

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 9th June at Cradley Village Hall. Here are some of the issues that were discussed:

County Councillor Report

Councillor Patricia Morgan attended for the first time since the County Council elections on May 7th and she was congratulated on her success. She outlined some of the priorities of the new Conservative administration at Herefordshire County Council, and she reminded us that ‘Vulnerable People’ including Adult Social Care would take up a very big part of the budget. ‘Socialisation Networks’ are one priority (and she felt that Parish Councils have an important role here too). ‘Young People’ issues are also important with a desire to improve Safeguarding Services. Encouraging the environment to create jobs and build houses was another priority. Overarching all these was the aim to balance the County budget, which will be particularly challenging, as there has to be a 42 million pound cut over the next 4 years. On a more local matter, Councillor Morgan wished to remind Parish Councillors that Rectory Lane is technically a ‘By-way Open to All Traffic’ (B.O.A.T.) and therefore, as things stand, would not qualify for full road surface. The County Council is responsible for keeping it level however. You will all not be surprised that the Parish Council is unhappy about this, and Mike Hames’s full investigation is being sent to Councillor Morgan for her consideration.

Pixiefields Development

The Parish Council has been informed that Persimmon is now the developer and they would like to meet with us to discuss their plans – a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

Lengthsman and P3 Footpaths Schemes

Councillor Geoff Fielding thanked County Councillor Patricia Morgan for her support in cutting through the bureaucracy at Balfour Beatty, and, with great relief and a fanfare of trumpets, announced that the Schemes are now up and running as from 4th June – work is already happening! He will outline the Schemes in more detail for you all in this or future editions of the Newsletter. In the meantime, you can go to the Parish Council website and report any matters for him to deal with.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was generally thought that the well attended presentation at Cradley Church on 3rd June and the display of options at the Village Hall on 4th June had played a useful part in consulting with parishioners before drafting the Plan. A questionnaire will now be issued to all parishioners on the electoral role seeking your views on the various major options being proposed, once full Council has approved its layout. Councillor Kevin Welford emphasised how important it was that the questionnaire had real clarity so that the outcome would also be clear. I pointed out that fairness to all competing options must be built in to the process so that no-one could challenge the structure. It was thought by Council that having some advice from an experienced professional would be advisable, and an offer to help in this capacity had been received.

Local Cluster of Parish Councils

Councillor Ann Carver reported that she had attended a cluster meeting recently and picked out three issues to mention. Firstly, the impact on the surrounding areas of the proposed large housing development in Ledbury; secondly, to report that our very own Councillor Geoff Fielding had given a talk about lengthsman schemes etc; and

thirdly, that matters of general interest across the parishes should dominate the agenda in the future, with not too much emphasis on individual parish matters.

Chapel Lane Recreation Area

Councillor Ken Nason reported that progress on the recent changes was pleasing. I am sure the recent rain will have helped the grass to grow, hopefully.

Next Scheduled Meeting

July 14th 2015 at 7 pm in Cradley Village Hall.

WYNNE HARRIES 01886 880 976