

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday
13th January 2015 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7pm

Attending – Cllrs. K. Nason (in the Chair –KN) A. Carver (AC) G. Fielding (GF) G. Thomas (GT) D. Pye (DP) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) F. Beard (FB) A. Eldridge (AE) S. Herriot (SH) and K.Welford (KW – arrived during the evening).

Also attending were two members of the public including R. Stoddard and the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies for inability to attend due to health problems had been received and were approved from both C. Lowder and S. Davies.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda –

- KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall and two payments of expenses .
- AE advised he would not take part in the planning application for Vineyard Farm.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Planning applications received for consideration –

Application No. P143538/F – building adjacent to Vineyard Farm – conversion of rural building to one holiday cottage – objections raised including situate in AONB and building of no architectural merit.

Application No. P143473/F – land at Greenfields, Bosbury Road – proposed new dwelling adjoining Greenfields with access off estate road of new development at Dragonwych – Council reluctantly accept this but repeat our objections to the increase in size of the site without any provision for payment of any 106 monies or increase in the number of social housing on the site. ***Clerk requested to write to the Housing Officer to enquire what his response is to our previous comments regarding the lack of 106 payment or increase in social housing.***

Application No. P143492/K – The Elms, Rectory Lane – remove split branches and shape the crown of a pine tree – this has already been passed and the work carried out.

Application No. P143692/K – land adjacent to Pilgrims – work to trees – The Parish Council resist the felling of trees in the conservation area, and refer to the original Planning consent where consideration was requested to trees on the site. No objection to the felling of diseased tree, which should be replaced. If the other trees are causing problems, then they should be managed rather than felled.

Application No. P143402/C – Hope End Farm, Ridgeway Cross – proposed conversion of agricultural store to two residential dwellings (this application is for a prior approval determination for a change of use and, as such, the new legislation does not require the Council to respond to this communication) – Parish Council feel that this is part of a creeping development and that the building is not suitable for conversion.

Application No. P143805/FH – The Quiet Woman, Ridgeway Cross – proposed alterations adjustments and extension for the principle elevation including internal adjustments – no objections raised.

Application No. P143330/F – land adjacent to Dragonwych, Bosbury Road – proposed variation to Condition 2 of planning permission 130516/F – replacement of existing bungalow and erection of seven new dwellings (two to be affordable) to enable substitution of house type on Plot 5 –The Parish Council raise no objections, however, we do strongly feel that this site is now looking like an “estate” and if it is discovered that the Builder/Developer is one and the same person for the whole of the development, then there is absolutely no reason why Cradley should not be in receipt of 106 funds for the benefit of the community.

Matters for consideration –

- 1) **Lengthsman scheme** – an up to date Report on the proposed Lengthsman Scheme had been circulated by Geoff Fielding to all Councillors advising that on 8th January 2015 Herefordshire Council had advised they were scrapping the existing scheme and had put forward new proposals with effect from 1st April 2015. These new proposals were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that GF look further into the Parish Council joining the new scheme, he would attend the “workshop” in late January/early February and report back to the Council in due course. In the event of match funding being required, it was generally agreed that rather than increasing the Precept for 2015/16, the Council could cover this out of existing funds and adjust the Precept for the following year if required.
- 2) **Work and repairs to Church** – The Council had been advised by the PCC that extensive repairs were required to the roof and walls of the church tower, and had enquired whether the Parish Council wished to carry out any works whilst scaffolding was in place, but that due to funding this might not be carried out until well into 2016. It was agreed the only problem arising with the clock was ivy which had caused the clock to stop, and it was unanimously agreed that C. Lowder should pursue any action which may be necessary to get the clock up and running again rather than wait until the above repairs were carried out by the PCC.
- 3) **Resignation of T. Iwanczuk** – The Chairman advised that Tracey Iwanczuk had resigned from the Council following the November meeting, the Clerk had advised Herefordshire Council of the vacancy and the appropriate Vacancy notice had been displayed. In view of the forthcoming election in May, Councillors were advised that there was no immediate requirement to fill the vacancy, but DP advised he was aware of someone from the Storridge area who was interested in becoming a Parish Councillors and it was unanimously agreed that he should ask the interested party to contact the Clerk regarding the vacancy.
- 4) **Pension for Clerk** – The Clerk advised of correspondence received from The Pensions Regulator advising that every employer with staff in the UK must automatically enrol those who meet certain criteria for a workplace pension. Although it appeared the Clerk would be free to “opt in” to the pension scheme in the light of her salary and age, she advised that she was not particularly interested in doing so, and that following a discussion with Marion Griffiths (who deals with the Parish Council PAYE requirements) she advised that as and when a replacement Clerk was appointed they would be obliged to offer pension facilities. The Clerk agreed to advise when further information was available.

Progress Reports –

- a) NDP – TLJ advised assessment ongoing and C. Tinkler reported the draft should be available before the end of the current month.
- b) HOV – AE advised meeting had been held the previous evening attended by about 54 local residents. The various options had been looked at which included the Old Post Office but the present owner was not prepared to consider renting out the shop premises. The comments will be analyzed in the hope of narrowing it down to three or four options to put to the Village. He advised the BenCom has not yet been formed, the charitable Trust cannot be set up for the time being and that the assets would have to go to a charitable trust to meet the criteria of the Bencom. The current Lease on Morgans Field comes up for renewal at the end of March 2015.
It was felt that the working party set up by the Parish Council to look into the idea of the HOV could be disbanded.
RESOLVED – The Chairman proposed that the HOV Group have done a good job to date with ongoing proposals for the future and that the PC could now disband the Working Party Group. This was seconded by AC and carried. Thanks were expressed, a round of applause took place and the Group were advised that the Parish Council were fully in support of their proposals and looked forward to regular updates in future.
- c) The Leys – Following the recent meeting with Housing Association representatives and the Police, the Clerk had circulated all Councillors with notes on the meeting, advising that it had been suggested matters were improving and that the meetings should continue into the future.

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

- SLCC – membership renewal £149.00.
- Inland Revenue, PAYE £150.00.
- HALC – training for Vice Chairman £30.00.
- Cradley Village Hall donation, approved in November £2,603.34.
- Jeff White, donation agreed in November £50.00.
- T. Iwanczuk, repayment of expenses £14.48.
- Clerk, expenses £115.92.

On a proposal by WH seconded by AC and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

FB took the Chair and sought approval for payment of the following Accounts

- Cradley Village Hall, copying and hire fees £16.94.
- K. Nason repayment of expenses re Reporter £7.00.
- K. Nason, repayment of expenses re web site £12.00.

On a proposal by GT seconded by AC and carried, these accounts were also approved for payment and cheques signed.

Reports from Committees and working parties –

Environmental and Footpaths – WH advised nothing to report. Clerk requested to send letter to Jeff White and Anne Scarsbrook appointing them as joint footpath officers for the Parish Council having secured confirmation from the Insurance Company that they would be covered under the Employers Liability section of the Parish Council insurance.

Churchyard Committee – Nothing to report in the absence of the Chairman.

Recreation Area Committee – KN reported on proposals for moving the football pitch but advised that it would remain at the bottom of the site by the bike track. Prices being obtained but it was estimated that cost will be in the area of Seven thousand pounds and it was hoped the matter can be finalised by the end of January and that the grass contractor will soon cut the hedge.

Editorial Group – KN advised nothing to report.

Items for Newsletter to include report on Lengthsman proposals, resignation of Tracey Iwanczuk, NDP Report awaited, HOV meeting on 12th January, Footpaths Officers to be reappointed, recreation area required levelling on football pitch and the Clerk's efforts regarding removal of the rubbish left on the A4103 following the accident where a lorry had overturned.

Correspondence received –

- E-mail "thank you" from M. Hames for Parish Council gift of £100 for his work on Rectory Lane
- E-mail resignation from T. Iwanczuk in November with immediate effect.
- E-mail John Sands advising of essential repairs to roof and walls of Cradley Church
- E-mails from the Hext family requesting some speeding restrictions on the Bosbury Road and also a separate request from another Parishioner for some speed notification on road between Storridge Village Hall and Knights Cider farm.
- E-mail from Scotford Lawrence regarding the deteriorating conditions at Pound Bridge.
- E-mail from Mike Hames regarding the general condition of Rectory Lane.
- Numerous e-mails regarding the debris left on side of A4103 following accident.
- E-mail regarding the "Notice CA17" on footpath in Kingsbridge area on the Mathon Road (G. Fielding advised on the contents and reason for this Notice).
- E-mail regarding NDP funding details and update from Carly Tinkler.
- Letter from Herefordshire Council advising of estimated costs to be re-charged to parishes following May elections.
- E-mail from Geoff Fielding regarding Lengthsman Scheme (copy sent to all Councillors for info).
- Letter and leaflet regarding "the essential guide to automatic enrolment" of a pension facility for the Clerk.
- Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding parish tax base and grant allocation.
- E-mail from Richard Stoddard regarding proposed developments (sent to all Councillors).
- Information Corner from Lynda Wilcox.

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Literature_received – Local Council Review magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct magazine and The Clerk magazine.

Public Question time – No questions raised.

Councillor Reports and items for future Agendas –

- 1) Clerk requested to raise condition of roads at Finchers Corner, Rectory Lane, the Malvern/Cowleigh road, Chapel Lane and Buryfields.
- 2) SH requested an item on the next Agenda regarding the new arrangement for Planning applications and also lack of site visits.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 10th February 2015.
Chairman.