

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday
11th February 2014 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) K. Nason (KN) A. Eldridge (AE) T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) W. Harries (WH) L. Gamble (LG) C. Lambert (CL) F. Beard (FB) A. Symondson (AS) G. Fielding (GF) E. Moseley (EM) and B. Gordon (BG).

Also attending – the Clerk, Mrs. A. Carver and Cllr. C. Attwood.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from S. Davies and D. Woodward.

Declarations of Interest – KN declared a personal interest in the payment of Invoice for the Parish Council web site.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report –

- (1) Cllr. Attwood advised that the budget concerning bus service to local schools had been reprieved for one year, along with other budgets including the Arts and CAB.
- (2) Waste – Herefordshire Council lawyers were looking for a detailed breakdown of vulnerability in the present Contract which was set up about 20 years ago as some penalties may be involved in endeavouring to get out of the Contract, and
- (3) Balfour Beatty were seeking a Loan through the Public Works Loan Board to fund the promised “up front” funding which they had offered when they were awarded the Contract. Cllr. Attwood kindly offered to take up the issue regarding the long outstanding repair in the footpath adjacent to Storridge Village Hall/Church and also to see if he could expedite the repairs at Pound Bridge where the footpath had been fenced off causing problems for families accessing the school.

Public Question Time – Mrs Carver confirmed she was interested in the closure of the footpath at Pound Bridge.

Update reports -

- (1) Post Office facility – all Councillors had been forwarded a report on the meeting regarding the offer of an “Outreach facility” in Cradley Village Hall on a Monday AM and Thursday AM every week which would in effect offer a better range of facilities than were on offer at the old Post Office. The opening of this facility was to be widely promoted locally with the advice that the service **must** be used, as if this failed, there would be no second opportunity for the service.
- (2) Rectory Lane – KN had contacted Chris Chillingworth for an update to present to the Parish Council at this meeting. We had been assured that it is going through and that the Parish Council will be sent a copy of the submission and it is likely that it will be accepted within one month.
- (3) Pound Bridge – Chair advised that meeting had taken place with Representatives from Balfour Beatty as a result of which the footpath had been closed without any notice as it was considered to be dangerous, although it was evident that people are simply walking around the closure, entirely at their own risk. The Parish Council have various agreements in writing including the removal of rubbish and the offer to blast off mud from the footpath. The wet weather in January & February had caused more erosion and Cllr Attwood kindly offered to attempt to push this job forward as a matter of some urgency.
- (4) Notice Board renovation repair – KN advised the difficulty in obtaining additional Quotations for renovation of the boards. Two had been received at a figure of about £800 or £900 each and queried whether to change the specification to reduce the cost. Cllr Fielding kindly offered to carry out repairs at the Chapel Lane board FOC and will report back to the PC to enable them to consider change of specification for the other boards in the Parish if thought appropriate.

February 2014/05

Items for consideration –

Donations to three PCCs – The Chairman advised that the PC representatives had met and proposed the following –

- **The Chapel** expenditure - £234.55 plus additional £40 totalling £274.55.
On a proposal by CL seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed to make a donation of £274.55. to the Chapel.
- **StorrIDGE** expenditure - £360.00.
On a proposal by CL seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed to make a donation of £252.00.
- **Cradley PCC** – expenditure £2873.00. and it was proposed to make a capped donation of £2,000. However, in the first instance the PC were to ask for an itemised breakdown of the cost, and advise that until such time as this had been provided, the Parish Council cannot agree a donation. In addition, it was also agreed to ask Jim Harrington to give a specification for the work required in all three Churchyards to enable the Parish Council to consider a proportion of our budget figure of £3,000. in accordance with the expenditure at all three sites. AE kindly agreed to take up the matter with Jim Harrington and was given a £60. Budget for the cost of obtaining this specification.

Grass cutting for 2014/15 –

- **MCB** had indicated they were unwilling to Quote for the work.
- **4 Seasons** had simply quoted “grass cutting at £75.38 per cut plus VAT” and had not given quotation for the additional work included in the Specification.
- **Signature Gardens Ltd** had met with Chair and Vice Chair on site and had quoted £70 per cut at Chapel Lane and £70 per cut at Buryfields, but the cost for first and last cuts of the season at both sites would be £100 per cut/collection of grass cuttings. In addition, Quotations had been included for cutting back of hedges, clearing debris and overgrowth to the perimeter path at Chapel Lane, trimming back perimeter hedge at Buryfields area and strimming to the right of way south side of Buryfields. The overall cost of this work appeared to be within the PC Budget for 2014/15 (naturally dependent upon the amount of cuts required) and on a proposal by KN seconded by GF and carried , the Clerk was to accept the Quotation for a one year period in the first instance.

Vacancy on Parish Council – Chair reported that Dr. Sarah Herriott had indicated her willingness to be co-opted onto the Parish Council and on a proposal by FB seconded by KN and carried, it was unanimously agreed to accept her offer to join the Parish Council.

Great War Centenary – The Chairman had requested suggestions of how the Parish Council could mark the 100 years since the 1914/18 war and a tree planting scheme and new heart of the Village were amongst suggestions received. In addition, the Chairman put forward a suggestion for an outdoor gym on Chapel Lane play area, at a guide price of around £14,800. Funding to be hopefully obtained from an “Awards for all Grant” and an offer of match funding had also been received, thus resulting in no cost to the Parish Council.

All suggestions were discussed at length, and it was considered possible that all three suggestions were a possibility.

The Chairman asked for a vote on his suggestion, which was seconded by LG but only three Councillors were in favour of the outdoor gym suggestions. There was one abstention.

It was however agreed to include the War centenary memorial on the Agenda for the next meeting to enable further discussions to take place.

Chapel Lane programme – KN advised when weather permitted work will proceed with seeding, planting of 36 trees from Woodland Trust in March and possible digging of a trench and installation of a soakaway and that more logs and rocks can be added as required. A price will be obtained during 2014/15 for re-alignment of the football pitch and it was hoped to obtain more donations from local groups to include donation of more mature trees.

February 2014/06

Finance – The following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Inland Revenue, PAYE £157.55.
- Glasdon, four grit bins £643.18.
- Jim Harrington, fixing of bins £72.00.
- Ken Nason, renewal of Cradley PC.org. £35.99.
- Donation to Cradley Nursery £223.94.

Resolved – On a proposal by LG seconded by AS and carried these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Reports –

Planning – The Planning Committee Chairman advised the following applications had been discussed prior to the full Council meeting –

P133540/J- 4 Credenleigh – fell one oak tree – **no objections raised.**

P1401/FH – Wychwood Lodge – extension to existing garage – **no objections raised.**

P133184/F – land at Eskbank House – proposed new dwelling – **whilst we appreciate the fact that the house has been made less visibly intrusive from the west, we repeat all our previous comments which still apply. The materials generally do not relate to those already in use in the conservation area and therefore the building is likely to be viewed as out of context and would neither preserve nor enhance the conservation area. In addition, we feel the increased amount of glass will cause considerable glare problems to approaching traffic.**

The Chairman also advised that the appeal at Dragonwyck had been approved providing for six houses plus rebuilding of the existing bungalow at Dragonwyck on the Bosbury Road, two of which to be affordable.

NDP – TLJ advised Questionnaire will be published on both the Parish Council web site and the NDP website and also in the Reporter ASAP in which the replies are requested within two weeks.

Churchyards and Recreation areas – As reported above.

Editorial Group – KN advised he hoped to publish survey on site early the following week and that easier access to inspect Planning applications was now available to the public.

Newsletter items to include pressure on Balfour Beatty, four salt bins provided by the Parish Council, Post Office outreach service hoped to be available shortly, Pound Bridge activities, co-option of Dr. Sara Herriott in April, activities at Chapel Lane, NDP update and planning link available on Parish Council website.

Correspondence including changes to Affordable housing allocation, planning advice on Dragonwyck, e-mails regarding Churchyard donations, Pound Bridge, Rectory Lane, Post Office, Great War Commemorative project, increased subscription for HALC for 2014/15 and resignation letter from David Woodward.

Literature – Malvern Hills AONB building design brochure, handed to TLJ.

Councillor reports – Queries raised over Crumpton Hill camp site and Clerk advised we were told many months ago that a formal planning application would be received. GF advised that some of the potholes had been done in Chapel Lane but some drainage problems remained.

Next meeting to take place on 11th March 2014 at Storridge and it was hoped some Councillor would be in a position to attend the next meeting of the Cluster Group on 13th March.

Thanks were expressed to Ed Moseley for his service on the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 11th March 2014.
Chairman.

