

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present - Cllrs. K. Nason (KN - in the Chair) A. Carver (AC) W. Harries (WH) D. Scully (DS) G. Fielding (GF) A. Scarsbrook (AS) G. Thomas (GT) S. Roffe (SR) B. Herriot (BH) and F. Beard (FB).

Also in attendance was D. Creed- Newton, one other member of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from T. Lloyd Jones, S. Davies, C. Lambert, C. Lowder and A. Eldridge.

Declarations of Interest - The Declarations Register was signed by K. Nason in connection with the payment due to Cradley Village Hall.

Minutes - The Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to an amended change of wording in connection with funding of the the Lengthsman Scheme for the year 2017/18.

Statement by KN regarding recording of meetings - HALC had advised that recording of meetings by the Parish Council was perfectly acceptable and could assist the Clerk in taking the Minutes. HALC had also commented that “no permission is required for recording of meetings by individuals attending the meetings but that it was obviously polite to mention to the Chairman and meeting that recording is taking place”. KN therefore proposed that in future, Agendas should include a statement that “people are free to record meetings but that the Chairman of the meeting should be advised before recording commences”. This was seconded by AC and carried.

Guest Speaker - Ian Baker had advised SR that he was unable to attend the meeting as previously agreed as he had broken his foot but hoped to be in a position to attend the meeting in April.

County Councillor - The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. P. Morgan had been invited to attend the meeting but had tendered her apologies as she was unable to attend.

Planning applications received and discussed at a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the full Council meeting as follows -

- No. 160157 - Timbers, Cradley, WR13 5LJ - proposed erection of timber garden gazebo - no objections raised.
- No. 160254 - Rosemary Cottage, Cradley, WR13 5JE - remove pvcu/aluminium double glazed windows and replace with hardwood framed narrow double glazed windows - no objections raised.
- No. 160462 - Windy Oaks Farm, Storridge, WR13 5EZ - conversion of agricultural building to three dwellings - “we have concerns that the building is not a conversion from agricultural to residential as there was a change of use to business registered in 2014. Therefore, we cannot support this change of use to housing and the proposal does nothing to enhance the area”.

**Matters for consideration** and update on outstanding matters -

- (a) Recording machine for use at Council Meetings - BH had prepared a statement, circulated to all, querying whether this facility was required by the Council. On a vote of five against the proposal, four in favour with one abstention, it was decided not to proceed with this proposal.

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(b) Emergency Planning follow up - In the absence of Ian Baker this matter was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

(c) Proposal for Facebook - SR had circulated full details of her proposals for the Parish Council to have a facebook page and reported on her experience in managing facebook for four other companies. The various options were discussed and it was reported that the Parish Council had previously set up a Parish Council Forum where people contributed various topics of interest in the Parish which unfortunately had died a natural death by non use within a year. However, it was proposed that Facebook should be tried for a period of six months on a vote of eight Councillors in favour with two Councillors abstaining, and AS agreed to assist SR in setting up the Facebook Page with AS and SR with administrator access.

(d) Update on Telephone box/defibrillator - BH explained the benefits of having this facility in the Parish and although the equipment cost approximately £1500 to purchase, he was confident that Charity money could be obtained for the proposal. In addition, there would be a set-up cost of £526 to the Parish Council for the first year, reducing to £150. annually thereafter. The matter was discussed and BH agreed to advise at the meeting in April how much it would cost the Parish Council over a five year period when it was anticipated the Parish Council would go ahead with the purchase of a defibrillator hopefully positioned in the telephone box outside the Old Post Office/Shop.

Following on from this subject AC advised that she had arranged on behalf of the PPG for a training session to take place, free of charge, in Cradley Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 between 7-9pm and if successful and well attended, another training session could easily be arranged.

(e) Poundbridge - GF gave an update on the condition of this area which is rapidly collapsing into the stream and advised that a plan had been put forward to Balfour Beatty in 2015 but due to lack of available money in their budget, this work had not been done. Following a recent inspection of the area, Balfour Beatty have raised an "early warning letter" to Herefordshire Council setting out the danger of the bridge. Three options were available (1) fix problem, although no money available (2) close the path indefinitely or (3) wait for it to collapse and get Hereford Council to raise the money. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council write to Hereford Council in the strongest possible terms advising that it is the Highways responsibility for the area to be made safe for public use, and not the responsibility of the Parish Council and advise them failure to put the work in hand would result in the Parish Council involving the press and any other means to publicise the urgency of this long outstanding matter. Any reply received from Herefordshire Council would be circulated to other Parish Councils in the area, similar to the copy letter recently received from Peterchurch Parish Council who were also experiencing problems with Herefordshire Council.

Finance matters - The Clerk advised the following Invoices were due for payment - FB took the Chair -

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|---|------------|
| • Inland Revenue, PAYE                                | £150.00.   |
| • Herefordshire Council election charges for May 2015 | £78.00.    |
| • HALC Training                                       | £75.00.    |
| • Storrige PCC donation - as agreed                   | £932.89.   |
| • Cradley PCC donation, as agreed                     | £1,578.73. |

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• Cradley Chapel donation, as agreed	£271.61.
• R. Lambert, Lengthsman & P3 wages	£337.50.
• Escourt Planning, NDP	£467.40.
• Clerk, expenses to year end	£182.13.
• CV Hall, hire charges, NDP	£33.00.
• Clerks & Councils Direct subscription	£12.00.
• Clerk, additional hours Jan 2015/March 2016	£495.00.

On a proposal by GF seconded by DS and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. **KN abstained from voting.**

#### **Reports from committees and working parties -**

- Footpath, wildlife & environmental - GF to arrange meeting later in the month in an attempt to get this project up and running.
- Recreation Group - no recent meeting but now agreed to be urgent to as various matters required attention.
- NDP - Report read out from TLJ in her absence that some funding had been obtained and the PC now proceeding to Reg 14 public consultation. Chairman advised everything would be on the website the following day.
- Lengthsman - GF report had been circulated with Agenda documents. Urgent request for hedge to be cut at Chapel Lane (which was agreed) and permission given for collapsed fence at Buryfields to be repaired as it is the PC responsibility and should be done prior to ROSPA inspection being carried out. Following request for sign indicating "Finchers Corner" - Balfour Beatty had advised that this would have to be done at the Parish Council expense - draft circulated and approved - and matter would be attended to. Repairs to Rectory Lane were being carried out under this scheme.

**Public Question Time** - D. Creed Newton expressed thanks for work carried out at Rectory Lane and praised the hard work of the Lengthsman and GF as the P/Council Lengthsman Administrator and encouraged the Parish Council to involve County Councillor Patricia Morgan in difficult issues.

**Keys items for Newsletter** to include Parish Council Facebook, possible defibrillator, Poundbridge Issues, the difficulties in the Lengthsman project including funding and materials, and also to encourage parishioners to let the Parish Council have their comments on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

#### **Correspondence/Literature -**

- (1) Comments from Bruce Herriot re recording of meetings following advice from HALC.
- (2) Lengthsman/P3 scheme report from G Fielding.
- (3) Comments from S. Roffe regarding facility of Facebook (now agreed for 6 month trial).
- (4) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.
- (5) Letter from Peterchurch P/C to Hereford Council regarding problems they were experiencing with the County Council and seeking support of other Parish Councils if they were also experiencing problems.
- (6) Grant received towards cost of Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- (7) Letter - Hereford Council giving breakdown of Precept for the Parish.
- (8) The Clerk magazine.
- (9) Report on balances on bank accounts at HSBC.

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Items for future Agendas -

- Request by A Carver for more assistance in distributing The Reporter and need to look at the whole communication system within the Parish Council.
- Additional cheque signatories required - B Herriot and A Carver.
- Item in the Budget for purchase of small items for example wildflowers following request from the Beaver Section of Cradley Scout Group.
- Review of Code of Conduct.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Next meeting to take place in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

K. Nason

13<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Signed..... Dated.....

Vice Chairman.