

For CMS

Cradley Parish Council Meeting 14th March 2017

At Cradley Village Hall

The Venue for this month's meeting was changed from Storridge Village Hall to Cradley as it was expected that a large number of parishioners would want to discuss the proposed development at Pixiefields, and Cradley has more car parking space.

Our local ward Councillor Patricia Morgan was in attendance and reported to the Parish Council on Herefordshire's ongoing financial struggles. Unfortunately she was not the bearer of good news, just more of what we are rapidly having to accept as a 'way of life'. It is envisaged that Council Tax will be increased by a minimum of 2.9% to meet the increasing burden on County finances due to continuing constraints from central Government. She pointed out that extra monies had been promised by Whitehall, especially in the area of adult care, but that the fine detail and terms had not yet been made clear. Likewise promises of monies for the fast deteriorating road structure in the county, whilst promised, had not been fully defined.

We do not normally report on individual Planning matters but with the attendance of members of the public at the meeting and the level of genuine concern over the proposed Pixiefield development we make an exception.

The proposed development of 60 houses on the site was discussed at length with the Planning Committee, Councillors and members of the public. A healthy exchange of viewpoints, and the highlighting of envisaged problems and unacceptable design features, was raised and fully explored. The Parish Council agreed to formulate a response to the planning department which reflected all of these genuine concerns of the community.

Incidentally, parishioners are reminded that the most effective method in such circumstances is to make a direct comment to the planners online or by letter. It's far more more effective if your comments are based on planning points rather than 'emotional' principles.

Defibrillator installation at the Old Post Office is speeding ahead and when you read this (hopefully!) a date for its full commissioning will be set. Who will cut the red ribbon? -- is of course a question yet to be answered, so watch out for the date and time around the Village. Many thanks go to Councillor Bruce Herriot for his work (over many months) to make it all happen.

Of course, now is the time to get behind the drive by the Friends of Cradley Surgery to get our second defibrillator set up on the other side of the village, at the surgery.

Councillor Geoff Fielding announced that with Balfour Beattie's permission our Lengthsman would be able to carry out minor works on the B roads in Parish. This will enable him to clear litter, cut grass and clear drains etc., but -- alas -- not fix those ruddy potholes!

Our Lengthsman will also be supporting our revamped Rec committee in getting the areas back under regular control and inspection to fully meet the PC's obligations. A full inspection of the football pitch will be carried out at Chapel Lane to ascertain what remedial works can be done to alleviate the present Sssdrainage problems.

A new dog bin will soon be installed on the road verge between the end of Rectory Lane and Upper Churchfields Lane, to the South side of the telegraph pole, for the convenience of responsible dog owners.

The Small Donations group have completed payment for the planting of a pin oak tree on the Council land at Crompton Hill by local residents. We encourage others to come forward with schemes to enhance the areas of the village by local groups. Go to cradleyparishcouncil.org.uk and fill in a form to apply.

Pound Bridge repairs. Good news! We have been informed that the ecological survey that has been holding up repair works for some time now to the stream banks at Pound Bridge is at last – *at last!* -- scheduled to take place at the beginning of April. Fingers crossed...

Ken Nason

(signing off for the last time as Parish Councillor)