

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee

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

Also present were R. Iwanczuk, R. Stoddard, several other members of the public and the Clerk.

An apology for inability to attend had been received and was approved from C. Lowder.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors Samantha Roffe and Bruce Herriot who both signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest – The Declarations Register was circulated and members registered their interests and nature as appropriate.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meetings held on 10th November 2015 and the Extra Ordinary meeting on the 1st December 2015 had been circulated to all members. The Minutes of the November meeting were approved subject to changing the word “illegal” to “unlawful” and advice that Cradley Village Hall accounts were on the Charity Commission website. Subject to these amendments both sets of minutes were approved as drawn and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Patricia Morgan not in attendance, but the Clerk confirmed that she had been sent both the Agenda and the Minutes of the previous meetings for her information.

Planning – The Chairman advised that the following planning applications had been considered prior to full Council meeting. No declarations of interest in any of the applications had been received by Councillors on the Planning Committee-

Application No. 153490 – Land at Mirror Brook smallholding, Stoney Cross – proposed residential development comprising two detached and two semi-detached split level sustainable homes and four subterranean “ha ha” garages, associated landscaping, hard surfacing and access – ***the Parish Council do not support this application (1) we have concerns regarding the drainage of the site which is prone to causing flooding onto the B4220 and the proposed houses are planned on an area where a pond was constructed to mitigate this flooding (2) concerns regarding the safety of the proposed access on the B4220 which is a narrow country road on a blind bend and although the road is subject to a 30mph speed restriction, speeding traffic is normal (3) we are unhappy with the design of the buildings (4) the land is outside the settlement boundary and (5) in the event that planning is granted, we feel it is vitally important that the existing hedge and tree line is retained at an adequate height to screen the buildings.***

Application No. 153170 – Land at The Cartshed, Storridge – proposed conversion of cartshed to form one four bed dwelling and erection of single storey storage shed – ***despite receiving an extension of time, the application had been considered and approved by Hereford Council.***

Application No. 153618/L – Poundbridge, Cradley – removal of detached half height brick enclosure of former greenhouse – ***no objections raised.***

Application No. 153486/L – Poundbridge, Cradley – proposed repairs to north elevation timber frame and panels – ***no objections raised.***

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Application No. 153643 – Poundbridge, Cradley – proposal to remove two apple trees and replace with two oak trees and three willow trees plus minor coppicing to north boundary – **no objections raised.**

Application No. 160031 – 8 Old School Close, Cradley – work to silver birch trees - **no objections raised.**

Application No. 160005 – Bulls Head Cottage, Cradley – work to oak tree – **no objections raised.**

Matters arising -

- (1) Car parking problems at Dr's surgery and British Legion – at the previous meeting it had been agreed that the Parish Council should endeavour to make an attempt in resolving the car parking problems resulting from the British Legion erecting a barrier across their car park. The Patients Participation Group had also become involved, and it had eventually been agreed that a locked donation box be available in the Dr's surgery for donations by Patients attending the Surgery. This arrangement would remain in place until the end of March 2016 when the situation would be re-assessed and dependent upon the level of donations received, the British Legion would then decide whether to re-erect the fence across their property. No decision had been reached regarding the "car parking charge" to be paid by Patients and the question of insurance had also raised concerns. As a result of this arrangement, GF advised he would again start investigations into some form of traffic calming being put in place in the area.
- (2) Report on unlawful activity by Parish Council over co-option – It was agreed to change the wording to read "unlawful" rather than illegal, and the Chairman advised it was hoped to have a definitive answer on this allegation for the February meeting. Advice from HALC had been sought and was awaited. The complaint against the Chairman was also ongoing and no further comment would be made whilst investigations were taking place.
- (3) Proposal to re-position Notice Board from inside Chapel Lane play area to entrance verge – a photograph was circulated to show the approximate position where it was suggested the board be moved to. The matter was discussed regarding road safety concerns affecting the public when either displaying or reading the notices.

Finance Matters - The Clerk advised the following Accounts had been received – **FB took the chair and sought approval for payment**

• Inland Revenue, PAYE	£150.00.
• Donation to Cradley Village Hall, as agreed	£2,246.67.
• Cradley Village Hall, photocopying	£23.60.
• Cradley Village Hall, hire fees	£87.00.
• SLCC – renewal of membership	£149.00.
• County Building Supplies, November A/c	£86.54.
• County Building Supplies, December A/c	£77.62.
• R. Lambert, Lengthsman duties - Nov.	£225.00.
• R. Lambert, P3 duties – Nov.	£45.00.
• R. Lambert, balance Lengthsman Nov.	£30.00.
• Escourt Planning re NDP	£1,558.50.
• R. Lambert, Lengthsman Dec.	£202.50.
• Clerk, expenses and travel	£199.03.

On a proposal by TLJ seconded by GF and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. Note – CL abstained from voting re Lengthsman charges/payments.

Reports from Committees and working parties –

Environment & Footpaths – GF offered full report at meeting in February – however in the meantime he was unhappy that little or no progress had been made and suggested a review in April and if no progress had still been made, he would suggest to the Council that the group be disbanded. However it was noted that most of the members of this Group were also active members of the NDP Group involving a vast amount of work. The Chairman suggested that now the Council was up to full strength that we look to other members of the Council to take these projects on board. GF will arrange a further meeting in February.

Recreation Group – it was hoped to arrange a further meeting within the next few days to talk about the next stage at Chapel Lane. It had however been proposed that the centre section of the site be planted as an orchard.

NDP – TLJ gave feedback on meeting with Karla Johnson of Hereford Council as follows ***"that a good start to your plan, all of the format and topics are there. Overall the plan is on the path to be in general conformity with the basic conditions providing the plan is related closer to the Core Strategy. Further testing will happen from HC Policy team at Reg 14 consultation stage"***. TLJ advised on the criteria for both Stages 14 and 16 and the timescale which the Parish Council hoped to achieve. She also sought approval for payment of David Crofts additional fees of £450. to enable the plan to be submitted to Reg. 14. She also advised that a meeting had been arranged with members of the HOV project to discuss contentious policy and that a meeting had also been arranged with Herefordshire Council NDP team on 19th January 2016 to identify opportunities for funding grant, as to date no funding had been received.

On a proposal by TLJ, seconded by AC and carried, these fees were approved for payment in the future. Three Councillors abstained from voting.

Lengthsman/P3 – GF advised that due to computer problems, a full report would be available at the next Parish Council meeting. Hereford Council/BB had refused to pay for materials used and the training which both the Lengthsman and himself had undertaken, as a result of which, a meeting had been arranged with Tony Johnson in the hope of resolving this problem, as it seemed quite uneconomical that every time materials were required to carry out some work, GF would have to travel to Hereford to collect the materials rather than using the Account which had been opened with County Building Supplies in Malvern. Further details and result of meeting would hopefully be available in February.

The Chairman closed the meeting to enable Public Question time to take place

Attending the meeting was Richard Stoddard who presented brief details of his proposed planning application at Church Stile Farm. He advised that Consultants had been engaged and a landscape assessment had been undertaken all of which was now on their website. They were seeking advice from Hereford Council, drawing up detailed design for the site which would include affordable housing and he asked Councillors if he could be allowed time on the February Agenda to present the proposals to them prior to having a full public consultation in the Village Hall later in February. Councillors welcomed this proposal.

Roman Iwanczuk expressed thanks about the Lengthsman scheme and offered to help out if additional assistance was required for any particular project. The subject of Insurance was raised should Mr. Iwanczuk's offer be accepted, as both Rob Lambert and Geoff Fielding had sufficient insurance cover.

Fred Beard reported on a fatal accident which had occurred in Storridge the previous Sunday.

The Chairman closed the public question time

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Items for Newsletter to include new Councillors welcomed, surgery parking, seeking members for the wildlife and footpaths group, NDP update, full report on Lengthsman duties in February and also a brief report concerning the Extra Ordinary meeting in December when Anne Scarsbrook had been appointed as Councillor and the Precept/Budget had been agreed for 2016/17.

Correspondence/Literature received –

- 1) Letter from Project Skills Co. that both G. Fielding and R. Lambert had passed the NRSWA course – the certificates were awaited.
- 2) Letter from John Gilbert regarding street lighting at Pixiefield which was now on all night.
- 3) Lengthsman/P3 Report from G. Fielding for November 2015 – December to follow.
- 4) Copy of Ledbury Town Plan review – copy had been sent to all Councillors.
- 5) December Information Corner from HALC (copied to all).
- 6) E-mail regarding alleged “unlawful” activity by Council – awaiting response from HALC.
- 7) Complaint against Chairman.
- 8) New Audit Regime included in December Information Corner – Councillors agreed to be automatically opted in as recommended by HALC.

Councillors items for the next meeting –

- a. Telephone Kiosk purchase and defibrillator – BH.
- b. Emergency centre for Cradley – SR (Storrige Village Hall already registered as an emergency centre).
- c. Sign requested for Finchers Corner - GF will investigate.
- d. Rubbish from School field encroaching into garden at 3 Buryfields – KN will investigate.
- e. Broadband services in Parish – SR will investigate and report back.

Next meeting to take place in Storrige Village Hall on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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

Chairman.