

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th October 2014
in Storrige Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair – CL) K. Nason (KN) G. Fielding (GF) W. Harries (WH) K. Welford (KW) A. Carver (AC) A. Eldridge (AE) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) F. Beard (FB) and T. Iwanczuk (TI).

Also present were Cllrs. C. Attwood and T. Johnson and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received, and were approved, from Cllr. S. Herriot, D. Pye, C. Lambert and S. Davies.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda –

- KN & the Chairman declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.
- TI and the Chairman declared a personal interest regarding the legacy from the late Joyce Bibbings.

Minutes – The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting and the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. C. Attwood reported on the recent announcement that Hereford Hospital had been put into “special needs” status following a visit to the Hospital in July with particular reference to the A & E Dept. Since that visit a new Chairman and Chief Executive have been appointed and the Government have put in special support in terms of resources. Herefordshire Council are working jointly with them as there are financial problems.

Cllr Attwood also announced that Hereford Football Club are due in Court on 20th October and that the Budget process for the Council is about to commence.

GF queried regarding lack of support to Footpath Officers and the P3 Scheme Officer and enquired when Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty would provide the necessary insurance. KN & the Chairman advised that they had met with Neil James who advised that the structure has changed and that in the future there would be no Tree Wardens or Footpath Officers. However, the Parish Council could recruit their own people and provide the necessary insurance for these officers. Cllr Tony Johnson agreed to find out the present position and report back to the Clerk in due course.

Planning – Cllr. KN took the Chair and advised only one planning application had been received for consideration concerning a proposal to fell one leylandii tree at 1 Kings Orchard to be replaced with the planting of three other trees. No objections were raised regarding this application.

KN also advised that whilst all Councillors are free to discuss any planning applications received they should not make any specific comments on the applications before it had come up for discussion at a Council meeting. If however they felt strongly enough about a particular application, they could of course comment about it in writing to the Planning Department, but they would not then be in a position to vote on the application at a Council meeting.

The new arrangement for dealing with planning applications was again discussed, with particular attention to site visits and **on a proposal** by Cllr. Lowder seconded by FB it was suggested that up until April 2015 a working group of consisting of the Chairman, GF, TI and WH would look at any substantial planning application each month, reporting back to full Council at the Council meeting with their opinion on the application and seek the full agreement, or otherwise, of all Council members. Eight Councillors voted in favour of this proposal, there were two abstentions. KN commented that with the formation of the “visiting group”, the Parish Council have effectively reformed the existing Planning Committee however vastly increased in size.

The lack of support from Herefordshire Council was also commented on as it had been noted that no confirmation had been received regarding the proposed Pixiefield development nor had there been any notification regarding this on the web-site. Clerk to write advising that the Parish Council felt there should be more support forthcoming from their office.

Update Reports –

- (a) Rectory Lane – KN advised he and the Chairman had met with Neil James, Locality Steward for Balfour Beatty following which the holes have been filled in and he confirmed that the whole lane does need resurfacing and confirmed he had put in his recommendation to Herefordshire Council to confirm this. Now that some work has been undertaken and the Lane finally adopted onto the Streets register, the Chairman advised that in November 2011 the then Chairman had proposed that Mike Hames be paid an honorarium of £100. for all his work, in investigating the history of Rectory Lane done at his own expense. Whilst this had been agreed, the then Councillor Michael Allfrey proposed that this be deferred until the registration had been finalised. The Chairman is of the opinion that this should now be paid. This was unanimously agreed, and the Clerk was to add the honorarium for payment at the November meeting.
- (b) NDP – TLJ advised that following the agreement reached at the last meeting, the Council had presented the papers to claim the Grant from Herefordshire Council before the end of September, but had since received notification that the funds had actually run out in August, although advised that funding should be available again in Spring 2015. Following on from this the Chairman and TLJ had met with Carly Tinkler to discuss her Quotation and advised that she had agreed to reduce her Quotation to £3,800 but obviously her revised brief (see below) would not be at the same level as her original Quotation. Discussion had also taken place with Paul Esrich who advised that the AONB have some funds available and he confirmed that they could give us a lump sum towards Carly Tinkler's work for an identifiable project, but this would leave the Parish Council to find the money for his work as a separate item. The Parish Council do hold reserve funds and the Chairman advised he had spoken with the Lottery funding and explained the present situation that the Parish Council had missed the payment date. Lottery confirmed that they would be prepared to look at funding this if a bid was put in for £7K.

Lengthy detailed discussion followed regarding the various ways forward for funding the NDP and **on a proposal by KW** seconded by GF and carried (four Councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council pay the £3,800 for Carly Tinkler's work in accordance with her revised brief in the hope that we can then get part of the money back from the Lottery fund and part from the AONB.

It was confirmed that Carly Tinkler's revised brief is as follows "on the basis of what was discussed, she considered it still feasible to assess each site individually but the output would be changed to bullet-point summary sheets and tables rather than a full illustrated report with mapping. All the informed gathered would be available to the PC as part of the baseline evidence, but would remain as hand-drawn in "rough" rather than being transferred to digital format but she suggested producing digital mapping/GIS/databases could be a project for the community in the future. The process/methodology would be more or less as per her original fee letter dated August 2014 but refined to take into account this less formal approach. There are also fewer sites in the study area than previously which would reduce the time required".

c) HOV – AE reported that Kevin Welford had joined the Group. Two meetings had taken place with the Harrison family Agent and it had been suggested that the bean-field adjacent to Bumpy Lane be handed over to the village for a two hundred year Lease which would be landscaped to provide a shop, cafe , footbridges across the brook etc. to link up with various parts of the Village. In return for this, he would want to build twenty-five houses on the field above the Mathon Road, to include about eight affordable properties of various types, and it was confirmed that this proposal is going into the “pre-planning stage” at the moment. Meetings had also taken place with Community First and the Plunkett Foundation who can offer funds to the Village. The HOV group confirmed they would like the backing of the Parish Council to set up a “Community Benefit Society” to obtain the ownership of the land for the field and that Nick Comley from Community First was emphatic that the project should be tied in with the NDP. It was confirmed that Mrs. Morgan insisted that the situation regarding the Tenant of the field be finalised before she would hand over ownership of the field, but It was acknowledged that Cllr Sarah Herriot had indicated at the last meeting that money would be available within the community to pay off the existing Tenant of Morgan’s field.

Cllr Ken Nason indicated that a final Scheme proposal had not been put forward indicating how much the whole project would cost and how much the Parish Council would need to put into the proposal with regard to the HOV project and that until such time as this was available, the Parish Council could not make a proper assessment. It was hoped the Group would come back to the table at the November meeting with far more details in the hope that the Parish Council would then be given the opportunity to have an official vote on the first stage of the proposals.

d) Drainage at Chapel Lane – A meeting had taken place on site with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Neil James who had advised that there was nothing which Herefordshire Council could do as it would cost too much money and did not meet their criteria. It was suggested that if the Parish Council rejoin the Lengthsman Scheme it may be possible for a ditch to be dug out in the area to help the drainage problem but it was noted that in the meantime some of the potholes in the area have been filled in. Following on from the meeting with Neil James, they had visited and looked at the problem in Pound Bridge and Neil James agreed to ascertain the present position with regard to this problem and confirmed that a digger will be taken to Kingsbridge to clear some of the debris which is partially blocking the flow of water under the bridge.

Items for consideration –

1) Legacy from Joyce Bibbings – the Chairman explained that Joyce had regularly donated £100. to the Cradley Youth Group during her lifetime, and had kindly left a legacy of £1000 to the Parish Council in her Will to be used for that purpose. The cheque had been made payable to the Parish Council and the Clerk had accordingly banked the cheque.

Resolved – On a proposal by KN seconded by AC and carried, it was agreed to pay the sum of £1000 to the Cradley youth group in accordance with Joyce Bibbing’s wishes and the Clerk would add this item for the Agenda for payment in November.

2) Donation to Storridge Village Hall – the Chairman explained the situation for the benefit of new Councillors and it was unanimously agreed to make a donation to Storridge Village Hall totalling £961.01. at the meeting in November.

3) Pixiefield Planning Consent – AE advised he had not attended the hearing of the planning application but it was confirmed that although the number of houses had not been finalised, Cllr Tony Johnson thought it would be given for about 55 houses, and that most of the Herefordshire Councillors were unhappy about the density. A letter was reported from Alison Hext, resident on the Bosbury Road and the Chairman was to suggest that she sends the letter direct to Herefordshire Council. It was reported that Elizabeth Gilbert was

campaigning on Pixiefields regarding the proposal and in an attempt to boost the number of people petitioning to Herefordshire Council, it was proposed by AE that the Parish Council advertises a meeting at the British Legion on 3rd November with regard to the proposed development at Pixiefields. This was seconded by KW and carried. In the meantime, the Chairman and Tracey Iwanczuk would arrange to see Elizabeth Gilbert regarding the proposal. It was reported that Community First had suggested the Parish Council talk with all possible developers and try to guide them on suitable sites for development within the Parish.

- 4) Lengthsman – this was deferred until the meeting in November.
- 5) Resignation of Alison Symondson – The Chairman confirmed Alison had resigned, and the Clerk confirmed that the vacancy had been advertised. The Chairman would send an official note of thanks for her services as Parish Councillor.
- 6) Sandbags – Clerk to request delivery of one pallet to be stored at The Red Lion Public House.
- 7) Training Schedule – circulated to all Councillors. GF and KN advised on their requirements.

Finance Matters – The following accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue – PAYE | £150.00. |
| • Viking Direct, stationery | £83.23. |
| • Viking Direct, copying “toners” | £131.68. |
| • Pricepoint Gardening | £768.00. |
| • AON UK Ltd. insurance | £513.71. |

On a proposal by CKL seconded by KN and carried, the above Accounts for approved for payment.

FB took the Chair and **on a proposal** by TLJ seconded by KW and carried, the account for £6. from Cradley Village Hall was approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Reports from various Committees and working parties –

Cluster Group – AC advised she had attended the recent meeting, and that in future, it was suggested that the group become more informal without a Clerk and that member parishes would hold meetings in rotation providing accommodation at their own expense. She confirmed Balfour Beatty had talked about road repair work and also advised on the repair, replacement and filling of grit bins. AC advising she would be away for the next meeting of the Group and the Chairman said he would try to attend.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – see above.

It was confirmed by the various reporting members that there was nothing to report regarding the Environmental /Footpaths, Churchyards Committee, Recreation Area Committee or the Editorial Groups.

Correspondence received –

- Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding Local Plan Core Strategy 2011/2031.
- Letter and Minutes from Cluster Group meeting.
- Letter Herefordshire Council regarding new electoral registration system.
- Letter, SME Solicitors regarding legacy from the late Joyce Bibbings.
- Letter – HSBC advising changes to terms, conditions and price list.
- Remittance advice from Herefordshire Council for second instalment of Precept.
- Letter Herefordshire Council requesting precept claim by end of December 2014.
- Letter, Storridge Village Hall confirming bookings and seeking donation from Parish Council for £961.01.
- Letter – AON Insurance and claim for renewal.
- Guidance on Standards and Parish Councils from Herefordshire Council.
- Training Schedule from HALC (copied to all Councillors).
- Community Speed Watch information for volunteers.
- Lengthsman proposed changes from Herefordshire Council plus selection process and criteria for community self help arrangements with Parish Councils.
- Balfour Beatty “public realm services partnership newsletter”.
- Invitation to Annual Plan Consultation exhibition on 22nd and 23rd October at Hereford.
- Advice from Lynda Wilcox, HALC, regarding developer offering Parish Council something other than cash.
- Keep Warm poster.
- South Worcestershire Development consultation on proposed modifications.
- Report from Neil James following his on site meeting with members of the Parish Council regarding the problems due to lack of sufficient drainage at Chapel Lane, the proposed work at Pound Bridge and debris accumulating at Kingsbridge.
- Pre Planning Consultation advice received to build community tower opposite school (which would be discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council).

Literature received

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine for September.
- The Clerk magazine,
- The Local Council Review and
- Full details on Local Council Insurance from the Parish Council insurance provider.

Newsletter Items – to be agreed at the discretion of Cllr. W. Harries and the Chairman due the meeting running considerably over time.

There being no further items for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Next meeting to take place on 11th November 2014 in Storridge Village Hall when the proposed Lengthsman Scheme would be discussed along with usual updates.

C. Lowder

11th November 2014.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman.

