

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th March at Storridge Village Hall. Here are some of the issues that were discussed:

Herefordshire Council

Three county councillors attended this month's meeting (a thought re London buses floats through my mind!) – our two ward members, Councillors Tony Johnson and Carl Attwood, along with Councillor Patricia Morgan of the neighbouring Frome Ward. Tony Johnson pointed out that he had a list of possible road repairs for consideration and urged parish councillors to point out work that should be on the list. Quick as a flash, Councillor Ken Nason pointed out that Rectory Lane has still not been sorted out properly after all these years of lobbying. Cowleigh Road and Finchers Corner were also mentioned – there will be others of course (*in addition, see Lengthsman issue elsewhere in this report*). The Parish Council is getting extremely annoyed that Herefordshire Planners are not listening to our views regarding tree work in conservation areas and also the siting of new private walls on public land – we wonder what is happening to the democratic process here!

Heart of the Village (HoV)

Councillor Alan Eldridge reported that the process of setting up a Community Benefit Society to manage Morgan's Field at Kingsbridge was now happening in earnest, and it should be in place soon. He expressed the view from the HoV team that the Neighbourhood Development Plan should encompass all possible community ventures including the option of a shop/café on Morgan's Field. Further consultation with residents on possible options for the shop/café idea would be set up as soon as practicable (*see separate HoV article elsewhere in this Newsletter*).

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Councillor Tanya Lloyd-Jones reminded Council that the Landscape Assessment Survey was not the actual NDP, but could be adopted as *part* of the NDP in the future if agreed by the community. The Assessment looked at 78 parcels of land around the village of Cradley with regard to its potential for housing development, and assessed its landscape value, landscape quality and landscape sensitivity for the area as a whole and for each individual parcel within the area. The capacity of each parcel was defined as "*the amount of change a particular landscape type (or area or zone, or individual site, or town/village) can tolerate without there being unacceptable adverse effects on its character, or the way that it is perceived, and without compromising the values attached to it*". The sites were then ranked as suitable through to unsuitable for housing development. Further consultation with residents of the parish is planned. Then a proposed NDP will be put formally in a referendum, for us all to say yes or no to its adoption as a guide for future planning decisions.

Parish Lengthsman

Councillor Geoff Fielding has done a sterling job in preparing the Council to take on this scheme. He will need to draw up an Annual Maintenance Plan with priorities, so now is the time to lobby your parish councillors with minor highway repairs that you feel are needed. The Council also confirmed the appointment of Robert Lambert as our new Lengthsman – we congratulate him and wish him well in carrying out his duties.

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30 pm

This is an opportunity for residents in the Parish to hear reports on the year's work, both of the Council itself and of the local charities and village halls – do come along to this short and pertinent meeting.

Chapel Lane Recreation Ground

Councillor Ken Nason reported that our new contractor is scheduled to clear footpaths, cut back hedges, deal with moles, and flatten the football pitch – good news indeed.

The New Parish Council

Please remember that nominations for the Parish Council's new 4-year term of office have to be in at Hereford Town Hall by 4pm on Thursday 9th April. Forms can be obtained from 01432 260107 or the Parish Clerk and please keep a look-out for official notices on the Parish notice boards.

Next Scheduled Meeting

April 14th 2015 at 7 pm in our "summer" residence at CRADLEY Village Hall.

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