

For Newsletter

Parish Council Meeting 8th January 2013

Storrige Village Hall

Opening the first meeting of 2013, the Chair welcomed County Councillor Tony Johnston and members of the public, then brought Question Time to the start of the Agenda. Denis Johnson spoke of anomalies he had experienced with Herefordshire Planning Department to do with intended repairs to his farm buildings. Tony Johnston offered to take up his case and seek clarification as to their requirements. Denis also said that when he had previously applied to be co-opted on to Council, he was surprised he had not been contacted. It was pointed out that each new vacancy requires a new application, which would be duly voted on at Council.

In his general report to Council, Tony Johnston repeated his grim tidings of belt tightening by Herefordshire due to harsh Whitehall cutbacks. He announced that the newly-appointed CEO of Herefordshire Council was Alistair Neil who will take up the position on 1st March.

Ex-Councillor Dick Harris from Huntingdon gave a briefing on the sewage outflow from the pumping station at Kingsbridge. Sewage escaping from the pumping station was flowing into the road on the south side of Kingsbridge and then into the Cradley brook. He said that Severn Trent did not feel there was a problem as they had had only two reports on the matter – although Dick himself had already logged seven instances this year alone and displayed photos and video of the problem, and Council writes regularly to Severn Trent on the matter –but see separate piece on the problem, and how you can help the Parish Council.

Herefordshire Housing wants to arrange a Consultation Day at Cradley Village Hall to inform residents of future housing needs for Cradley. Original expectations were for a January meeting but Planning has gone strangely quiet (the Festive Season?) and we are still waiting for a firm date.

Rectory Lane: After the big holiday shut down (see above) Herefordshire Amey is just getting back to work. Chris Chillingworth has informed your Council that he expects the preliminary reports to be ready for the end of January with a decision (that Rectory Lane be placed on the Roads Register) made soon after. We look forward to that decision before the first anniversary of our application (Ah! -- the wheels of government do turn so slowly!).

Your Council approved and adopted the Budget and Precept requirements for 2013/2014 as per the finance committee recommendations. Thanks to 'good housekeeping' and forward planning the Precept will be set at £25,000 for the coming year (£1000 increase on this year).

Councillor Brian Gordon reported on his attendance at the local Parish Council Cluster Group set up to funnel ideas to the County Council under the Localism Act. The main topic of the meeting was road safety in the Parishes and Cradley responded with concerns over the A4103 from the Bromyard junction to the Storrige junction, with suggestions for the possible implementation of 40mph restrictions, and extensions of the double white line markings to the centre of the carriageway. It

was felt that this would go a long way to making this stretch of road much safer for users and residents. The suggestions would be examined and a firmed up policy would be presented at the next Cluster Group meeting in March.

Councillor Ken Nason announced that the newly designed web site – www.cradleyparishcouncil.org.uk -- was up and running, though historic Minutes, etc., were still being added to the archives.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm, on Tuesday 12th February at Storridge Village Hall.

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