October 2016/37

Minutes of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th October 2016
in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee

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

Also present were Mr. & Mrs. D. Carter and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from S. Davies.

Mr. & Mrs. David Carter introduced themselves and advised that they were taking over the Red Lion Public House on the A4103 and invited all Councillors to an informal opening of the Pub.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda and signed the Declarations Register -

- KN and Chairman – Cradley Village Hall.
- Chairman and CL – Buryfields Cottage planning application

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman following an amendment indicating that Dr. Ivan Smart did not raise any queries of Cllr. Eldridge but did enquire if all Councillors signed up to the Nolan Principles.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. Patricia Morgan had been invited to attend the meeting.

Planning – The Chairman reported on the following planning applications which had been discussed by the Planning Committee –

- No. 162951 – Buryfield Cottage, Cradley – proposed installation of rooflights to rear – no comments.
- No. 162986 – Barretts Cottage, Cradley – internal alterations (new door and partition) – no comments.
- No. 1630543 – Churchfields House, Cradley – work to thirty one trees – "No objections raised but the Parish Council would wish to see wherever possible tree Nos. 17 & 21 replaced with young oak trees".
- No. 162603 – 16 Old School Close, Cradley – works to three overhanging trees – No objections raised but Parish Council trusted that negotiations with the neighbours have taken place regarding this application.
- No. 163040 – Cricket Cottage, Cradley – propose to reduce height of tulip tree – Bearing in mind that this is situate in a conservation area, we feel that a two third reduction is excessive and recommended a one-third reduction and that the tree be reshaped to what it was before.
- No. 162939 – Field to east of Hawkhurst Cottage, Cradley – proposed works to English oak tree – no objections.
- No. 162942 – Oak Bank, Chapel Lane – work to English oak tree – no objections.
- No. 162688 – Wynton, 2 Brookside – work to weeping willow tree – no objections.

The Parish Council asked Herefordshire Council to check of Western Power whether there was any truth in the rumour that there are no plans to put cables underground in this Parish following so many planning applications being dealt with this evening regarding trees in the Parish, many of which were mature oak trees.

DRAFT

TLJ advised that with further reference to her comments during the August meeting regarding planning application No. 162041 – Land at Coombe Farm, Coombe Lane where she raised concerns ***"regarding the potential impact on views from the AONB"***– a member of the public during Public Question time at that meeting had commented that ***"this remark was irrelevant as views from the AONB had no planning status"***.

Cllr. Lloyd Jones had investigated both the Core Strategy Policy SS6 and the Malvern Hills AONB management plan 2014-19 policy and wished the following comment to be minuted "that impacts on both views to and from the AONB and the setting of the AONB should be considered where a development proposal may have a detrimental affect contrary to these assertions and she urged the Parish Council to bear this in mind when considering future applications that are either visible from the AONB or affect its setting".

Update on outstanding matters –

1) Illegal removal of an ivy ivy covered fence post and the pollarding of two ivy covered sycamore trees at Crumpton Hill Road – Hereford Council Enforcement Officer advised that he had visited the site and requested certain work be put in hand and that the matter is ongoing.
2) External Audit – The Clerk advised the external audit had been satisfactorily completed and circulated to all Councillors the Parish Council list of assets which included advice from the External Auditors how this should be dealt with at future audits, as depreciation of assets should not take place.

For consideration –

3) Broadband – GT expressed his concerns over lack of adequate broadband speeds in the Parish and it was agreed that he should draft a letter to BT to be sent by the Clerk in which he raised his dissatisfaction for coverage in the Parish.
4) Removal of telephone kiosks in the Parish – BT had sought comments from various Parish Councils in Herefordshire regarding their plans to remove unused telephone kiosks, with the box at Finchers Corner being affected in Cradley and also the one at Birchwood Junction, Storridge. This was discussed and it was agreed that the box at Finchers Corner could be removed but we were to request that the Storridge box be retained for the following reasons
    - (i) No mobile reception in the valley.
    - (ii) That a Parish Councillor living on the A4103 has been asked on numerous occasions for the use of his personal telephone due to lack of reception for mobiles.
    - (iii) This section of the A4103 at Storridge was an accident black spot, and
    - (iv) The box had been used on several occasions during the last year.
5) Proposed boundary changes – E-mail received from "Elections at Hereford" regarding boundary commission for England public hearings reviewing the constituency boundaries across England which will involve Cradley once again being included in the Malvern area.
6) Accident on the A4103 at Stoney Cross – SR set out the statistics following the accident and it was reported that a full report on this could be obtained from Cllr Morgan in due course, but it would appear that the accident was as a result of driver error. The last fatality on the road was in May 2013 and It was reported that over many years, the Parish Council has sought and been refused a reduction in the speed on the A4103 from The New Inn pub at Storridge through our Parish. GF indicated he had spoken to Balfour Beatty Locality

DRAFT

Steward about the speed problems on the A4103 and it was suggested that the Parish Council push for increased signage and improved visibility splays, as it would appear that there would be no chance of a reduction in the speed limit through the Parish. AE suggested that Cllr Roffe's Report should be sent through to Hereford and that we should ask what their programme is and how the Parish Council could achieve better signage on the roads. In the meantime, Cllr Roffe's report was to be distributed to all Parish Councillors and the matter would be discussed again at the November meeting.

7) Insurance Quotations for 2016/17 – The Clerk reported that following all the changes at the two Play areas which are our responsibility, she had forwarded an up to date list to our existing Insurance company "AON" and at the same time had sought an alternative Quotation from Zurich Municipal. The two Quotations are as follows –

   (1) AON - £533.09.
   (2) Zurich Insurance (for a three year term) quoted £441.71 per annum.

   The two Quotations were discussed and **on a proposal** by AC seconded by FB and carried it was unanimously agreed the Parish Council should accept the Quotation from Zurich Insurance and the Clerk would notify the companies accordingly.

8) Finance Meeting to set Budget/Precept – was agreed for Wednesday 2nd November at 2.30pm in the Heritage Room with full suggestions sent out to Councillors with the paperwork for the November meeting.

Finance matters – The Clerk reported the following Invoices had been received for payment –

- HMRC PAYE £150.00.
- Storridge Village Hall, donation as agreed £1,095.40.
- Donation to AONB (agreed to be paid annually) £100.00.
- Glasdon dog bins £760.14.
- Cradley Village Hall, hire fees £27.00.
- County Building Supplies, Lengthsman materials £93.48.
- Jeremy Phillips, Lengthsman duties for September £500.00.

FB took the chair and **on a proposal** by GF seconded by AS and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly – neither the Chairman or Vice Chairman took part in the vote.

Reports from Committees and working parties –

- Footpaths, wildlife & environment – GF had circulated all Councillors with his latest Report which had been published on the website and advised that Minutes from the last meeting would be circulated shortly.
- Recreation Group – Chairman advised nothing to report
- Churchyards Committee – Chairman advised nothing to report but that figures for usual Donations towards the upkeep of the churchyard would be sought shortly.
- NDP – TLJ advised all relevant paperwork had been submitted to Hereford Council and that they had been published on 28th September with the consultation due to finish on 9th November.
- Small Donation Group – nothing to Report, notices up on various boards around the Parish and on the website but advised no requests for funding had been received to date.

DRAFT

- Resilience Group – Report published, further meeting taking place following day and group speaking to people willing to be volunteers. SR advised she had attended a Surgery evening and they are going to discuss with volunteers for a suggested defibrillator outside the surgery.
  Approval was sought and obtained for the Parish Council to purchase sand at a cost of £87.88 for two tons which would be delivered to the Farm Shop where the free supply of empty sandbags would be filled and parishioners advised that some sandbags were available if they were liable to flooding in extreme weather.
- Lengthsman/P3 – GF had supplied Report now published on the website and reported on work recently carried out since the Report was issued.
- Policies & Procedures Group – BH advised that an additional meeting was planned for the following Monday. Cllr. Scarsbrook was attending a training with HALC and the information obtained would be beneficial in drawing up their proposals and it was hoped a full report would be available for the November Parish Council meeting.

The Vice Chairman advised that all the above Groups would shortly have their own page on the Parish Council website for displaying Agendas, Minutes of their meetings etc. which was welcomed by all members of the various Committees and working parties.

Correspondence/Literature –

- E-mail Lynda Wilcox, HALC, following query raised by Dr. Ivan Smart regarding the Nolan Principles as follows ~"the Code of Conduct stems from the Nolan Principles and all your Councillors should have completed an Acceptance of Office form stating that they would comply with the Code, as well as completing a Register of Interests" – Dr. Smart has been advised that our records are up to date and all correct.
- E-mail from the Enforcement Officer regarding Seonaid Barber and land at Crumpton Hill Road advising that the matter is ongoing (copied to all).
- Letter – BT advising formal consultation process regarding programme of intended public payphone removals affecting phones at Finchers Corner and Birchwood, Storridge.
- E-mail from Elections regarding Boundary Commission for England public hearings reviewing the constituency boundaries across England will involve Cradley coming under Malvern area.
- Letter, HSBC regarding changes to Business banking terms and conditions.
- E-mail to Cllr. Eldridge from Malcolm Brown.
- E-mail to Cllr. Elderidge from Dr. Ivan Smart,
- "The Clerk", "Local Council Review" and "Clerks & Councils Direct" magazines.
- Updates from various Sub Committees and working parties, circulated to all.

Newsletter items –

- Tree work and Western Power being queries regarding underground cables.
- Welcome to "Red Lion Pub" new owners.
- Broadband reception patchy with advice on Facebook how to check individual line speeds.
- Boundary changes.
- Speed and visibility on the A4103.
- Telephone Kiosks advising PC hoping to retain one at Storridge.
- NDP submitted to Hereford on the 20th September - out for consultation until 9th November.
- Small Donations Group advertisements around the Village.
- Resilience Group now changing name to Emergency Planning Group.
- Satisfactory completion of external Audit.
- Sandbags would be available in the near future.

DRAFT

October 2016/41.

Public Question Time – No members of the public in attendance.

Councillor Reports and items for future Agendas –

- Usual updates on various issues.
- Chairman requested a review of the Parish Council purchasing a machine for recording Parish Council meetings which was discussed over six months ago and rejected by Councillors.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm. Next meeting was to take place on 8th November 2016 in Storridge Village Hall.

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

Chairman

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