

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday,
8th April 2014 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) T.Lloyd Jones (TLJ) K. Nason (KN) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) F. Beard (FB) A. Eldridge (AE) L. Gamble (LG) A. Symondson (AS) and S. Davies (SD).

Also in attendance – The Clerk and County Cllrs. C. Attwood and T. Johnson.

Apologies – An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from G. Fielding.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to two minor name change amendments.

Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall and the payment of expenses for the Reporter and the Chairman also declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.

New Councillor – The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Tracey Iwanczuk who signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the Council. Unfortunately Dr. Sarah Herriot had been unable to attend the meeting due to a prior appointment but it was confirmed that she hoped to attend both the Annual Parish Meeting and join the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

County Councillor Report – Cllrs. T. Johnson and C. Attwood reported on the appointment of a Locality Steward for the area which it was hoped would make contact with Balfour Beatty somewhat easier regarding chasing up outstanding issues. They advised that there continued to be severe financial constraints but that that Balfour Beatty had repaired over fifty thousand potholes in the area and following a query from AE it was confirmed that ongoing resurfacing work to roads came out of a different budget to the repair work. Cllr. Johnson agreed to endeavour to put pressure on the Council to finalise the adoption of Rectory Lane.

Update Reports -

- (1) Rectory Lane – KN reported he had been unable to obtain any further confirmation of a date when this would be finalised within Herefordshire Council but as mentioned the Leader of the Council Tony Johnson said he would try to put pressure on the Council to finalise the adoption of the Lane, particularly in view of the fact that the Post Office facility would be opening in the Village Hall in early May.
- (2) Pound Bridge – some debris has been cleared, the footpath remains closed but despite this some members of the public continue to use the footpath at their own risk.
- (3) Notice Boards – No update available due to absence of Cllr G. Fielding.
- (4) Planning Exhibition regarding Pixiefield – Outline planning exhibition discussed at previous Planning meeting, objections raised including number of proposed houses, location outside parish boundary, lack of infrastructure, reduced facilities in the village and increased flood risk in the area.
- (5) Parish Meeting - Roman Iwanczuk giving talk on increased broadband facilities in the Parish.
- (6) Cradley Signage – “Vinesend” sign has been replaced on A4103; turning for Cradley sign has disappeared on the A4103 near Stoney Cross (Clerk chasing) and the problems in the footpath at Storridge seem to have been dealt with.
- (7) Meeting with Housing Officers/Police – It was agreed Councillors to attend forthcoming meeting regarding letting problems at The Leys would include the Chairman, AE, KN, CL and AS.

Items for consideration -

- A. Outside gym at Chapel Lane – The Chairman requested this be deferred again until the May meeting when it was hoped new Councillors would be in attendance.
- B. Vacancy on Parish Council – The Clerk reported on application received from Mrs. Anne Carver, previous Parish Councillor. The application was discussed and it was agreed to invite Mrs. Carver to join us at the meeting in May.

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Finance matters – The following Accounts and donations had been received for payment –

- Inland Revenue £157.55.
- HALC subscription £672.71.
- T. Robshaw, Honorarium 2013/14 £75.00.
- Donation to MHDC AONB £100.00. to be paid annually.
- Clerks & Councils Direct subscription £12.00.
- Signature Garden services £768.00.
- Bradfords, turf at Chapel Lane £172.38.
- Bradfords, soil etc. at Chapel Lane £416.21.
- Clerk, expenses £123.00.
- Cradley V.Hall hire fees £12.00.
- Cradley V.Hall photocopying £80.25.
- Ken Nason, Reporter expenses £119.43.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by CL seconded by LG and carried the above Accounts and donations were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED – FB took the Chair and on a proposal by AE seconded by CL and carried, the Accounts for Cradley Village Hall and repayment of the expenses to K. Nason were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

REPORTS –

Planning - The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the planning applications received for consideration prior to the full Council meeting –

- Proposed development at Pixiefield - Strong objections made (see above).
- Proposed change of ancillary building at The Post Office to single dwelling – objections raised.
- The Old Coach House – proposed manège – no objections raised.
- Windy Oaks Farm – removal of restrictions – no objections raised.

NDP – Still awaiting return of some of the Questionnaires.

Environmental & Footpaths – WH reported he had received favourable comments regarding the proposed Parish walkabout, and it was felt that the problems in Sandy Lane should be a priority for the next meeting of the Group.

Churchyards Committee – Two Quotations for work at the three graveyards had been received and to enable these to be fully considered, KN agreed to bring the two Quotations to the same level to enable the Parish Council contributions to the three PCCs in the future to be on a fairer basis for both the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Councils.

Meeting of the Committee agreed for 12th April with the findings produced at the May meeting.

Recreation Area Committee – The centre at Chapel Lane had been turfed, wild flowers and some of the saplings planted, soakaway has been dug out and the next phase of the work to re-align the football pitch will take place during 2014. **Thanks were expressed to Dave Woodward, Neil Taylor and Dan Lowndes for their hard work at Chapel Lane during the recent work.**

Editorial Group – Reporter now published and distributed.

Correspondence –

- Letters from three PCCs thanking the Parish Council for their donations.
- Letter – Ledbury CVA seeking support to their work in the light of the reduced grant from Herefordshire Council. This was discussed and agreed not to contribute.
- Letter from Post Office confirming opening of “outreach facility” in the Village Hall in May.
- Quotations from J. Harrington and Signature Gardening services to enable the Parish Council to give full consideration to their donations to the three PCCs later this year.
- E-mail from Scotford Lawrence regarding the planning application for the Post Office/Shop.
- Information Corner from HALC regarding Financial Regulations and changes to internal audit which had been recommended.

Literature – Local Council Review booklet.

Items for Newsletter to include proposed development at Pixiefield, pothole repairs carried out by Balfour Beatty, Rectory Lane delay being taken up by Leader of Herefordshire Council, Ridgeway Cross sign for Cradley on the A4103 had been removed/taken down, work undertaken at Chapel Lane and that application by Mrs. Anne Carver had been approved to re-join the Parish Council.

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Councillor Reports and items for future Agendas – AS advised that trees had fallen in the woods and AE reported that he had received queries why the Post Office facility had not being offered at The Leys. It was confirmed that the Post Office had looked at alternative venues including The Leys (too small and insecure) British Legion had turned them down and the Church was due to lack of security.

The Clerk requested a change of date for the meeting in June, from the 10th to the 3rd.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and urged as many Councillors as possible to attend the forthcoming Parish Meeting on the 16th April in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

C. Lowder
Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman.

13th May 2014.