (names of people to be co-opted to be circulated before next meeting).

Next meeting to take place on 8th January 2008.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....