

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Many thanks to Ken Nason for stepping in with the Parish Council report in last month's Newsletter. You're back with me this time I'm afraid, but it shouldn't be one of my marathons, so stay with me... please! Here are the main points from the latest Parish Council meetings on 11th April at Cradley Village Hall:

Changes at Cradley Parish Council

Chris Lowder has decided to stand down as chair and as parish councillor, and I should like to thank him greatly for the enormous amount of commitment and energy that he has shown as a parish councillor, and as Chair for the last few years. Change can of course be unsettling, but my impression is that the remaining councillors will pull together and ensure a smooth transfer to the new situation. For our April meeting, we were very grateful that Councillor Fred Beard agreed to be interim chairman (he insisted "for one meeting only"!!) until the Annual Council Meeting in May. He expedited the business of the day with efficient aplomb, using his experience of over 50 years (can you believe it?) on the Council.

County Councillor

Councillor Patricia Morgan had sent a written report, following her attendance at the March meeting. She stated that the Planning Officer had noted the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the **Pixiefields development**, and that there would be discussions with the developer to see if some improvements could be made. She also reported that some significant works were being considered for the **A4103/B4220 junction** to make it safer. Hopefully there will be detailed discussions between the Herefordshire Highways officers and the Parish Council. More on that anon. By the way, don't forget to let Councillor Geoff Fielding have any information on potholes and the like.

Number of Parish Councillors for Cradley

We have often made the point to 'higher' authorities that 15 is too many councillors for the size of the parish, and, as there is a review of such things at the moment, we shall try to reduce our officially allocated number.

Change of Date for June Meeting

Advance warning: the June Parish Council meeting will be on the 1st Tuesday (6th), not the usual 2nd Tuesday.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The independent examiner has now submitted his report on our Plan, and the referendum needed to confirm its legal status could well happen this summer or soon after. By the time you read this, things may have moved on, so do check the Parish Council website for up-to-date information.

Pound Bridge Repairs

Ken reported in the last Newsletter that an ecology survey was required before repairs could commence. Well, it has happened, and the go-ahead has been given. Hooray! I know, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, or maybe walking, in this case. Sorry, too many mixed metaphors! A very interesting fact came from the survey, in that the water tested in that area was apparently of exceptionally high quality. That is so good to know, but it is up to all of us to do anything we can to keep it that way of course.

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