

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Planning Application for a Travellers' Site opp. The New Inn at Storrige

There was a very large attendance from the public (50 in number) for this item on the agenda to express opposition to this application. Several issues were raised and the Council undertook to pass on the serious concerns of residents to the Planning Department at Herefordshire. Vice-Chair, Ken Nason, who was chairing the meeting that evening, urged everyone present to make their views known individually to the Planning Authority as this was considerably more effective than petitions; he also pointed out to everyone that they must stick to strict planning issues when sending their letters, emails or website submissions. Concerns raised at the meeting included road safety/access issues, siting within the AONB from a landscape point of view, and proximity to listed buildings. **County Councillor Patricia Morgan** was present at the meeting and therefore could see at first-hand the strength of feeling amongst those parishioners who were there - she reassured everyone that if planning officers were of a mind to agree to the application she would ask for it to be referred to the Planning Committee. Very helpfully, she also outlined in detail what happens to the application from now on at the County Council.

Parish Clerk

The Council passed a motion of confidence in Mary Barnett as our Parish Clerk.

Councillor Vacancies

Two parishioners had put themselves forward for the one vacancy available for co-option at this meeting, namely Sam Roffe and Anne Scarsbrook, and Council decided to co-opt Anne Scarsbrook – we all wish her well as she takes up her role at our next meeting. Since our October meeting there have been two further resignations, and thanks are due to both David Pye and Kevin Welford for their contributions to the work of the Council.

Chapel Lane Potholes

The Council has been informed that the resurfacing of Chapel Lane has been placed on the *draft* programme of work for 2016/17. Let's hope this becomes a *firm* reality, in all senses of the word!

Surgery Car Parking

Many of you will be aware that it is currently not possible to park at the British Legion car park if you are visiting the Surgery. The Surgery has written a detailed letter to Council outlining the situation from its point of view. Public safety in this area has been a serious concern for many of us for a long time, and your Parish Council has suggested that it could chair a meeting between the Surgery and the British Legion to try to resolve current issues and work for a mutually acceptable solution – arranging this meeting was to be given top priority.

Community Governance Review in 2016/17

Doesn't sound too interesting does it, with a title like that? Anyway, it could have some relevance to us – every now and again reviews are done by the County Council on things like boundaries and sizes of parishes, the number of councillors for each parish, and the number of parishes in the county. We have long stated that 15

councillors is too high a number for the size of Cradley Parish, so we will at least put this in the pot for consideration. If you have any views on these matters, do please contact Mary Barnett, the Parish Clerk, or any councillor.

Parish Council Half-Year Accounts

These were approved by the Council, and thanks were expressed to Mary Barnett for continuing to keep the accounts in very good order.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Tanya Lloyd-Jones asked councillors to respond individually to David Croft on the draft Plan he had prepared, and he will then present a firmer more detailed Plan for consideration at an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to move things forward. At the time of going to press, the date has not been fixed, but could be in early December. The results of the Questionnaire will be posted on the Parish Council website.

Next Meeting

The next normal meeting of the Parish Council will take place at Storridge Village Hall on 12th January at 7.30 pm with the Planning Committee beforehand at 7 pm. (Please note that we do not normally meet in December, but see above for the possible Extraordinary meeting which will deal with the NDP and setting the Parish Precept).

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

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