

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 11th November at Storridge Village Hall, and here are some of the issues that were discussed:

Co-option of Parish Councillor

Geoff Thomas was co-opted and warmly welcomed to the Council. Many parishioners will remember that Geoff served on the Parish Council some years ago and now has the time to take up the cudgels once more.

Proposed Mobile Phone Mast at Church Style Farm

As I indicated in the last Newsletter, the Parish Council has had a letter from a developer wishing to erect a mobile phone mast on Mr Stoddard's land. Mr Stoddard pointed out from the public "gallery" that there were inaccuracies in the map presented, in that the site should be 10 metres further south than marked and also that it would be partially screened by trees rather than in the open. He further informed Council that he was not willing to allow a permanent road/track to the mast, and that access for maintenance etc would have to be via 4-wheeled-drive vehicles. The Clerk was asked to obtain further information from the developer, including on the factors involved with rejecting other possible sites, before substantive comment could be given. Having said that, many of you will know that the Government has made it much easier for developers to build mobile phone masts these days.

County Councillor Report

Funding stream to parish councils will cease in 2015.....???????

Insurance of Footpaths Officers

It has now been clarified that the Parish Council insurance does cover the work of our footpaths officers, so Jeff White, for one, can now rest easy in his bed.

Pixiefields Development

A report on the lively information meeting facilitated by the Parish Council, held at the Village Hall on 3rd November, was tabled. Great concern was expressed about this proposed development and its effect on the surrounding area. However, the meeting was reminded that it had outline planning approval from Herefordshire Council, and that the only thing to play for now was keeping the density of housing on it as low as possible. A residents action group is being formed to keep up the pressure (contact01886?????).

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Tanya Lloyd-Jones announced that Carly Tinkler will undertake the important land survey, and it is hoped that the report will be ready for Christmas or early in 2015.

Heart of the Village (HoV)

On behalf of the Heart of the Village group, Kevin Welford presented a comprehensive PowerPoint explanation of the work so far, to help a shared understanding of all the processes involved. It included reference to an options analysis of a great range of possibilities for the Kingsbridge area, and a strong case for setting up a Community Benefit Society (BenComm) to run the HoV, separate from, but in close communication with the Parish Council. The latter was accepted by Council, and will be put into practice. Members of the community as a whole will be

able to join the BenComm with as little as £10 for membership – every member will have an equal vote whatever the financial contribution. Members of Council were reminded that there is a tremendous amount of help available to set up and run BenComms, including from the Plunkett Foundation and Community First (Nick Comley from the latter organisation was present and he has the resources to help and advise the HoV enterprise as it begins its work). There are already well tried, tested and legally approved models of organisation for BenComms in existence.

Welcome Packs for New Residents

A small contribution from the Parish Council will help update these packs – the Newsletter team co-ordinates distribution.

Parish Lengthsman

I realise this title seems rather archaic and Mediaeval-sounding, but, actually, Councillor Geoff Fielding put an extremely persuasive case for Council to apply to set up a Lengthsman Scheme in the Parish. A lengthsman would look after minor maintenance of ditches etc and would be employed by the Parish with financial support and training resources etc from Herefordshire Council. The go-ahead was given.

Budgets

It is clear that the Parish Council 14/15 budget is in good health so far, and the proposal to raise the Parish Precept to £27,000 for the 15/16 financial year was passed by the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

January 13th 2015 in Storridge Village Hall (time to be confirmed)

WYNNE HARRIES

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