

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th October at Storridge Village Hall, and here are some of the issues that were discussed:

County Councillors' Reports

1. Hereford Hospital: Councillor Carl Attwood informed the meeting that Hereford Hospital has been put in special measures following a generally critical report by inspectors. However, this was a mixed report with positives and negatives, and, since it was written, a new Chairman and Chief Executive have been appointed to the Trust, and work is in hand to make the necessary improvements.
2. Hereford United: Councillor Tony Johnson reminded everyone that Herefordshire Council is one of the creditors owed money by Hereford United Football Club, and nothing more could be said until court proceedings are complete.
3. Footpaths Arrangements: Councillor Geoff Fielding forcefully pointed out to the county councillors that footpaths officers and parish councils had still not been contacted by Balfour Beatty regarding any new arrangements for the management and maintenance of footpaths – despite repeated enquiries. This matter has been raised by the Parish Council with county councillors before, and it is now several months without any action on matters such as insurance of footpaths officers, etc. Tony Johnson undertook to look into the matter as a priority – let's hope I can report more positively on this matter in future newsletters.

Planning and Communication

Not for the first time, your Parish Council expressed great frustration with Herefordshire Council, this time to do with a lack of communication regarding decisions on important and contentious planning matters. I am sure you can guess that I am referring to the proposed Pixiefields development on this occasion! As many of you will know, the County has approved the development in outline, but voted that matters such as the exact density of housing etc should come back to Committee for final approval. So, there are still things for the residents of Cradley to play for in lobbying all relevant people – please remember that a lot of individually drafted letters is more powerful in swaying the decision-makers at County than petitions or replica letters. A meeting of residents and other interested parties is to be held at the British Legion on Bosbury Road on November 3rd at 7.30 pm (there will be special offer prices at the bar I am told!!).

Rectory Lane

Ring the bells!! Finally, we can confirm that the road is now a registered road, and some temporary pothole-filling has occurred. Balfour Beatty are also recommending that a proper surface be applied – “WHEN?”, I hear you cry! Rest assured, the Parish Council will keep up the pressure on them.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Tanya Lloyd-Jones announced that there is now no money at County level after all to support the drafting of our Plan. Despite this irritation, other avenues of funding are actively being pursued, and the aim is to conduct an independent assessment of land around the parish. Councillor Alan Eldridge expressed the view that the ‘Heart of the Village’ proposals around Kingsbridge should be included in the Plan as a possible major proposal in the pipeline.

Heart of the Village Project

Councillor Alan Eldridge reported that a landowner in the Kingsbridge area was in the early stages of proposing some development in return for a major gift of land and a new building, which could be used for a café/shop, to the community. There would clearly be significant consultation with parishioners when, or if, this were to be a serious proposal. In any case, there was a strong feeling in the meeting that everything possible should be done to secure the kind gift of the field east of Cradley Brook by Heather Morgan, as soon as possible. Councillor Ken Nason felt the Parish Council still needed more detailed costings on all possible options before the HoV project could be considered more substantively.

Pending Highway Issues

Chair Chris Lowder and Vice-Chair Ken Nason felt that they were having positive co-operation from Balfour Beatty on some issues at least. They recently met with Neil James, the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward for our area; unfortunately, sorting out the drainage issue at the top of Chapel Lane does not qualify for action; the safety of Pound Bridge is being looked into, and cleaning out the drains on the road just to the East of Kingsbridge is apparently in hand. Experience of Neil James so far is that when he says he will do something, it happens – we all hope that continues long into the future of course.

Legacy

Joyce Bibbings kindly left a legacy of £1,000 for the Cradley Youth Group, which, although technically left to the Parish Council, will be passed on.

Resignation

Everyone present was sad to hear that Councillor Alison Symondson, had resigned, and we shall miss her strong contribution to Council business.

Sandbags

I hate mentioning this topic, as it means the winter weather is on its way, if it hasn't come already! If you feel you need sandbags to protect your property in case of flooding, then they are available at the Red Lion. I believe you are expected to fill in a form where you collect them, for information on where the bags are going.

Cluster of Parish Councils

Councillor Ann Carver reported that the Ledbury Cluster is struggling to survive, given that one or two parishes have withdrawn and there is little money available to make it work effectively. However, there will still be an informal cluster meeting on 19th November.

Advance Warning re Proposed Mobile Phone Mast

There is a proposal to build a mobile phone mast on the edge of the wood just above Church Style Farm. This will be on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting, and I should like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend, to put forward your views in order for the Parish Council to reflect them in its response to the developer.

Next Meeting

November 11th in Storridge Village Hall at 7 p.m.

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