

Cradley Parish Council meeting 13th November Storridge Village Hall

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed two members of the public.

The Chair welcomes *** as an invited guest speaker who gave an interesting insight into the complexities of listed buildings and conservation areas. This was of great value to the Council in relation to the number of listed buildings within the Parish and their involvement in planning issues.

Tony Johnstone, our district Councillor gave a briefing on matters arising at Herefordshire council. He reported that a new chief executive had now been appointed but the details of who were not yet public. As discussions on finance were still on-going he was only able to give an indication on possible trends. He stated that the council was having to make savings in the region of £45m and that despite offers of a subsidised fixed rate of 1% council tax support from central government the council was leaning towards looking at a 1.9% annual increase in council tax in the next few periods. They felt that this would alleviate a very large increase in council tax down the line which would be required due to the low support offered by government.

Members of your council met for a second time with representatives of Herefordshire housing department on the question of “affordable” housing that Hereford want to site in Cradley. After our last meeting Hereford agreed to investigate the amount of accommodation available from the two housing associations that operate in the area. This was requested by your council as we felt that Hereford had not taken this into account when they made their assessment of “affordable” housing needs. Unfortunately they had to admit that they had been unable, to date, to obtain the full details of the turnover and vacancy numbers for such properties and would continue to seek the information. We feel that until they do so no proper assessment of need can be made. We await their information.

On Rectory Lane: the submissions made by the Church and village hall have now been in the hands of Herefordshire Amey for consideration and recent contact suggests that we will receive a formal decision very soon. What a Christmas present that would be!

Your council resolved to press ahead with the replacement and updating of the safety matting to the Chapel Lane recreation area and estimates of cost will be sought.

Councillor Alan Aldridge announced that the new Parish notice board to house a Parish map in Rectory Lane was ready for delivery and installation and the Council voted for a green livery with white lettering. It was pointed out by the Clerk that the paving slabs to the Storridge Parish notice board were unsafe and Councillor Aldridge was tasked with liaising with those tasked with erecting the new Rectory Lane notice board to make the necessary repairs.

The Council voted to adopt the provided Financial Regulations and Standing Orders documents provided by the Clerk and to comply with required regulations to have them displayed on the new website which Councillor Nason stated would be live within a couple of weeks.

The Chair welcomed an application to be co-opted onto the Council from Geoff Fielding. He was thus co-opted to the Council signed the documentation provided by the Clerk and took his place with the Council. Welcome Geoff.

The Chair wished Councillors an very early season's greetings and reminded councillors that the council does not meet in December

The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th January 8th at Storridge Village Hall

The Chair conveyed the Council's best wishes for the coming Christmas and New Year from Cradley Parish Council to the people of Cradley and Storridge

The meeting closed at 22:04hrs