

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 11th February at Storridge Village Hall, and here are some of the issues discussed:

County Councillor report – Carl Attwood outlined some of the county budget discussions regarding reductions, and issues around the long-term two-county waste contract, as well as those concerning the Balfour Beatty contract. County councillors are clearly queuing up to raise matters with Balfour Beatty – here in Cradley and Storridge, we emphasised to Carl how important matters such as Rectory Lane, Pound Bridge, potholes etc are to the community.

Salt Bins - following last month's decision, our clerk was delighted to report that four new bins had been purchased and installed by the Parish Council, and they have been filled with grit by the County Council.

Post Office Services for Cradley – there is publicity elsewhere for the new service to operate from Cradley Village Hall, but councillors were delighted to hear that a part-time service would be established in the village, as a joint initiative between the Village Hall and the Parish Council. Like all community services, the old maxim **USE IT OR LOSE IT** will apply as ever of course.

Pound Bridge Closure – the parish council will put as much pressure on Herefordshire Council as it can to reopen Pound Bridge, which had to be closed for safety reasons. We all know it is a vital pedestrian link between the two halves of the village, including as a 'safe route' to school for many young people.

Parish Notice Boards – we have still not received acceptable quotes to do this work unfortunately. However, a volunteer has kindly come forward to sort out the Chapel Lane Playing Fields one at least.

Co-option of New Parish Councillor – it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Dr Sarah Herriot, who will be available after Easter.

Chapel Lane Playing Fields – there is a scheme from the Forestry Commission for providing free saplings to parishes and we hope to take advantage of that. The cost of levelling some of the field to make a flatter games area is being investigated. The idea of including exercise equipment to make an all-age-group outdoor gym has also been raised, funded by grants and outside bodies (not the parish precept) - please let us know whether you would be interested in using this (could be great fun and healthy for adults as well as younger folk of course), as we need to know before our next parish council meeting.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – the NDP group has been working hard to move things forward and very soon there will be a questionnaire for all parishioners to fill in so that the Plan can truly represent the feelings of the community.

Planning - there is now a link on the Parish Council website to take you directly to the Planning section of the Herefordshire Council website.

The next parish council meeting will be held on 11th March at 7.30 in Storridge Village Hall.

WYNNE HARRIES