

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Monday 8th September 2015 held in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (Chair) K. Nason (KN) D. Scully (DS) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) G. Thomas (GT) A. Carver (AC) A. Eldridge (AE) and F. Beard (FB).

Also present was D. Croft, R. Stoddard, Bruce Herriot and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from G. Fielding, D. Pye, S. Davies and K. Welford. An apology had also been received from County Cllr. P. Morgan.

Non-Pecuniary Declarations of interest were received from K. Nason (payment of expenses) and Cheryl Lambert (Lengthsman earnings) and both signed the Declarations Register.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was reported that Kevin Welford wished these to be amended to disassociate him as part of the HOV group during his comments on the NDP (see page 2015/33) and also to clarify the position regarding the fact that the discussion which followed at that meeting was in any way directly acrimonious as a result of his comments. Two further small typing errors were corrected.

AE commented that he had spoken with Lynda Wilcox at HALC and wanted some of the comments made by Geoff Fielding (GF) taken out of the Minutes. In the absence of GF it was proposed that amendment of the Minutes from 11th August 2015 be deferred until the October meeting.

KN commented that paragraphs were only contentious if the comments are untrue, the HOV is no longer part of the Council but yet again is trying to manipulate the Parish Council.

Guest Speaker – TLJ advised that the Questionnaire had been modified and is being distributed. Whilst Paul Esrich from the AONB had agreed to undertake the future drafting of the document, the Parish Council had been advised by Karla Johnson that this should preferably be done by someone who is MRTPI qualified and she had kindly submitted to TLJ a list of planning consultants who met this criteria. **TLJ introduced David Croft** to Councillors who advised he had established himself up as an Independent Surveyor having had over 40 years experience in this profession, was based on Gloucester and although he had not done an NDP project before, he had previously worked on them. He had also received advice from Karla Johnson and expressed an interest in undertaking this project for the Parish Council if they were interested in appointing him. He advised that he understood the Core Strategy was to be presented to full Council for adoption next month.

After further discussing the proposal the Council were advised that his current rate is £40. an hour and he was of the opinion that the first stage would be a five to seven days working project. He agreed to let the Clerk have a written Quotation for presentation and discussion at the October meeting. The Questionnaire should be completed within two/three weeks enabling a draft document to be out for consultation before Christmas 2015.

Planning – The Chairman advised on the two applications discussed at the previous Planning Committee as follows –

Application No. 152497 – single storey extension at **Cradley C of E Primary School** – **No objections raised.**

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Application No. 152280 – site for construction of three detached open market dwellings with three detached garages on land at **Queenswood, WR13 5NF** - comments - ***We do not see why an application should be pushed through purely because of Herefordshire Council's inability to meet their five year housing plan. We strongly urge the Council to restudy our comments to the original application – as follows – see Page April 2015/13. Furthermore, finally it should be pointed out as well as being in the AONB and conservation area, the site is immediately next door to a classic Victorian dwelling of considerable character.***

The Chairman also advised that applications at -

- School House, single storey garage had been passed.
- Barratts Cottage, extension etc has been refused.
- 6 Pixiefield, rear conservatory has been passed.
- Harrells Cottage, external alterations has been passed.

He also reported on receipt of a letter from David King (circulated to all Councillors) with regard to his purchase of the bungalow in Rectory Lane which was in response to the Parish Council's comments in connection with his planning application for the felling of two trees on the site that "they would prefer to see only one of the trees felled".

Matters for consideration –

- a) Scaffolding protruding onto highway in Chockbury Lane – this appeared to be at a property named Chockbury Court owned by Jason Jackson. Whilst the Chairman had endeavoured to speak with him he had been unsuccessful and it was agreed that the Clerk write to both Herefordshire Council and Mr. Jackson about our concerns over this problem which appeared to have gone on for many years.
- b) Donation to Storridge Village Hall – FB advised the Hall was registered as a charity and AE queried the legislation under which Parish Council donations were made to our two Village Halls. **On a proposal** by the Chairman seconded by CL and carried it was agreed to make the donation and AE authorised to look further into the query raised by him. AE abstained from voting.
- c) Donation to Ledbury Community Action towards rent increase – This was discussed and it was unanimously agreed around the table that the Parish Council would prefer to see any funds available for use in the Parish.
- d) Purchase of computer for Clerk – KN reported how this matter had arisen and that it was recommended by HALC that Parish Councils provide the Clerk with this type of equipment. **On a proposal** by AE seconded by DS and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council would purchase a computer with an expenditure agreed of up to £375.00.
- e) Council vacancy and vacancy on Finance Committee – The Chairman advised that AE had resigned from the Finance Committee with immediate effect and it was unanimously agreed that GT should be appointed onto the Committee having had the necessary experience. The Chairman also advised that Dr. Bruce Herriot had applied to be co-opted onto the Parish Council, following the resignation of Dr. Sarah Herriot. The co-option process was explained to Dr Herriot and he was asked to send in his CV to enable his request to be fully considered at the October meeting.

Progress Report – adoption of telephone box - the Chairman advised he had spoken to the adjoining owner and the owner of the old post office/shop neither of whom seemed to think the land belonged to their property which appeared to indicate the kiosk stood on Council land. KW suggestions were read out to Council members for possible future uses of the kiosk and the Council were to look further into the possible purchase of the box.

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The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public question time

Dr B Herriot queried why it was not possible for him to be co-opted onto the Parish Council tonight and was informed by the Chairman that new proposals had recently been introduced by Councillors regarding co-option. He agreed to let the Clerk have brief details about himself which could be presented to the meeting in October when co-option could then be considered.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting

Finance – the Clerk advised the following accounts had been received for payment

➤ Inland Revenue – PAYE	£150.00.
➤ County Building Supplies, Lengthsman materials	£89.29.
➤ Viking Stationery	£199.55.
➤ Grant Thornton, external audit 2014/15	£240.00.
➤ HALC training	£30.00.
➤ Herefordshire Council, ROSPA inspection	£116.64.
➤ Ken Nason, expenses re Reporter & Questionnaire	£127.50.
➤ R. Lambert, Lenthman & P3 duties	£405.00.

On a proposal by DS seconded by GT and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. **Note - C. Lambert & K Nason abstained from voting.**

Reports from committees and working parties –

Environmental & Footpaths – G. Fielding had advised a full report would be available at October meeting.

Lengthsman & P3 – Full report circulated to all Councillors prior to meeting and KN advised that these were also on the website. Comments made about the excellent service being provided and TLJ raised concerns that she hoped matters are not being done out of season.

Churchyards – The Chairman advised nothing to report.

Recreation Area – KN advised his report in the Newsletter contained comments that the mountain is supposed to be overgrown and a wild area. The football pitch has received a first cut but Contractor felt it should not be used until the spring to allow the turf to settle.

Editorial Group – KN advised lots of visits to Parish Council website .

AC proposed a vote of thanks to both KN and the NDP Group for all their hard work on behalf of the Parish.

Correspondence & Literature – full contents included in “Information Sheet” provided to Councillors.

Items for Newsletter to include NDP Questionnaire and possible selection of suitably qualified person to prepare Plan; football pitch has been cut but use should be delayed until the Spring, volunteers sought to distribute Newsletter and fact that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Reports and items for future Agendas – Following a request to C Lambert about weeds growing through a fence from the School, the Chairman confirmed he had spoken to the Head and it was proposed that this work should not be part of the Lengthsman job since it was basically the School’s responsibility to prevent this taking place.

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TLJ reported that she had spoken to Paul Esrich of the AONB advising him that it was hoped to appoint someone with the appropriate qualifications to prepare the Plan for the Parish Council but she asked the Parish Council to consider some small contribution to him for the work he has carried out over the past year.

Councillors were advised that the complaint by Paul Kimberley had been dealt with which had concerned the Lengthsman leaving rubbish at Brookside in readiness for the Parish bonfire. This had now been removed to the Red Lion where the bonfire would take place.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 13th October 2015 in Storridge Village Hall.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 13th October 2015.
Chairman