

Minutes of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 8th November 2016 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present - Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) K. Nason (KN) D. Scully (DS) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) G. Fielding (GF) B. Herriot (BH) S. Roffe (SR) A. Carver (AC) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) S. Davies (SD) A. Eldridge (AE) G. Thomas (GT) and F. Beard (FB).

Also in attendance was Cathy Berkeley, Locality Steward for Balfour Beatty , several members of the public and the Clerk.

An apology for inability to attend the meeting had been received and was approved from A. Scarsbrook.

County Councillor Report - The Clerk confirmed County Cllr. P. Morgan had been invited to attend.

Minutes - The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2016 and also the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 25th October 2016 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. These were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Guest Speaker - Cathy Berkeley (CB) - Locality Steward for Balfour Beatty - Cathy had been invited to attend following several accidents which had recently occurred at the junction of the B4220 and the A4103 at Stoney Cross. Her views were sought on any possible remedies which might be available to the Parish Council and the Chairman advised that over many years the Parish Council had sought improvements at this junction without success and a reduced speed limit through the Parish. CB advised that the junction was not classed as an "accident cluster site" based on Police reports and that the decision does not sit with Balfour Beatty to make it one based on Police data and confirmed that there is not a lot which she can do about it despite the fact that about three accidents have happened at that junction over the last three/four weeks. CB confirmed there is no schedule for cleaning roadside signage and when queried about the cost of implementing a 40mph speed limit through the area she indicated that each TRO costs in the region of £10K after a long process which can take up to 12/18 months and advised on the criteria before some work is put in place done, adding that Balfour Beatty have to follow the lead of the County Council and could not make the decisions themselves. It was agreed that the report prepared by Cllr SR should be sent to CB and enquire whether a site meeting could be arranged.

Planning - The Chairman advised the following planning applications had been considered by the Planning Committee prior to the full Council meeting -

- No. 163123 - Hawkhurst House, Cradley WR13 5NF - work to various trees - ***no objections raised.***
- No.163406 - Travellers Joy, Crumpton Hill, WR13 5HE - demolition of extension and proposed two storey extension together with various internal and external works - ***no objections raised.***
- No. 163253 - Land at Mirror Brook smallholding, Stoney Cross, WR13 5JB - landscaped acoustic bund to northern site boundary constructed solely of materials arising from earthworks relating to planning consent No. 153490 - ***the Council could not support the application for the following reasons***
 - (a) ***The proposed bund would be ineffective in reducing road noise for the development and we have concerns that it will increase noise levels for those living on the North side of the A 4103;***
 - (b) ***The application states that the works have NOT started, but quite clearly they have as soil is already deposited on site.***

- (c) *The field has drainage problems which were highlighted during previous applications on this site and a catchment pond was ordered to stop historical run off flooding onto the B4220. This pond has now been removed by the development granted and increasing the height at the top of the field will increase the run off area even more. We also had concerns regarding there being no accommodation made for stabilisation of the proposed bund to ensure no downhill movement is experienced, and*
- (d) *The building of this bund will reduce the visibility of traffic heading East on the A4103 to those wishing to join the A4103 at the junction with the B4220. This is a very accident prone junction at the moment and further reduction in visibility would exacerbate the problem.*

Update on outstanding matter -

- Defibrillator - BH advised consultation period had ended on 28th October with no reply received to date. If no objections raised the Parish Council will then take possession of the box and install the defibrillator.

Items for consideration -

- Recording of Parish Council meetings - The Chairman reminded Councillors that the decision had been made six months ago **not** to proceed with this, but as is available to the PC, the matter had been brought forward for further consideration. Views of Councillors were sought around the table resulting in split opinions on whether this was required or necessary in the light of the cost involved. Before the matter was to be discussed again at the Council meeting in January 2017, Cllr. Bruce Herriot advised he was attending a meeting of HALC the following day and would seek the views of both HALC's Chief Executive Lynda Wilcox and members of other Parish Council representatives in attendance and advise accordingly.
- Facebook future after six month trial - Cllr SR advised she was posting at least one message per week and was of the opinion that it was very useful. This was discussed by all and KN proposed that we continue in the future with the Facebook page in its present form.
- Donation to Cradley Village Hall - For the benefit of new Councillors, the Chairman advised on the yearly donation to the Village Hall towards various expenses. On a proposal by DS seconded by AC and carried, it was agreed that the Council would again make a donation this year in the sum of £1,892.69 to be paid at the January 2017 meeting. **It should be noted two Councillors abstained from voting and both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were unable to cast a vote.**
- Report on Cradley Clock - The Chairman advised that it is a "Parish Clock" put in around 1919 and that Smiths of Derby service this on a yearly basis which is generally fixed for three years. At the recent inspection it had been found to be in good working order and it was unanimously agreed that the present arrangement should continue - Clerk to report once we have confirmation from Smiths of Derby concerning renewal of the arrangement.

Financial matters -

- (1) Approval of audited Accounts to 30th September 2016 - The Clerk had submitted copies of these accounts as prepared by our Internal Auditor, Terry Robshaw to all Councillors prior to the meeting and **on a proposal** by KN seconded by GT and carried these accounts were approved and signed off by the Chairman.

- (2) Budget/Precept for 2017/18 - copies of the recommendations of the Finance Group had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, and following a discussion with particular reference to the future funding of the Lengthsman Scheme, **on a proposal** by AE seconded by GF and carried, it was agreed the Precept for 2017/18 should remain at the present level of £32,500. Councillors were advised that the existing arrangement of the Lengthsman/P3 funding from Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty would cease from April 2018, and that if this valuable work was to continue, the Parish Council would have to fund this in future out of the Precept.
- (3) Payment of Accounts - the Clerk advised the following Accounts were due for payment -
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|---|------------|
| HMRC, PAYE - two months Nov & Dec | £280.00. |
| Pricepoint Gardening April to October 2016 | £2,886.00. |
| G. Fielding, expenses re Lengthsman | £19.04. |
| Bromyard Timber & Fencing, Lengthsman materials | £158.00. |
| County Building Supplies, Lengthsman materials | £53.90. |
| Zurich Municipal Insurance | £441.71, |
| Jeremy Phillips, Lengthsman for October | £825.00. |
| Clerk, expenses | £176.78. |

On a proposal by CL seconded by FB and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

Reports from Committees and working parties -

- Footpaths, wildlife & Environment - Summary received and forwarded to all Councillors from GF.
- Recreation Group - Chair advised nothing to report - as the mound in Chapel Lane playing field had not been cut, it was agreed to ask the Lengthsman to carry out this work.
- Churchyards Committee - Nothing to report - donations for upkeep of Churchyards to be considered at meeting in January in accordance with 2015/16 budget recommendations with payment made at the meeting in February.
- NDP - TLJ advised consultation ends on 9th November, she then awaited report from Karla Johnson.
- Small Donations Group - Nothing to report, no requests received.
- Resilience Group - SR advised local Doctor's surgery would be fund raising to provide second defibrillator for the area at the doctor's surgery, request for 60 sandbags has been received to date. Query raised regarding salt bins as it appears Herefordshire Council are not prepared to fill the grit bins which the Parish Council had provided a couple of years ago, and GF advised that a local resident in Huntingdon has asked for a bin to be provided at the bottom of that site. CL would check on whether all bins had been filled and provision of additional bins to be discussed in January 2017.
- Lengthsman & P3 - Report submitted to all Councillors, work to potholes next on work Schedule, and it appeared that the funding from Balfour Beatty to complete the work at Pound bridge had been spent elsewhere.

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- Policies & Procedures Group - draft Terms of Reference had been distributed and were adopted by the Parish Council subject to one minor amendment regarding calling of meetings. The Co-option procedures had also been circulated but it was agreed these should be amended to provide for a ballot when appointing either one or several new members for co-option onto the Parish Council - to be finalised at January meeting.

Newsletter items to include

- Attendance by Cathy Berkeley regarding problems on A4103 and PC seeking improved road markings.
- Future of Facebook which is set to continue.
- No proposal to increase Precept for 2017/18.
- Possibility of Precept to be capped in future years.
- Mention of small donations group.
- Cllr. Fred Beard thanked both the Vice Chairman and the Clerk for keeping him fully informed with hard copies of all literature since he does not have a computer.

Literature & Correspondence -

- ❖ E-mail from Cllr Eldridge to Cllr Lloyd-Jones regarding her declarations of interest.
- ❖ E-mail Sarah Herriot to Parish Council regarding PC's proposal to alert Balfour Beatty requesting them to complete work to bank at Pound Bridge.
- ❖ Letter from Nigel Jones at The Leys requesting to know who had carried out work to trees on Buryfields site and who had both authorised this and paid for the work undertaken.
- ❖ E-mail from Fastershire.com to local resident Richard Harris.
- ❖ E-mail from Cllr Lloyd-Jones to Cllr Eldridge responding to queries raised of her.
- ❖ Letter from Cradley Village Hall seeking donation of £1,892.69 noting that this was a reduction of some 24% over last year's figure and pointing out that major part of the reduction represented a goodwill gesture which may well not be repeated next year adding that there is also no handling charge to be paid this year.
- ❖ Letter from Malvern Hills AONB thanking PC for the donation of £100.
- ❖ E-mail - HALC Information Corner regarding proposed capping of Precepts. See Minutes as to how PC had responded objecting to this proposal.
- ❖ Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding redirection of footpath CD47, and having checked with Jeff White, he confirms that he does not see a problem with this as it is mostly adopting the route that people walk anyway and the only "new" section is where the original route is now shown as being through the building and this obviously has to be changed.
- ❖ Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.
- ❖ The Clerk magazine.
- ❖ Agenda - Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Updates from various sub-committees and working parties, circulated to all.

Councillor Reports and items for future Agendas -

- AE gave update on planning application for Heart of the Village project advising that further information had been supplied to Planning Dept as requested.
- HALC update to be added to Reports for future Agendas.
- Dog bin sought for Rectory Lane.

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

Next meeting to take place in January 2017 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman

DRAFT