

## **CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Cradley Parish Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March in Storridge Village Hall. Here are some of the issues that were discussed:

### **Facebook**

Your Council has joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and we now have a Facebook page – please follow us and “like” us of course! Thanks are due to Councillor Sam Roffe for setting this up, and she will be assisted by Councillor Anne Scarsbrook. It gives another opportunity, along with the parish Council Web site, for everyone to keep more up to date with events and actions than otherwise. More traditional forms of communication will continue, but do give us feedback and comments about the Facebook page, and indeed on any other types of contact between the Council and yourselves. <https://www.facebook.com/CradleyParishCouncil/>

### **Defibrillator for Cradley**

We have an opportunity to put the phonebox outside the old post office to good use for the community. We are proposing to adopt the box and use it to install a defibrillator. Councillor Bruce Herriot informed the Council that, in the UK, 200 people a day suffer a cardiac arrest, and having this equipment in the parish could help save your life in those vital early minutes and seconds before an emergency service 1<sup>st</sup> responder or ambulance arrives on the scene. This is particularly the case for a rural area such as ours, where we are especially vulnerable to extended response times, but you may have noticed defibrillators springing up in many places these days, so we feel we shouldn't lose out. There will be some setting up costs, and then ongoing maintenance expenses – we feel that saving someone's life is worth it, so I hope you agree. However, Councillor Herriot has managed to secure some funds from a local charity that will go a long way to help cover the setting up costs, so many thanks to him for organising this on our behalf. You will get a lot more information about this as we come close to agreeing its installation. The main point is that it is very easy to use and the equipment actually guides you through the process of using it, so you really can't go wrong – literally.

### **State of Poundbridge**

As this would be a major scheme to sort out properly, it would have to be undertaken by Herefordshire Council through Balfour Beatty as it is their responsibility – it is apparently flagged up by BB as of major concern to Herefordshire Council, which, in turn, has said that there is no money to carry out the work. This is **your** County Council – we need everyone to complain and put as much pressure on them to act on something that is a vital link between the two sides of our village. It desperately needs to be made safe for the long-term.

### **Lengthsman Scheme**

Councillor Geoff Fielding is a tireless worker in trying his best to ensure that the Lengthsman Scheme works well for us in the Parish. He informed the Parish Council that the administration of the scheme from the Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty side of things is driving him completely round the bend (and down the potholes!). Trying to get the whole thing to work efficiently is taking up a ridiculous amount of his time. As he said, he really enjoys being involved in the work itself, alongside the Lengthsman, Robert Lambert, but Balfour Beatty is being extremely unco-operative with the scheme's administration and putting up totally unnecessary barriers to its smooth operation. A strongly worded letter will go to Herefordshire

Council, copied to various other influential people such as the MP etc. Cradley Parish Council was unanimously appalled by this situation – can you help us please?

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

You should all have received a Parish Council Reporter leaflet through your door in the week 7-11 March (if not, please contact Ken Nason on 01886 880952), which deals with the NDP that is now out with you as residents for your comments. You will find the draft NDP on the Parish Council website and it is also available in hard copy in the village halls. Please take time to read it carefully and send in your comments either via the Council website or on the response form included with the Reporter. Comments need to be in by **April 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at **Cradley Village Hall** (note the venue for the Summer run of meetings) on 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m., with the Planning Committee beforehand at 7 p.m.

Wynne Harries  
01886 880 976