

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Here are the main points from the latest Parish Council meetings on 14th February at Storridge Village Hall and the extraordinary meeting on January 26th at Cradley Village Hall.

County Councillor

Councillor Patricia Morgan was not able to join us in person this time, but she sent us an update in that she had looked into our concerns re some planning issues at Queenswood and The Leys – the upshot is that little has changed I'm afraid, with only small adjustments happening. She also promised to keep up the pressure regarding repairs to the footpath and stream bank at Poundbridge. In the meantime, we can but pray that no further flooding occurs to worsen the situation there, and we keep up the pressure ourselves of course.

New Pixiefields Development

As many of you are aware, the details plans are now published and the venue for our March 14th Parish Council meeting has been changed to Cradley Village Hall in case there are a great number of you wishing to attend from Cradley. Please walk if you can, to help provide parking for those unable to walk easily – thank you. The application will be discussed at this meeting (7 pm) and I hope you will contribute so that the Parish Council's position can reflect the feelings of the community accurately. Please remember that the field already has outline permission, and the access through the current Pixiefields estate has been agreed. It is the detailed layout of the housing and the landscaping that is now before us.

Highways in the Parish

I need to take a very deep breath before embarking on this topic in case I say something I shouldn't....! We could well be justifiably incandescent with rage at the pothole situation; not only have some sections of badly deteriorating road not had any attention at all, but some of the potholes which actually have been repaired have been done so badly that they have disintegrated again within weeks of the work. Surely in anybody's book this is unacceptable, and a complete waste of money and resources? To hold anybody to account however we need a detailed bank of evidence over a span of time, and **this is where you can all help us**. Please report potholes and other highway problems to Councillor Geoff Fielding (01886 881 019) as he is now the official highways officer for the Parish Council; also, please note when repairs are done and how they are faring over time and pass this on with exact dates and times. Without this, we are whistling in the wind I am afraid with Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council, so thanks for your help. Some things are a bit more under local control, so, despite the fact budgets and resources are limited, our Lengthsman Jeremy and Councillor Geoff Fielding have achieved great things with footpath repairs, etc. Some small-scale pothole repairs are possible within the Lengthsman Scheme (only on 'C' and unclassified roads though of course), so Geoff is hoping for decent weather to get on with some of those in the Spring. Finally, within the highways area, we have a limited doable target or two for 2017. These will be 1. work to get concealed entrance signage for traffic approaching the Red Lion from the east, 2. pursue improvements for the A4103/B4220 junction, and 3. press on to provide Gated Village arrangements to contribute to speed reduction.

Small Donation Scheme

The Council is happy to support the acquisition of a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) for the triangle of Parish owned land on Crumpton Hill. Thank you to local residents who voluntarily maintain this land, and we hope you will enjoy the new addition.

Extra Dog Bin

The dog bin scheme seems to be working well generally, but it was felt that another one was required, on Rectory Lane. By the time you read this it may well be in place. I won't say any more – I took one of those deep breaths.

Advanced Warning

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 9th May at 6 pm (a mixture of social informality and some short reports for parishioners), and this will be followed by the usual pattern of a planning meeting at 7 pm, and full Annual Council Meeting at 7.30 where chair, vice-chair and other officers and committees are appointed for the year 17/18.

Footpaths, Wildlife and Environment

Councillor Geoff Fielding reported on the work of this Council working group, which includes councillors and other people in the community. There has been a survey of the trees with TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) in the Parish, and there will be a detailed reference list with full details of each one. In the meantime, you may be interested to read the guidance on TPOs that is on the Parish Council website. The footpath from Chapel Lane to the Red Lion has been improved, so walking to the pub is now a lot easier; this could be finished off nicely by a safe path from the end of this footpath to the pub itself, but that will need conversations with the Highway authorities – more news anon on that one. Moves are afoot (astride?) to review our bridle path network to see if further improvements could be made.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

At our Extraordinary Meeting on 26th January it was agreed by Council to request the appointment of Chris Collison as the external independent Examiner of our NDP. At our meeting on 14th February, Councillor Tanya Lloyd Jones confirmed that Herefordshire has indeed appointed him for this purpose. All these trained and qualified national NDP examiners are very busy and so we have no idea when he will be able to work on ours.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is at Cradley Village Hall on March 14th at 7.30 p.m. with the planning meeting beforehand at 7 p.m. Therefore, please note that it will be at the 7pm meeting that Pixiefields will be discussed initially, although, being a major scheme, I am sure it will also be presented to the full Council for comments. There will also be an opportunity, at the Chair's discretion, for comments from members of the public.

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