

Minutes of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held in Cradley Village Hall
on Tuesday, 14th April 2015 commencing at 7pm.

In attendance – Cllrs. C.Lowder (CL –in the Chair), K. Nason (KN) A. Carver (AC) G. Fielding (GF) G. Thomas (GT) A. Eldridge (AE) D. Pye (DP) S. Herriot (SH) C. Lambert (CL) F.Beard (FB) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) K. Welford (KW) S. Davies (SD) and W. Harries (WH).

Also attending the meeting was County Councillor Patricia Morgan from Frome Ward and the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest – Cllrs AE, SH, KW & WH declared non pecuniary interests in the HOV discussion and CL declared a non pecuniary interest in the Lengthsman discussion and signed the Declarations of Interest Register.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Patricia Morgan advised she had nothing to report.

Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman following insertion of a sentence in the Recreation Area report to the effect that “AE had questioned whether the expense of levelling the football pitch at Chapel Lane had ever been approved by full Council and had been assured that it had”.

Planning applications – the Clerk advised the following applications had been received for consideration –

No. 150615 – Eastbury Cottage, Halesend, Storridge – proposed installation of a domestic biomass boiler connected to a twin wall insulated stainless steel flue system – **no objections raised.**

No. 150862 – Sunnyside, Cradley – proposed lowering of roof, garage conversion, carport, rendered finish and replacement double glazed doors and windows – **no objections raised.**

No. 143787 – proposed construction of three two storey dwellings with associated garages and landscaping – ***“the Parish Council strongly object to this proposal. The land is within the AONB and within the conservation area. It is outside the settlement boundary. Following the Inspector’s report into the Herefordshire Core Strategy, Cradley is earmarked for 102 new houses between years 2011-2031. We are currently working on our NDP and Cradley parish council, who represent the village, want to have a strong say in how our village is developed. If a development of this size is to be considered at an important gateway to our village, then it should be decided by the planning committee rather than by a planning officer. If these houses are to go ahead then surely there should be a little more imagination rather than just placing three identical dull red brick houses onto the site, especially as it is within the AONB and immediately opposite a black and white Grade II listed house of considerable character”.***

Matters for consideration:

(a) Council training Session – AE and GF were of the opinion that following the formation of the new Council after the May 2015 election, a refresher training course should be held for all Councillors and the Clerk and advised that HALC offered this training at £200. per session. **On a proposal** by GF seconded by AE and carried, it was agreed the Clerk arrange a training session following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council meeting in May. **On a further proposal** by KN seconded by AC and carried it was agreed the Parish Council incur expenditure of the fee of approximately £200. for the training session.

(b) Local Council Award Scheme – All Councillors supplied with copy of Local Council Award Scheme in a three tier system specifying what is expected of Parish Councils.

The benefits and cost to the Council were discussed and **on a proposal** by KN seconded by AE and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council look into joining the Scheme and report back to new Council in May 2015. **AC proposed a vote of thanks** to KN for his work on the website and Councillors were urged to use the website on a regular basis for updates of information.

- (c) **Ledbury Traffic Issues** – Following a proposed change of access for the development adjacent to the viaduct at Ledbury Station which would cause considerable traffic problems for people entering Ledbury off the Bromyard Road, it was suggested individuals write raising their concerns if it was felt that this would cause them any personal problems as it was not considered to be a Parish Council concern..
- (d) **Response to Core Strategy modifications regarding housing** – PM advised that the Core Strategy had been presented to the Inspector and modifications had been suggested to use Parish rather than settlement boundaries, resulting in the number of houses now being increased for many Parishes. The Cradley quota had been increased to 101.5 houses. There was a consultation period until 1st May 2015 and the Clerk advised she had been unable to arrange for a member of Herefordshire Council to attend the current meeting, which had been proposed at short notice. The issue was discussed at length and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council respond to the modifications and enquire how the calculations had been arrived at. PM kindly offered to obtain the figures for other Parishes to see if they have also been increased. In the meantime the Clerk was to try to arrange an alternative meeting with representatives from Hereford Council later in the month with Councillors drawing up a list of questions to which they would seek answers; if this proved impossible, SH agreed to compose a draft letter for submission to the Council.
- (e) **Final arrangements for Annual Parish meeting** – to be held at Storridge Village Hall on 22nd April at 7.30pm with Reports from the Chair KN and FB. It was confirmed no guest speaker had been arranged.
- (f) **Progress Reports:**
- (i) **NDP** – It was agreed to hold a public consultation to present the various options but TLJ advised Carly Tinkler was unavailable until the first week in June. This was to be confirmed for a meeting in Cradley Village Hall or alternatively in the Church dependent upon the numbers attending. A timeline had been circulated which it was hoped was achievable and it was confirmed there was to be a meeting with the AONB on the 21st April to obtain more views and general advice on the NDP process.
 - (ii) **Lengthsman/P3 Scheme** – Despite considerable pressure GF advised he had heard nothing further from Balfour Beatty regarding the financial arrangements for the schemes, as a result of which the Lengthsman had been unable to commence work. It was agreed the Clerk write to BB expressing our unhappiness at how the Administrator was being treated. GF to talk with Footpaths Officer Jeff White who had taken over the responsibility for the P3 scheme and report back in due course.
 - (iii) **HOV** – AE reported on matters progressing and advised that they were hopeful of carrying out a topographical survey on Morgan’s Field.

Finance Matters – The Clerk advised the following Accounts had been received for payment

➤ Inland Revenue , PAYE	£150.00.
➤ HALC – training (AE)	£72.00.
➤ Carly Tinkler, landscape assessment	£1,800.00.
➤ Clerks & Councils Direct subscription	£12.00.
➤ Pricepoint gardening	£576.00.

On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by KN and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

Reports –

Environment and Footpaths – WH advised nothing to report but explained the foundation of the group.

Churchyards – Chairman advised nothing to report.

Recreation Area – KN advised contractor had not yet started levelling the football pitch although he has been asked to start the work. AE had previously expressed unhappiness about the expense and raised questions about approval for levelling off of the pitch – SD explained how the work has progressed through the various agreed Phases.

Editorial Group – Reporter should shortly be distributed giving an explanation of the NDP to let parishioners know what it is about and the suggested number of houses required under the Core Strategy. KN also advised the precept, Council standing orders, finances should be published as a requirement of the Local Council Award scheme..

Website – still being visited on a regular basis and KN again urged Councillors to check this on at least a weekly basis.

Correspondence – letter received and circulated to all from Bill Wiggin MP giving update on what the Government had achieved during the last five years.

Literature – Adopt a phone box (to be considered at the next meeting of the Council, Clerks & Councils Direct magazine and the Local Council Review.

Newsletter items to include training proposal, Local Council award, seeking clarification on the number of houses in the Core Strategy, NDP meeting on 3rd June, website, lack of information on the Lengthsman scheme and information for the Administrator.

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 12th May 2015 following the election. This will take place in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

C. Lowder

12th May 2015.

Signed..... Dated.....

Chairman