

Newsletter July 2013

Parish Council meeting 11th June 2013

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30hrs and welcomed Councillor Carl Attwood and guest speaker Mike Willmont from Hereford Planning.

Carl Attwood started his report to the Council by announcing that Tony Johnston, our other local Councillor had been elected leader of Hereford Council. Our Congratulations to Tony and we are sure the experience and skills he brings to the job will be an asset to Herefordshire.

The main gist of Carl's report was to reinforce previous statements on the severe cutbacks being implemented by Herefordshire Council. These were well under way and would have far reaching effects on the County finances. He assured councillors that social support for vulnerable members of the community would be protected as a matter of priority. The one redeeming factor in the whole cost cutting exercise was that departments in the Council were becoming more steam-lined and hopefully more efficient.

In answer to a question from the Chair regarding the time scale for changes in Ward boundaries and attaining single Councillor representation for wards Carl stated that he felt this would not happen before the next election.

Mike Willmont, who is head of neighbourhood planning, gave a very interesting presentation on the implications of revised planning law and the involvement of Parish Councils in producing neighbourhood plans for their communities. In future the needs and desires of communities on planning in their neighbourhood plans would form basic planning criteria for their area, and Planning departments would have to give such plans over-riding consideration in their decision making on planning applications.

The planning department now has 95% of planning matters online including applying, objecting , and decisions. Indeed we as a Council have to view all of the application electronically when giving our opinions on applications. Any application can be viewed online at Herefordshire Council's site or through the PC's site at www.cradleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Mike also went into the monies available to local communities from developments in the area which increases with the community having a neighbourhood plan in place.

Next month's (July) our guest speaker will be on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty(AONB) and August will see representation from Herefordshire on Affordable housing.

A letter from FOCS (friends of Cradley School) was received seeking support from the Parish Council for alterations to the road area adjacent to the School to help alleviate the problems caused by parents parking at School drop off and collection times. Whilst the Council have much sympathy with the problems experienced it was felt that this was something that is in the hands of the School to solve either with Herefordshire highways or with the parents causing the problem in the first place.

It was voted that the Council seek quotes for the renovation and securing of Parish notice boards. In addition to renovation the boards to the recreation areas need to have secure protection to avoid required safety notices and by-laws being removed.

Please can parents who's children use the Chapel Lane recreation area inform their children that stones thrown from the soil heap, that is awaiting landscaping, onto the grass area has already caused expensive repairs to one of the mowing machines used by the contractors.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:46hrs

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th July