

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting preceded the Parish Council meeting and a small but appreciative group of residents heard the annual reports from our 2 village halls, the Parish Council, and the Charities of Richard Hill and Others.

Election of Officers and Representatives for 2016/17

Councillors Chris Lowder and Ken Nason were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair for a further year, and there were only very minor changes to other jobs and groupings. Please see the official minutes for further details. I am afraid you are stuck with me as Newsletter correspondent for a further year!

Bus Services – Under Threat?

Yet again, there is to be a review of bus services in the county, in September we are told. When more details of this review are known, we will help to publicise this. However, in the meantime, it would be really useful for members of the Parish Council to have specific examples of residents who rely on our bus services, and why. It is so much better to have personal testimonies as well as strategic general arguments and statistics. So, please, if the bus service is important to you, we really do need to know now what it would mean if it were taken away. Likewise, if you know of anyone in this situation – again, please contact our Clerk, Mary Barnett, or any parish councillor urgently.

New Goalposts for Chapel Lane Recreation Area

A very big thank you is due to Councillor Simon Davies for kindly erecting the new goalposts – a splendid addition to the facilities there.

Poundbridge Footpath

I hardly dare say anything in case some problem or other has reared its ugly head between now and when you read this, BUT, we appear to have some good news in that Herefordshire Council through Balfour Beatty has finally agreed to do some clearing and repairs to the worst part of the footpath near Poundbridge. However, the promise of work did not include installing fencing to match the existing fencing along to the river, so the Parish Council has agreed to fund this instead of the wooden fencing they had promised. I hope (and pray) that all this will be old news to many of you if you have walked there recently.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Tanya Lloyd-Jones informed Council that there had been 77 responses to the consultation exercise on the draft NDP. The Council NDP working group would be meeting later in May to consider these in detail. She outlined some of the issues raised – with regard to Heart of the Village, half of respondents were for this project in the Strategic Gap and half against; flash flooding in various places around the parish; affordable housing; she pointed out that traffic issues were not substantive matters for the NDP. Replies will be sent to all correspondents. Council agreed to fund David Croft, a planning consultant who worked on the draft NDP, to review all the comments from various statutory bodies such as Herefordshire Council.

Community Resilience Plan and Defibrillator

The Parish Council has agreed to fund (along with a charity donation) the installation of a defibrillator at the telephone box near the old post office – final checks will be made with BT and others before going ahead definitely. With regard to the Community Resilience Plan, Councillors Sam Roffe, Bruce Herriot and Anne Scarsbrook, along with lay members, will be working to prepare a draft Plan for emergencies in our community.

Buryfields Recreation Area

It was reported to Council that the following need attention – the missing main gate, badly deteriorating fencing and the need for a kissing gate to the public footpath. Council will look into all these and hopes to act for improvements.

Dog Waste Bins

We are actively considering installing a few dog bins in the Parish – more news on this when further details are known. As ever, let us know what your views are on this messy subject!

Lengthsman Schemes

Council has agreed in principle to continue the Lengthsman scheme into the 2017/18 financial year even though the funding for this will need building into Parish Council budgets for that year (no money from Herefordshire Council by then of course, as I have informed you before). It was felt necessary to make this decision now so that we could make arrangements for appointing a Lengthsman over a longer period than would be possible otherwise.

Facebook Page Reminder

<https://www.facebook.com/CradleyParishCouncil/>

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at Cradley Village Hall on 14th June 7.30 p.m., with the Planning Committee beforehand at 7 p.m.

Wynne Harries
01886 880 976