

## **CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Storridge Village Hall. Here are some of the issues that were discussed:

### **Councillor Vacancy**

These are interesting times at Cradley Parish Council. Anne Scarsbrook had withdrawn her application to be considered for co-option and the Council voted not to co-opt Bruce Herriot. Therefore there remains a vacancy – please contact Mary Barnett, our Parish Clerk, if you would like to be considered for co-option (see below re. newly adopted procedures for future co-options).

### **County Councillor**

Councillor Patricia Morgan must get fed up with telling everyone about the budget challenges at the County Council, but of course they remain, as she reminded us; Chair Chris Lowder expressed concern at the suggestion of a reduction in County funding for the Lengthsman schemes, just when it has so successfully launched in Cradley. She also reported that the Planning Inspector had approved a version of the Core Strategy that could be put forward to the Council for adoption – by the time you read this it may well have happened. It does of course contain important guidance for the future decision-making processes in the county for the next 15 years. Councillor Morgan reminded us that we have to be aware of the need for housing and it is predicted that 16,500 new dwellings will be required in that period. She pointed out that the need for affordable housing must have some priority, and that the Strategy also lays out planning for some major road infrastructure projects around the county.

### **Chapel Lane Potholes**

Councillor Geoff Fielding requested that the Parish Council should send a strongly worded letter to Herefordshire Council regarding the appalling and frankly very dangerous state of the road, particularly at the top end near its junction with the B4220. The Council wholeheartedly endorsed this suggestion.

### **Co-option Procedures**

I presented a paper to Council laying out procedures that Cradley Parish Council could follow in future to guide Council when there is still a vacancy after the formal procedures have not produced a new councillor. These were approved unanimously and the details will be placed on the Parish Council website. I made the point that the formal procedures would be the most straightforward way for anyone interested to apply for place on the Council when there is a vacancy. If this does not work, then the newly adopted procedures for co-option would come into play. In summary, anyone interested would be asked to send a brief statement of what they could offer the community by being a parish councillor, and this would be considered at the next meeting of Council. Please read the details on the website.

### **Redundant Public Telephone Box**

It seems that it is possible for a parish council to adopt a telephone box for community use for a very nominal fee. There are many people, young and old, who may have ideas for how we could use the telephone box outside the old Post Office. Please come forward with your thoughts – perhaps there could be a school project on the matter, or one of the many organisations in Cradley could have a brainstorm on the topic? I would encourage you to **THINK OUT OF THE BOX!** (Sorry!)

**Lengthsman**

As ever, we are delighted to hear of and see the results of the work done by Robert Lambert and Councillor Geoff Fielding around the parish with stiles, gullies, overgrown paths etc. It was reported to us that training in minor pothole repairs has been slow in coming from Herefordshire Council via Balfour Beattie and this has caused great frustration as you can imagine.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Once the results of the recent questionnaire have been processed fully, they will be posted on the Parish Council website. David Croft, an independent planning consultant, has been engaged to write an initial draft of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Cradley Parish, and the hope is for this to be presented to the Council in November.

**Road Safety / Traffic Calming**

Councillor Geoff Fielding reported that he already had several issues on his list for looking into, raised by parishioners, and he asked councillors to pass on further matters to him as soon as possible – indeed he is happy to receive any further feedback directly from you all on this topic (01886 881 019).

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

This will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30 p.m. with the Planning Committee beforehand at 7 p.m.

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