

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday. 14th May 2002 at 7.30pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs A C Carver, Mr W M J Hames.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr Allfrey declared a pecuniary interest and Mrs Hurle and Mr Knight declared a non-pecuniary interest in F.491. Mr Thomas and Mr Creed-Newton declared an interest in F.492.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

(a) Chairman. On a proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Miss Pilling, Mr Allfrey was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. (b) Vice Chairman. On a proposal by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Edgar, Mr Rowe was re-elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. (c) Members to sign cheques. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr Beard and the Clerk should be given the required authority to sign cheques on behalf of the Council. (d) Planning Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the following members be re-elected en-bloc to serve on this committee for the ensuing year:- Mr Beard, Mrs Cale, Mrs Carver, Mr Creed-Newton, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Hurle, Mr Knight, Miss Pilling, Mr Rogers, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (e) Footpaths Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the following members be re-elected en-bloc to serve on this committee for the ensuing year:- Mrs Carver, Mr Edgar, Mr Hames, Mr Thomas, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (f) Churchyard Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the following members be re-elected en-bloc to serve on this committee for the ensuing year:- Mr Beard, Mrs Cale, Mr Edgar, Mr Hames, Mrs Hunt, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (g) Playing Field Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the following members be re-elected en-bloc to serve on this committee for the ensuing year:- Mr Creed-Newton, Mr Knight, Miss Pilling, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (h) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee. On a proposal by Mr Thomas, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that Mrs Carver and Mr Creed-Newton represent the Parish Council on this body for the ensuing year. (i) Storridge Village Hall Management Committee. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Beard be re-elected to serve on this body for the ensuing year. (j) Herefordshire Association of Local Councils. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be re-elected to represent the Parish Council on this body for the ensuing year. (k) Charities of Richard Hill and Others. The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council now elected all four representatives:- Mr Beard, Mrs Cale, Mr Clarke and Dr Sarah Herriott. To ensure continuity they would come up for election each year on a rotational basis to serve for a four year term and this year Mr Beard was elected to serve for the next four years.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Subject to the following amendment it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2002 be confirmed and signed:-

F.457 - Village Signs. Should read Millbank Garage and not Bennett's Garage. It was agreed that one sign should be placed near Nethergreen and the other sign between Millbank garage and the bottom of Vinesend Lane.

MATTERS ARISING

F.476 Barriers on Footpath - Ref.Min.F.449 A letter had been received from Mark Robinson, Assistant Solicitor at Herefordshire Council, requesting clarification as to why the Parish Council had asked for its insurance details. It was agreed that the matter should be pursued and the details obtained. Cllr. Mills reported that Mr Hemblade, Public Rights of Way Officer, would be arranging a safety audit to assess the situation in the near future. It was agreed that a site meeting should be deferred until the result of the audit was known.

F.477 Aythorns Cottage - Ref.Min.F.451 It was reported that the Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council would be visiting the site following reports of a large amount of plants and garden materials being sold from the property. The Conservation Officer had advised the Clerk that

permission had been sought to cut trees at the property, albeit the permission was out of time, and he had written to the owners informing them of future procedures.

F.478 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Ref.Min.F.464 Cllr. Mills reported that he was awaiting an update on the situation from Herefordshire Council's Head of Engineering and Transportation, Mr Stephen Oates.

F.479 Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.454 Mr Rowe reported that he had attended a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and that PC Keith Eyles had been notified of the problems. He added that a letter could be sent to parents of known vandals warning that an anti-social behaviour order could be imposed on their child. Mr Rowe also suggested that the hedge fronting the playing field be cut lower so that vandals could be seen. However, Mr Knight said nearby residents were opposed to this. Mr Rogers read conditions of the Council's public liability insurance which stated that all reasonable precautions should be taken to prevent destruction or damage.

F.480 A4103 - Accident Study - Ref.Min.F.457 A letter had been received from Mark Henderson, Senior Accident Investigation Engineer at Herefordshire Council, with a report detailing all personal injury accidents that had occurred on this road over the past five years. He said that following a re-evaluation of the 50mph section of the road in terms of personal accidents, and due to the recent accident trend, a detailed route study by the Accident Investigation team would be carried out during the current financial year. Mr Henderson said he understood that the comment made by Inspector Mayor had been taken out of context. This was noted. The Clerk reported that Mr Hames felt the strips across the road to measure speed had been placed in the wrong position. However, members agreed to wait for the results of the route study before taking action.

F.481 Notice Boards - Ref.Min.F.466 Mr Rowe agreed to chase up Ridgeway Joinery about the order for the notice board which was placed in 2000. Mr Beard said the Storrige notice board was structurally sound but he would re-stain it.

F.482 Mr Alan Edwards - Ref.Min.F.467 In reply to a question from Mr Creed-Newton, Cllr. Mills said he had invited Mr Edwards to contact him but had received no response.

F.483 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.470/F.473/F.475 A letter had been received from Clive Hall, Assistant Divisional Surveyor, stating that he would arrange inspection of Pound Bridge and the skip in Watery Lane. Mrs Hunt advised members that although some potholes had been filled, the strip complained of, at the end of Kingsbridge Road, had been left untouched. It was agreed that all matters should be pursued.

F.484 B4220 Weight Restriction - Ref.Min.F.471 A letter had been received from Suan Mui Ng, Assistant Engineer at Herefordshire Council, advising that a 12-hour count was carried out on the road in both directions and had provided no evidence that HGV's were using the road as a through route. Ms Ng said that out of five parish councils consulted, three opposed the proposal and as such there was little to justify the imposition of a restriction given the lack of a suitable alternative route. This was noted. The Clerk reported that she had ascertained from Ms Ng that the survey had been carried out on Thursday, 17th January 2002 between 7am and 7pm and had recorded a total of 2,840 vehicles, of which 71 were HGV's. In the ensuing discussion members doubted that all 71 HGV's made deliveries in the village and still believed that vehicles passed through en-route. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ms Ng requesting that she justifies her statement and to ask for the names of the five parish councils she consulted. It was further agreed that Ms Ng should be invited to attend a parish council meeting. The Chairman agreed to speak to Bosbury Parish Council's Chairman.

F.485 Hollins Hill - Ref.Min.F.474 The Clerk reported that she had notified the Waste Management section of Herefordshire Council regarding the matter.

F.486 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting held on 14th May 2002 when the following application had been considered:-

NE2002/1029/L Members fully supported the application for the demolition of existing kitchen lean-to and erection of new replacement and internal alterations. Notification had been received that the application for the installation of antennae at 20m on existing 20m high mast off Bromyard Road, Ridgeway Cross had been approved. A letter had been received from Kevin Bishop, Planning

Officer, stating that the wooden structure to the rear of Holly Lodge was permitted development therefore did not require planning permission. This was noted. It was reported that a Condition imposed on the planning approval for car parking on land off Chockbury Lane, was that it should revert to agricultural use if the business ceased trading. The Clerk was asked to notify the Enforcement Officer that the business was no longer trading and request the Condition be complied with.

F.487 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

(a) HALC - Annual Subscription £225.00 (b) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee-Hire of Hall £28.00 (c) Chris Aston Ceramics - Jubilee Mugs £2,485.07.

The Chairman reminded members that it had been agreed that a payment of £30.00 plus mileage be paid to Ruth Richardson who addressed the recent Annual Open Meeting, and said a cheque in the sum of 45.00 had been paid to her. It was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment in respect of the Village Plan:-

Storrige Village Hall Management Committee - Hire of Hall £90.00 F.488 2001/2002

ACCOUNTS FOR AUDIT. The Clerk circulated copies of the accounts for members' perusal and answered questions before they were approved and signed.

F.489 REPORT OF THE FOOTPATH COMMITTEE. In the absence of Mrs Carver, Chairman of the Footpath Committee, the Chairman reported on a meeting held on 29th April 2002 which had been called to discuss the alterations to barriers on footpath CD26. The erection of 'Private Road' signs at Rectory Lane and Shepherd's Hey Lane had also been discussed and members of the full council were advised that the signs had deterred people from using the footpaths. It was reported that road cones had been placed at the end of Rectory Lane causing obstruction to vehicles.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain the legal position of erecting such signs on public footpaths and to establish whether vehicles accessing the village hall were prohibited from using Rectory Lane. Notification had been received from Brynne Parker, Public Rights of Way Technician, of a proposed Public Path Diversion Order - CD83, for Mr J Townsend of The Mailings, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley. This was noted. A letter had been received from Tim Green, Countryside Ranger at Herefordshire Council, stating that from 1st April 2002 the responsibility for the Worcestershire Way regional walking route had passed from Parks and Countryside to the Public Rights of Way section. This was noted.

F.490 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME. The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council had discussed joining the scheme on a previous occasion. However, as the parish had excessive lengths of footpaths, members had agreed it was not feasible to join. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed not to take up membership to the scheme.

F.491 VILLAGE PLAN. Mr Edgar advised members that Revd. Mike Vockins, in agreeing to chair the Steering Committee, felt it should work to Terms of Reference which were passed to the Clerk for safe keeping. Mr Edgar also advised that a map of 1,250 scale had been purchased, placed on backing board and passed to the school children for colouring. He added that a grant of £5,000 had been awarded by the Countryside Agency, of which £2,500 had been received, with stage payments being made as work progressed. Mr Edgar said a portfolio of the progress to date and a purchase ledger had been set up for public inspection and that three 'Planning for Real' meetings had been arranged at the following venues:- Storrige Village Hall - Saturday, 25th May between 1 lam and 3pm. Royal British Legion - Wednesday, 29th May between 3pm and 7pm. The Nupend - Friday, 31st May between 4pm and 8pm. (notably for farmers) Mrs Hurle said she had spoken to Revd. Vockins regarding the travel plans for the new school and understood he wanted to involve the Parish Plan Committee in discussions.

F.492 GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - GRANT REQUESTS. A letter had been received from Judi Creed-Newton, on behalf of Cradley Village Hall Management Committee and the church, asking if the Parish Council would consider giving a grant towards the cost of entertainment arranged for the celebrations. Mr Creed-Newton said expenses totalled £775.00. A request had also been received from Revd. Vockins for a grant to cover the cost of the brass band which amounted to

£150.00. Following a discussion and on a proposal by Mr Knight, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that a grant of 500.00 be given towards the cost of the entertainment, and on a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that a grant of £150.00 be given to cover the cost of the band. The Chairman informed members that the bonfire at Wildgoose Hill would be lit at 10.00pm. Ms Turnbull agreed to approach John Stoddard and ask to borrow a barbecue and Mr Creed-Newton agreed to arrange for posters advertising the event to be displayed around the village. Mr Knight advised members that Friends of Cradley School would be purchasing mugs for children who attend the school but live outside the parish and asked if they could be purchased at cost price. This was agreed. It was further agreed that the Clerk should arrange storage once the mugs had been delivered.

F.493 REPAIRS TO SPRINGS AT BIRCHWOOD - GRANT REQUEST. Members discussed a letter that had been received last month from two residents at Birchwood who requested a grant for the purchase of materials to repair two brick structure springs. Members were mindful of the springs' historic qualities and agreed that they should be preserved. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost of materials up to a maximum of 150.00 including VAT and that all invoices should be made out and presented to the Parish Council for payment.

F.494 CLERK'S CONTRACT AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT. The Chairman advised members that the Clerk had been unable to obtain information required due to the absence of HALC's secretary, therefore the matter would be deferred until next month.

F.495 WYNELL HUNT. A letter had been received from Mrs Hunt, together with a copy of her recently published book, Cradley - A Village History, thanking the Parish Council for allowing her access to photographs and other material owned by the Council. Members commented on her very kind gesture and agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Hunt to thank her.

F.496 PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW. A letter had been received from S R Oram, Public Services Manager at Herefordshire Council, confirming that there were no actual changes proposed in the parish. This was noted.

F.497 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS. A letter had been received from Bill Wiggin MP, in response to members' concerns about the Code. He explained that the majority of requirements applied only to matters over which the Parish Council may debate and he enclosed a letter sent to him by DTLR which established the principles on which the new ethical framework was based. Mr Wiggin thanked members for the tremendous job they do on behalf of his constituents. This was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Wiggin to thank him for his involvement in the matter.

F.498 HALC. Information, including a revised Charter for consultation, had been received and comments were requested by 15th July 2002. It was agreed the document should be passed to members for signature.

F.499 OVERGROWN HEDGE. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department of the overgrown hedge on the path between Ivy Villa and Turnpike Cottage, Storridge.

F.500 AONB. The Chairman reminded members that Mrs Hurle was the Parish Councils' representative on the Malvern Hills Joint Advisory Committee. However, a new representative had been nominated and Mrs Hurle had not been advised. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chairman of the AONB with a copy to Amanda McCleery, AONB Officer, expressing the Council's displeasure at the discourtesy shown towards Mrs Hurle.

F.501 PHOTOCOPYING. The Clerk reported that she would no longer be able to photocopy minutes, agendas, correspondence and other parish council documents at a reduced rate. It was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda next month and that quotes for photocopying charges should be sought together with information and prices of photocopiers to discuss whether a machine should be purchased.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 11th June 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurlle, Miss J Pilling, Mr J F Rowe, Ms K Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr F A C Beard, Mr S Knight, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J C Thomas.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr Hames declared an interest in F.513 - field off Bosbury Road. Mr Edgar declared an interest in F.514 (g). CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2002 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.502 Barriers on Footpath - Ref.Min.F.476 The Chairman advised members that the safety audit had revealed that the present barriers were adequate from a road safety perspective. However, consideration would be given to installing a third barrier at the end of the eastern side of the footway, provided that access for disabled users would not be impaired. Members expressed concern that the audit had not taken children's safety into consideration. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mills for pursuing the matter on behalf of the Parish Council and added that he would raise the matter again at the next Ledbury Area Forum.

F.503 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Ref.Min.F.478 Correspondence had been received from Mr Stephen Oates, Head of Engineering and Transportation, confirming that Cradley would be included in plans to extend the scheme this year and formal confirmation would be made in July. This was noted.

F.504 Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.479 A letter had been received from a parishioner complaining about the noise from the aerial flyer. The Chairman reminded members that following a previous complaint, an Environmental Health Officer had approached the parishioner suggesting he padlock the apparatus after dusk but the suggestion had been declined. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a letter should be written to the parishioner asking if he would reconsider his decision so that an amicable solution could be reached.

F.505 A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref.Min.F.480 A letter had been received from Mr John Colyer, Transportation Manager, stating that several measures to improve safety had been carried out on the road and that expenditure to install a roundabout could not be justified. This was noted. The Chairman advised members that he had spoken to Mr Colyer and was informed that due to government criteria, the road did not warrant speed cameras. It was agreed the Clerk should arrange another meeting for September to discuss traffic calming and invite Mr Colyer, Mr Bill Wiggin MP and the police to attend.

F.506 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.483/F.499 The following comments had been received from Mr Clive Hall, Assistant Divisional Surveyor:- Pound Bridge. Action would be taken during the summer months. Kingsbridge Road. Following an inspection, any defects found would be repaired. Village Signs. The matter had been passed to the Transportation section. Overgrown Hedge at Storridge. Inspection would take place and an approach would be made to the owners requesting that the hedge be cut back. Watery Lane. Following an inspection, indications were that the skip was placed outside the limit of the public highway. In the ensuing discussion it was reported that repairs to Kingsbridge Road had been carried out and the top part of the stream, where the skip had been positioned, had never been de-classified and was, therefore, highway land.

F.507 Internal Auditor- Ref.Min.F.488 The Clerk reported that due to new procedures in the audit process, an internal auditor, not connected to the Parish Council, would be required to oversee the accounts on a quarterly basis. Members were asked to consider someone suitable and report at the next meeting.

Cllr. Mills suggested that the Clerk approach the Clerk of another Parish Council with a view to checking each other's parish accounts. Following a discussion the Clerk agreed to approach the Clerk of Bosbury Parish Council.

F.508 Golden Jubilee Mugs - Ref.Min.F.492 Mr Creed-Newton reported that 504 mugs had been ordered of which 346 had been given away or sold and 25 were awaiting collection from children, leaving 133 mugs still to be sold or allocated. The Chairman then presented Cllr. Mills with a mug and thanked him for the work he undertakes on behalf of the Parish Council. It was suggested the remainder be sold at various village functions throughout the year. The money collected to date was handed to the Clerk for banking.

F.509 Rectory Lane - Ref.Min.F.489 Ms Turnbull circulated a copy of a letter sent to a resident in the lane from John Stallard and Co., Solicitors, which confirmed that it was a private roadway rather than a public highway, although subject to public rights of way on foot since the lane was also a public footpath. Following a discussion it was pointed out that the village hall fronted the lane, therefore it was assumed visitors driving to the hall could legitimately use the lane. The Chairman reminded members that clarification of its status had not yet been received from Herefordshire Council.

F.510 AONB- Ref.Min.F.500 A letter had been received from Mr Ted Roberts, Chairman, stating that he was awaiting a report from his officers and would write separately to Mrs Hurlle. This was noted. The Chairman informed members that whilst Mrs Hurlle was elected, the new representative had been appointed. It was agreed that the matter be pursued through HALC. Mr Hames joined the meeting during the discussion.

F.511 Notice Board - Ref.Min.F.481 Mr Rowe reported that part of the notice board at Finchers Corner had rotted and he had asked Ridgeway Joinery for a quote for renewing the board, using parts that could be saved. He also reported that the new Millennium notice board would be ready soon and asked members to give some thought to where it should be situated.

F.512 Forward Planning- Ref.Min.F.482 In reply to a question from Mr Creed-Newton, the Clerk confirmed that she had already advised Forward Planning Officer, Mr Ian Culley, that the Parish Council did not send him an undated, unsigned note. In the ensuing discussion, Cllr. Mills said that he had sent the confidential memo to Mr Culley and that it was nothing to do with the Parish Council. He added that Mr Alan Edwards had been quite happy with his explanation. However, Mr Edgar requested that the Clerk write to the Forward Planning department stating it was not a parish council document. Following a vote of six to ~~five~~, four with one abstention, this was agreed.

F.513 PLANNING MATTERS.

NE2002/1535/F Members raised no objection to the application for the erection of a timber framed double garage with loft/store over at Bank Cottage, Storridge but requested that the garage was tied to the main dwelling to prevent separate disposal and that it would not be used for residential purposes.

NE2002/1391/L Members fully supported the application for repairs to timber frame on west elevation, new oak pentice and barge boards and a replacement window at Barrow Mill, Bearswood, Storridge.

NE2002/1581/F Members raised no objection to the application for the insertion of two dormers and replacement of existing conservatory at Hillview, Vinesend Lane, Cradley. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Enforcement Officer of two areas of land off Bosbury Road, which were thought to be agricultural, and had been transformed into gardens.

F.514 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a)Clerk's salary for 3 months £734.88 (b) Clerk's telephone allowance for 3 months £25.00 (c)Clerk's computer allowance for 3 months £62.50 (d) Clerk's car allowance for 3 months £8.62 (e)Admin expenses for 3 months (postage etc) £9.94

It was further agreed that the Clerk's salary should be paid monthly instead of quarterly from July 2002.

On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Ms Turnbull, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect of the Parish Plan:- (f) Mrs S Ramsden -

reimbursement of expenses £53.87 (g) Mr E J Edgar - reimbursement of expenses £403.60 (h)

Storrige Village Hall Management Cttee - hire of hall £37.50

F. 515., WEIGHT RESTRICTION - B4220-It was reported that there had been no response from Ms Suan Mui Ng on the matter and the Chairman had not yet been able to contact the Chairman of Bosbury Parish Council.

F. 516 PHOTOCOPYING CHARGES. The Clerk reported that she had received two quotations in the sum of 4p and 5p per copy respectively and the cost of Purchasing a Sharp photocopier from Viking Direct would be £349.00 plus VAT. On a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Miss Pilling it was agreed that a photocopier should be purchased, and that any income received from photocopying, not relating to this Parish Council, should be put towards purchasing toner cartridges.

F.517 CLERK'S CONTRACT AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT. It was agreed that the Chairman should arrange a meeting with the Vice-Chairman and ex-Chairmen to discuss the Clerk's contract and salary review and report back to the Council. The Clerk was asked to provide copies of the contract for the sub-committee.

F.518 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING. It was agreed the Clerk would pursue the matters outstanding.

F.519 QUESTION TIME. A parishioner advised members that the planning application for the detached dwellings in Chapel Lane, which had been rejected three times by the East Herefordshire Committee had now been approved by the main planning committee and he asked if the Parish Council would support a campaign to alert other Parish Councils of Herefordshire Council's planning procedures. Members agreed that the matter should be pursued through HALC. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ms Polly Andrews, Chairman of Planning, expressing members' displeasure that the Parish Council's comments had been disregarded and that the local planning committee had been undermined. In reply to a question from a parishioner, the Chairman suggested he contact a local solicitor for advice on land boundaries to enable repairs to be carried out on springs at Birchwood.

F.520 LITTER. A letter had been received from Mr Kevin Price, Contract Monitoring Assistant at Herefordshire Council, asking if parishioners could be made aware of a scheme to organise a litter pick It was agreed that a notice should be published in the newsletter.

F.521 BROMYARD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT. A letter had been received from Mrs Susan Hall Administration Officer, asking if the Parish Council would give a donation to help finance the work of the organisation. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Hall to obtain further information about the scheme and suggest she approaches the Countryside Agency who have grants available for community transport. It was further agreed that her letter should be passed to Mrs Eileen Vockins as members were unsure whether she could accommodate disabled users in her car scheme.

F.522 WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. Notification had been received that the date of the meeting to discuss the Herefordshire White Paper had been changed to 3rd July 2002 and would take place at the Three Counties Hotel at 10.00am.

F.523 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Mrs Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Bridge Replacement, Who's Who 2002. National Conference of Sustainability and Meetings Schedule.

F.524 AQUILA. Notification had been received that GPU Power had been acquired by Aquila Inc and would now be known as Aquila Networks. Operation would continue as normal without adverse impact on the service. This was noted.

F.525 CPRE. Information on rural matters and a newsletter had been received from the organisation and left on the table for members' perusal.

F.526 LEDBURY AREA FORUM. Notification had been received that the next meeting of the group would be held on Wednesday, 26th June 2002 at 7.00pm in Woolhope Village Hall.

F.527 FOOTPATHS. Following a request from Mrs Carver, Mr Hames agreed to supply Mr Edwards with a report on the parish footpaths.

F.528 TREES IN BROOK. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department of two trees that had slipped into the brook just before Perkin's Farm. F.529 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. Mrs Hunt reported that Mrs Margaret White had put together the material required to enter the competition and gave the Clerk a copy for the file. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs White to thank her for the splendid work she undertook for the entry. F.530 BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS AT WILDGOOSE HILL. Several members expressed thanks to the Chairman and Mrs Allfrey for their hospitality at the bonfire and firework display held recently to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Cllr. Mills said the parish should be congratulated on its fun day. It was agreed that the matter of payment for fireworks should be placed on next month's agenda.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.39 pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 9th July 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K Turnbull, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs D Cale, Mr W M J Hames, Mr M J Rogers, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Ms Turnbull declared an interest in F.537 and F.541 (b) and the Chairman declared an interest in F.543. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Subject to the following amendment it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2002 be confirmed and signed.

Min.F.512 - should read six votes to four with one abstention.

MATTERS ARISING

F.531 Barriers on Footpath - Ref.Min.F.502 Correspondence had been received from Mr Graham Dunhill and Mr Mike Eastwood at Herefordshire Council advising that a third barrier could be erected within four weeks following consultation with disabled users and the Parish Council. This was noted. The Clerk said she had now received details of the Council's insurance agents but it was agreed to defer writing to them at present. It was reported that since the barriers had been altered the footpath was being used by horse riders.

F.532 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Ref.Min.F.503 A letter had been received from Mr Stephen Oates, Head of Engineering and Transportation, stating that funding had been made available to expand the scheme. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Mr Oates expressing this Council's interest in joining the scheme and request more details. It was further agreed to seek the views of other parishes in the scheme.

F.533 A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref.Min.F.505 The Chairman advised members that Mr Bill Wiggin MP could attend a public meeting on 11th September 2002 at 3pm. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the meeting should be held in the evening so that parishioners could attend and that the Clerk should arrange a further date with Mr Wiggin for October. The Clerk reported that there had been no response from Mr Colyer due to him being on annual leave.

F.534 Village Signs - Ref.Min.F.506 A letter had been received from Mr P Moore, Traffic Engineer, advising that village name signs could be provided on both the A4103 approaches to Cradley at a cost of approximately 250.00 per sign. He said that the cost would be charged to the Parish Council. This was noted. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Moore requesting a firm quotation and to ask how long the cost would last. It was reported that the volume of heavy lorries had increased on the B4219 and therefore suggested that the sign indicating 'unsuitable for long vehicles' should be moved from the entrance of the road and repositioned on the A4103. It was agreed that the matter be pursued at the public meeting.

F.535 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.506 It was reported that the hedge had not yet been cut back and overgrowth was causing an obstruction to pedestrians using the footway. It was agreed the Clerk should write a further letter to the Highways department requesting they take action on this matter and to establish when the work will be carried out at Pound Bridge.

F.536 Golden Jubilee Mugs - Ref.Min.F.508 The Clerk reported that 502.50 had been banked and further monies had been received. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Sue and David Mayor at the post office who had kindly sold the mugs on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Knight asked if the Parish Council could help defray the cost of the mugs which had been purchased by the Friends of Cradley School for children living outside the parish. Following a discussion it was agreed that grants could only be given to benefit people living in the parish. However, as previously agreed, the Friends of Cradley School could purchase the mugs at cost price.

F.537 Private Road Signs - Ref.Min.F.509. A letter had been received from Mr Rob Hemblade, Area Rights of Way Officer, confirming that Rectory Lane was a Public Right of Way with a registered status of Footpath. He added that any public vehicular rights would have to be proven in law and a subsequent modification order made to amend the Definitive Map. He agreed to ask his

Area Warden to inspect both paths at Rectory Lane and Shepherd's Hey Lane to ensure they were clearly signposted, waymarked and not obstructed. This was noted.

F.538 Forward Planning- Ref.Min.F.512 The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of a letter sent to Mr Alan Edwards from Mr S Dring, Forward Planning Officer, which had outlined the position regarding new housing development within the forthcoming Unitary Development Plan.

F.539 B4220 Weight Restriction - Ref.Min.F.515 A letter had been received from Ms Suan Mui Ng, stating that there would be no significant change in the pattern of HGV movements along the road if restrictions were introduced. This was noted. It was agreed to pursue the matter at the public meeting in the Autumn.

F.540 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27th June 2002 when the following application was considered:-

NE2002/1645/0 Strong objection was raised to the application for the erection of five dwellings and garages on land to the rear of Oakdale, Chapel Lane, Cradley. It was reported that the Public Notice for the application had indicated that letters of objection should be received by 12th July. However, the Northern Area Planning Sub-Committee would be considering the application on 10th July, two days before the end of the consultation period. Several members agreed to contact Julie Preston at Herefordshire Council and the Clerk was asked to notify Cllr. Mills. Notice had been received that the following planning applications had been approved:- NE2002/0586/F Erection of two detached dwellings in association with private access at Chapel Lane, Cradley.

NE2002/0223/F Erection of one detached dwelling in association with private access at Chapel Lane, Cradley.

NE2002/1028/F Demolition of existing kitchen lean-to and erection of new replacement. Internal alterations at Burysgate Cottage, Bearswood, Storrige.

F.541 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a)Clerk's salary £244.96 (b)Ms K Turnbull £18.59 (c)Playground Management Services £71.09 (d)Viking Direct £413.54 It was agreed that the following account be approved for payment in respect of the Parish Plan:- (e) Robson Miller Designs £36.20

F.542 EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR PHOTOCOPIER. It was unanimously agreed not to take up the two-year extended warranty.

F.543 GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - FIREWORKS. On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the Chairman be reimbursed 200.00 for the cost of the fireworks and that a letter of immense thanks should be sent to Mr Bleasdale who had organised the display. The Chairman had declared an interest and did not vote.

F.544 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR. The Chairman said that HALC had advised that reciprocal arrangements with other parish councils should not be undertaken. Following a discussion it was agreed the Clerk should write to Mr Derek Carver to ask if he would inspect the accounts on a quarterly basis.

On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should purchase the audit book 'A Practitioner's Guide' at a cost of £9.95.

F.545 PLAYING FIELDS. Mr Knight reported on the recent inspection undertaken by ROSPA at Chapel Lane playing field. It was agreed that the protruding threads on the multi-play should be cut back and that quotations should be sought for hedge cutting. Mr Knight said that following the weekly inspection, beer cans and silver foil had been found on the basketball area. Mr Rowe agreed to notify PC Keith Eyles. The Chairman advised members that PC Eyles had been informed of horses being exercised in the playing field and that the officer would be speaking to the parents of the horse riders. Mr Rowe agreed to contact PC Eyles to ascertain the outcome. The Chairman said the large gate had now been chained up and padlocked. Correspondence had been received regarding the aerial flyer and members agreed that Mr Edgar and Mr Creed-Newton should inspect the apparatus to establish if it could be modified to reduce the noise. It was further agreed to inform the manufacturers before any such modifications were carried out. Mr Edgar said the tower would also be inspected to ensure that it was stable and report his findings to Mr Knight. Mr Knight

advised members that the hedge at Buryfields play area required cutting and in the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a quotation should be sought. He reminded members that the Parish Council had agreed to donate £250.00 to the North Cradley Residents' Association for a bench. He asked if the grant could now be paid and if it could be used for play equipment rather than a bench. This was agreed. In reply to a question from Mr Knight, the Chairman said he would deal with the overhanging trees.

F.546 NOTICE BOARD - FINCHERS CORNER. Mr Rowe advised members that Mr John Monk of Ridgeway Joinery had agreed to supply a new notice board for the same cost as the Millennium notice board which had been on order since 2000. On a proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Mr Beard, it was agreed that this should be accepted and further agreed that Mr Rowe should ask Mr Monk for a firm delivery date.

F.547 CLERK'S CONTRACT. It was agreed the matter be deferred until next month.

F.548 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - FIRST DEPOSIT. Notification had been received from Dr David Nicholson, Chief Forward Planning Officer, that the Plan would be placed on first deposit in mid September for a six week period. This was noted. Mr Edgar advised members that he was sent a copy and would try to obtain another. It was agreed that the Clerk should photocopy some of the information contained in the document and distribute to members and that once the Plan had been received from Dr Nicholson a sub-committee should be set up to consider its content. It was further agreed the matter be placed on next month's agenda.

F.549 HALC. Information had been received from the Association and left on the table for members' perusal.

F.550 CPRE. An invitation had been received to the Annual General Meeting of the Group to be held at Ale House, Colwall on Saturday, 13th July 2002 at 2.30pm.

F.551 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received:- Perceptions of Rural Mobility, Company of Cyclists' Try-Out Roadshow, Ditches, New Theatre Works, Herefordshire White Paper Discussion Event, National Glass Week and Meetings Schedule. All documents were left on the table for members' perusal.

F.552 AONB - JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Notification had been received that the meeting scheduled for 12th July 2002 had been changed to 19th July 2002 at 10.00am at Priory Lodge, Malvern.

F.553 CODE OF CONDUCT. Booklets about the Code had been distributed and the Clerk was asked to obtain extra copies.

F.554 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT. The Chairman said he had received a letter from Revd. Mike Vockins inviting Councillors to a presentation on 15th August 2002. The time and venue to be arranged. It was agreed that a special meeting of the Parish Council should be arranged once the document had been finalised.

F.555 HEDGES IN COWLEIGH ROAD. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department at Malvern Hills Council of the overgrown hedges along the road. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.47 pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 13th August 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr W M J Hames, Mr S Knight, Ms K Turnbull. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr Rogers declared an interest in F.568 and Mrs Hurle and Mr Allfrey declared an interest in

F.575. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.556 AONB The Chairman advised members that a letter had been received from the organisation confirming Mrs Hurle had been re-instated as Parish Council Representative on this body. This was noted. A further letter had been received from Ms Amanda McCleery, AONB Officer, requesting attendance at the Council's November meeting. This was agreed.

F.557 Barriers on Footpath - Ref.Min.F.531 Following a letter received from the new Area Rights of Way Warden, Mr Tim Thompson, it was agreed that a third barrier should be erected as indicated on his enclosed map. The Chairman advised members that Mr Mike Eastwood had left the Council and Mr Rob Hemblade would be acting Rights of Way Manager until a new manager was appointed.

F.558 A4103 - Public Meeting - Ref.Min.F.533 A letter had been received from Mr John Colyer, Transportation Manager, suggesting the proposed public meeting be deferred until the Spring, by which time he would have the results of the Accident Study. Mr Colyer also stated that a stretch of the road at Storridge was being considered as a possible site for a new camera. It was agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Colyer. It was further agreed that the Clerk should ask that the sign, indicating unsuitable for long vehicles, be removed from the entrance of Cowleigh Road and replaced on the Malvern direction sign on the A4103. Mr Rowe informed members that Mr Bill Wiggin would be holding a surgery at Stiffords Bridge sometime during the next week and said that Hereford Police were considering allowing Neighbourhood Watch members to monitor motorists' speed, the results of which would be fed into a database to enable police to target those vehicles. .

F-559 Overgrown Hedge and Trees in Brook - Ref.Min.F.53 5 A letter had been received from Mr Clive Hall, Assistant Divisional Surveyor, stating that a Notice had been served on the owner(s) of the property and he envisaged the matter would be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Mr Hall added that the matter of the trees in the brook had been passed to the Land Drainage Engineer for his attention. The Chairman said he thought the trees had now been removed. It was agreed the Clerk should pursue the matter of the overgrown hedge in Cowleigh Road which had not yet been cut back.

F.560 Forward Planning-Ref.Min.F.53 8 A letter had been received from Mr S Dring, Forward Planning Officer, stating that the list of possible windfall sites had been misinterpreted as being the views of the Parish Council and he had added a note to the file to this effect. This was noted.

F.561 Internal Audit - Ref.Min.F.544 The Chairman said Mr Derek Carver had agreed to undertake the quarterly internal audit on a voluntary basis although he might have to reconsider if the amount of work changed. Members agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Carver. It was agreed the Chairman should sign further statements of accounts for the years ending 2000 and 2001 as the originals had been mislaid by the auditors. Following perusal by members it was further agreed the Chairman should also sign the Annual Return for the 2001/2002 audit.

F.562 Notice Boards - Ref.Min.F.546 Mr Rowe reported that Ridgeway Joinery would supply the notice board as soon as possible. Members asked if he could obtain a firm date.

F.563 Clerk's Contract - Ref.Min.F.547 The Chairman said he had been unable to arrange a meeting to discuss the Clerk's contract as the salary scales had not yet been agreed.

F.564 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling said that two letters had been received from Mrs Polly Andrews, Chairman of the Planning Committee at Herefordshire Council, which had outlined planning procedures. Mrs Andrews had stated that the application area for the dwellings in Chapel Lane were infill sites within the settlement boundary. She said the Committee felt the applications were in accordance with policy and therefore gave them approval. It was agreed the Clerk should invite Mr Alan Poole, Chief Development Control Officer, to a parish meeting to explain his Council's planning procedure. Planning Permission had been approved for the erection of a timber framed double garage with loft/store over at Bank Cottage, Storridge with a condition that the development be used solely for the garaging of private vehicles and not for the carrying out of any trade or business.

F.565 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a) Clerk's salary £244.96 (b) MHDC - reprographic charges for one month £9.73 The Chairman advised members that the annual subscription for the CPRE had been increased from £17.50 to £25.00. Members agreed that the increased sum should be paid. It was agreed, with two abstentions, that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect of the Village Design Statement/Parish Plan:- (c) Cradley Village Hall Mgt Cttee- hire of hall £28.00 (d) Joy Jerkins - reimbursement for stationery purchased £50.50 (e) Alan Edwards - reimbursement for printing costs £125.00 (f) Vicki Murray - consultancy fees £787.50 In reply to a question from Mr Rogers, the Clerk said a grant of £5,000, of which £2,500 had been paid, had been awarded for the Parish Plan and was being held in the Council's current account. A separate record of accounts was being kept and invoices in respect of the project were only paid if funds from the grant were available. Mr Edgar confirmed that verbal tenders had been received from four consultants.

F.566 HIGH INTEREST BOND. It was unanimously that the Clerk should arrange for the £30,000 High Interest Bond, which matured on 11th July 2002, to be re-invested for a further six months.

F.567 CRADLEY VILLAGE SIGNS. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed that two Cradley village signs for installation on the A4103 should be purchased at a cost of £227.15 per sign plus VAT. Members agreed the signs should be placed at the top of Ridgeway Cross where the 50mph speed limit starts and between the Vinesend turn and the bend respectively. A map indicating the proposed sites would be sought before the signs were installed.

F.568 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT, UDP AND SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES. Parts of the draft Unitary Development Plan had been copied and circulated to members and Mr Edgar gave an update on the progress of the Village Design Statement. He said the Committee had met with several planning officers and it was trying to establish why some boundaries outlined in the UDP had been moved. Following a discussion Mr Edgar distributed draft copies of the Statement to members together with the Agenda for the presentation on Thursday, 15th August 2002. The Chairman said a special meeting of the Parish Council would be arranged to discuss the content of the UDP and settlement boundaries as soon as the First Draft was available.

F.569 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD. Mr Edgar advised members that he and Mr Creed-Newton had inspected the aerial flyer and felt the noise could be reduced by injecting the steel tubes with expanding foam, or failing that, the rollers could be replaced with a high density plastic alternative. It was agreed that a trial using the foam should be carried out on a small portion of the tube and that the insurance company and Playground Management Services, who carry out the annual inspection for ROSPA, should be informed before any works were undertaken.

On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Thomas, it was agreed to set aside a budget of 100.00 for materials. It was further agreed that the Clerk should inform a nearby resident that the Council was looking into measures to reduce the noise. Mr Creed-Newton said the tower had also been inspected and no protruding bolts in reach of children were found. The Chairman said he had spoken to youths during an inspection of the site and they had requested a litter bin at the end of the field, a shelter and a skateboard or bicycle ramps. In the ensuing discussion members expressed reservations about the requests and said there could be problems regarding insurance.

F.570 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. In reply to a request from Mr Harris for parishioners to talk to planning officers at a public meeting, the Chairman said he would raise the matter at the VDS presentation on 15th August 2002.

F.571 SANDBAGS. Mr Thomas said there were 150 sandbags available from the 200 delivered. It was agreed to notify residents of their availability through the newsletter. F.572 CODE OF CONDUCT. A letter and report of the Standards Committee had been received from Steve Oram, Public Services Manager at Herefordshire Council and a further letter and information about the Code had been received from the Council's solicitor, Marie Rosenthal. These were noted.

F.573 QUIET LANES. A Video and booklet on Quiet Lanes had been loaned to the Council from the CPRE. The video was passed to Mr Edgar.

F.574 RECYCLING PROJECT. A letter outlining a proposed Herefordshire Council Rural Recycling Project had been received from Mr Ivan Clarke. In the ensuing discussion members agreed that any site would require constant supervision and therefore not practicable for the villages.

F.575 NEW SCHOOL. Mrs Hurle advised members that the Board of Governors would be meeting with the architects in September and she would explore the possibility of Parish Councillors attending the meeting.

F.576 BEST KEPT VILLAGE. It was agreed that Mrs Margaret White and Mr Tony Copp should attend the presentation on Thursday, 29th August 2002.

F.577 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH. Mr Rowe reported on a Neighbourhood Watch meeting held recently and advised members of scams being carried out in the County. Members agreed that the information should be published in the newsletter.

F.578 COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE. Mrs Carver asked if the amount of correspondence copied to members was necessary and asked if the Clerk could précis the letters. The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with the Clerk.

F.579 ENFORCEMENT MATTERS. It was reported that the Enforcement Officer was dealing with several matters in the parish and the Clerk was asked to notify him of a fruit and vegetable business which had been taken over by the snail farm. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.17 pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL. Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 10th September 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr W M J Hames Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K Turnbull, Cllr. Roy Stockton with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr S Knight, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mrs Hurle and Mr Allfrey declared an interest in

F.586. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2002 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.580 Barriers on Footpath CD26 - Ref.Min.F.557 It was reported that the third barrier had now been erected. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Public Rights of Way Section. F.581 Overgrown Hedge in Cowleigh Road - Ref.Min.F. 559 A letter had been received from Mr Mike Davies of Worcester County Council stating that the hedges would be inspected and, if appropriate, he would request the landowner to carry out any necessary maintenance. This was noted. '

F-582 Notice Board at Finchers Comer - Ref.Min.F.562 m reply to a question from Mrs Carver, Mr Rowe said that he had spoken to Mr Monk of Ridgeway Joinery and the matter was in hand. It was agreed that Mr Rowe should ask Mr Monk if it could be supplied and fitted before the judges of the Village of the Year competition visited the village in October. Members expressed their thanks to Mr Beard who had refurbished the Storridge notice board.

F.583 Signing Matters - Ref.Min.F.567 It was agreed the Chairman should sign the agreement for two signs to be erected on the A4103 at an estimated cost of £454.30 excluding VAT. Details of precise siting would be forwarded before the signs were erected. Mr P Moore, Traffic Engineer at Herefordshire Council, had advised that the junction of the A4103 and the B4219 would be inspected before a response could be made in respect of re-siting the 'unsuitable for long vehicles' sign.

F.584 Aerial Flyer - Ref.Min.F.569 The Clerk reported that ROSPA had recommended that fine sand be used to fill the apparatus rather than expanding foam and that the insurers had approved the proposals It was agreed that Mr Creed-Newton be advised of ROSPA's recommendation before he carried out the work. "

F-585 Recycling-Ref.Min.F.574 A memo had been received from Cllr. Mills stating that negotiations with existing Waste Management contractors were in progress for the collection of recyclable products from the kerbside. This was noted. Mr Thomas said the issue of recycling was something that could be included in the Village Design Statement.

F.586 New School - Ref.Min.F.575 Mrs Hurle said that the meeting between the School Governors and the Architects would take place on Thursday, 12th September 2002 at 3.30pm at the present school and that Parish Councillors were welcome to attend.

F.587 Correspondence - Ref.Min.F.578 It was agreed that copies of correspondence should continue to be sent to members. The Clerk was thanked for the work involved in doing so.

F.588 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:-

NE2002/2517/J Removal of Oak tree causing cracking in house walls and subsidence in ground floors adjacent to 3 Oaklands, Cradley. On a proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed to make the following comment:- As the tree was covered by a TPO no action should be taken to remove it until further advice had been sought from a tree specialist, and that a written report should be submitted to the Parish Council advising what proposals could be made such as inspecting the wall, lopping or treating the roots.

NE2002/2497/F Front porch and rear extension at The Prancing Pony Public House, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley. Members raised no objection to the application but wished to draw the Planning Officer's attention to the existing bay windows, which were a feature of the property, and request that a preservation order be placed on them. Cllr. Stockton agreed to speak to Mr Kevin Bishop

about the matter. The following applications had been approved:- (a) Single storey extension and alterations at The Smithy, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley. (b) Insertion of two dormers and replacement of existing conservatory at Hillview, Vinesend Lane, Cradley. (c) Site for erection of one bungalow at Finchers Comer, Cradley (outline). (d) Site for erection of 5 dwellings and garages on land to rear of Oakdale, Chapel Lane, Cradley (outline). Miss Pilling advised members that Mr Alan Poole, Chief Development Control Officer, had agreed to attend the October meeting to address members about planning procedures. It was agreed that correspondence regarding the public speaking procedure should also be copied to members.

F.589 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a) Clerk's salary £244.96 (b) Clerk's IT and telephone allowance for 3 months £87.50 (c) Clerk's car allowance for 6 months £20.16 (d) Administrative costs for 6 months £14.02 On the proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Thomas, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect of the Village Design Statement/Parish Plan:- (a) Storridge Village Hall Mgt Cttee-hire of hall £67.50 (b) Joy Jerkins-reimbursement of expenses for buffet £46.01

F.590 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION. Mrs Hunt reported that Cradley had won the competition for Herefordshire and had also won the IT section. A cheque for the prize money had been received in the sum of £225.00. Following a discussion it was agreed the Clerk should ascertain the total of unspent prize monies received in the past and that a decision should be made at the January 2003 meeting to spend the total amount won. On a proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Mrs Cale, it was further agreed that Mrs Margaret White and Mr Tony Copp should represent the Parish Council in London for the Regional Finals and that their travelling expenses, together with expenses for the project incurred by Mrs White, should be met by the Council.

F.591 DOG FOULING. A letter, together with a poster, had been received from Mr D Goulding, Dog Warden at Herefordshire Council, regarding the amount of excrement left by dogs each day. It was agreed the poster should be placed near the doctors' surgery.

F.592 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Services Update, Local Transport Plan, Meetings Schedule.

F.593 SPECIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME. A letter had been received from Mr S Davies, Home Energy Conservation Officer, giving notice that Herefordshire Council intended to launch a scheme in the near future to award grants to qualifying applicants for loft and cavity wall insulation and other energy saving measures. It was agreed to publish the details in the newsletter and to put the leaflet in the surgery.

F.594 NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM. Notification had been received of a Flood Fair which would take place on Sunday, 15th September 2002 at Hereford Leisure Centre from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

F.595 LEDBURY DISTRICT LIAISON GROUP. Notification had been received that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 18th September 2002 at Ledbury Primary School at 7.00pm.

F.596 HALC. The revised draft HALC Constitution had been received for consideration. Discussion would take place at the Association's AGM on 31st October 2002.

F.597 DEFRA. Notification had been received that the Rural Services Standard 2002 had recently been published which set out the level of access to services that people living in rural areas of England could expect in the coming year. This was noted. Mr Hames arrived at this point.

F.598 ENFORCEMENT ISSUES. In reply to a question from Mr Rowe, the Clerk said the Enforcement Officer was currently dealing with several issues in the parish.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.41pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th October 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe (Chairman), Mr J C Thomas, Ms K Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mrs D Cale.

Before the business of the meeting the Chairman introduced Mr Alan Poole, Chief Development Control Officer at Herefordshire Council, who had agreed to speak to Councillors about planning procedures and how applications were determined. Mr Poole said that it was the case officer's duty to visit the site and appraise the proposed development before making his report which was then passed to the Divisional Officer to make a judgement for delegation or referral to committee. Members expressed concern at the number of applications that had been approved despite Parish Council opposition. Mr Poole said that local knowledge and comments from the Parish Council were important when considering applications but that representations had to be balanced against material consideration. However, he agreed to look into members' concerns regarding recent planning applications. Following a question and answer session the Chairman thanked Mr Poole for his attendance. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Mrs Hurle and Mr Knight declared an interest in F.603. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2002 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.599 Notice Board at Finchers Comer - Ref.Min.F.582 It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Ridgeway Joinery to ascertain when the notice board would be fitted.

F.600 Village Signs - Ref.Min.F.583 Confirmation had been received from Mr P Moore, Traffic Engineer, that a copy of the location plan would be forwarded when available. This was noted.

F.601 Aerial Flyer - Ref.Min.F.584 Following a letter from a parishioner, Mr Creed-Newton said he would locate a supplier of fine sand and carry out modification works to the apparatus. It was agreed the Clerk should inform the parishioner of the Council's proposals. Mr Hames arrived during the discussion. F.602 Recycling-Ref.Min.F.585 Cllr. Mills said that he had recently attended a presentation and confirmed there would be no roadside collection in the Hope End Ward.

F.603 New School - Ref.Min.F.586 Mrs Carver expressed her disappointment that only three members accepted the Governors' invitation to attend the recent meeting with the architects. Mrs Hurle said the architects had drawn up various possibilities for car parking and that a 106 Agreement had been signed to look at future traffic management. The plans for the new school were left on the table for members to peruse.

F.604 Village of the Year Competition - Ref.Min.F.590 Members were shown the framed certificate which the village won in the recent competition and the Clerk was asked to store it until it could be hung in Cradley Village Hall. Mrs Hunt said the judging for the Regional Competition would take place on Tuesday, 22nd October 2002 when the judges would tour the village before the presentation in The Old Rectory. It was agreed that Mrs Hunt should represent the Parish Council at the presentation.

F.605 Enforcement Matters - Ref.Min.F.598 A letter had been received from Mr Ken Matthews, Senior Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council, stating that a planning application was being sought from the occupant of a property in Bosbury Road who had incorporated some agricultural land into his own domestic curtilage and erected a structure thereon. This was noted.

F.606 **PLANNING MATTERS.** Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:-

NE2002/2755/L No objection was raised to the application to remove garage door and replace with window to convert garage to habitable accommodation at Penny Cottage, Cradley.

NE2002/2584/F No objection was raised to the application for conversion of agricultural buildings to form one dwelling at Lower Nupend, Cradley but members requested that a 106 Agreement is placed on the application to tie the dwelling to the land, that the brick arch lintels on the south-west

elevation are retained and that a southern, rather than northern, access to the dwelling is constructed.

NE2002/2785/K Members agreed to raise no objection to the felling of a willow tree at Church House, Rectory Lane, Cradley which was damaging sewer pipes. However, members requested that the application for the removal of the hawthorn hedge was delayed until a planning application had been received for the new garage. Miss Pilling advised members that the Planning Officer had visited the site opposite Chockbury Cottage, Cradley and confirmed a continuing breach of planning condition. He had written to the owner advising that unless the matter was put in hand within 14 days a Breach of Condition Notice would be issued. The following planning applications had been approved:-

1. Internal alterations to staircase at Cradley Post Office and Stores.
2. Repair to timber frame on west elevation, new oak pentice boards and barge boards and replacement window at Barrow Mill, Bearswood, Storridge.

F.607 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Creed Newton, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a) Clerk's salary £244.96 (b) J B Joyce - maintenance of church clock £173.90

It was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect of the Village Design Statement/Parish Plan:- (c) Storridge Village Hall MgtCtee-hire of hall £37.50 Members agreed that the No Notice account held at HSBC bank should be closed as it was no longer in use.

F.608 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON GOVERNING BODY OF CRADLEY SCHOOL. A letter had been received from the Clerk to the Governors, advising that Mr David Judge had resigned as Parish Councils' representative and requested the Parish Council nominate a new candidate. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hugh Wagstaffe, a local solicitor, should be nominated. The Clerk reported that Mathon Parish Council had also nominated Mr Wagstaffe.

F.609 HALC. The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the Association and understood from the speaker. Police Inspector Shane Hancock, that thirty extra officers had been recruited. Twelve officers would be allocated to local policing with four in the rural areas. Other issues discussed at the meeting were the lack of public toilets in Ledbury and the temporary closure of Malvem Link refuse tip.

F.610 CLERK'S CONTRACT AND SALARY REVIEW. The Chairman said arrangements would be made for a meeting with ex-Chairmen before the November meeting.

F.611 PRECEPT 2203/2004. The Clerk advised members that the estimated expenditure for 2003/2004 would be circulated with the minutes for discussion at the next meeting.

F.612 MEETINGS. Notification had been received of the following meetings:- (a) CPRE - Herefordshire Branch. AGM on Saturday, 12th October 2002 at 2.30pm in The Servants Hall, Berrington Hall, Leominster. (b) Code of Conduct Seminar. Shire Hall, Hereford on 7th November 2002 at 7.30pm. (c) Malvem Hills CAB. AGM at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 15th October 2002 in Lyttelton Rooms, Malvem.

F.613 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received: Objective 2 Funding Flyer, Planning Bulletin, Forward Plan, Meetings Schedule, Herefordshire Partnership Newsletter. These were left on the table for members' perusal.

F.614 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. A letter together with information pack had been received from Mr Graham Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner. The Act placed a duty upon Parish Councils to produce a 'Publication Scheme' and further guidance on how the Act would affect Parish Councils was currently being produced by NALC and would be available within the next few weeks.

F.615 GOLDEN JUBILEE MUGS. Mr Creed-Newton agreed to advise the Clerk of the number of mugs not yet sold and monies collected to date. He said that the Friends of Cradley School had purchased 40 mugs and members agreed that a request for payment should be made.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th November 2002 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Ms K E Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mrs A C Carver, Mr S Knight, Mr J C Thomas, Cllr. Roy Stockton.

Before the business of the meeting the Chairman welcomed three members of the public and then introduced Mrs Amanda McCleery, Malvern Hills AONB Officer who, together with Mr David Armitage, had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to speak to members about the work in the AONB office, the Jigsaw Project and the AONB Management Plan which was in the process of being reviewed. Mrs McCleery said that the Malvern Hills AONB was managed and funded by a partnership of the five constituent local authorities comprising of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire County Councils, Herefordshire, Malvern Hills and Forest of Dean District Councils together with the Countryside Agency and Malvern Hills Conservators. She added that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) required the AONB local authorities to prepare and publish a joint AONB Management Plan by April 2004 which would be reviewed at not less than five year intervals. Information leaflets were distributed to members and following a question and answer session the Chairman thanked Mrs McCleery and Mr Armitage for their attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr Allfrey and Mrs Hurle declared an interest in F.619. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2002 be confirmed and signed. The Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for chairing that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

F.616 Notice Board at Finchers Comer - Ref.Min.F.599 The Clerk reported that Mr Monk of Ridgeway Joinery had confirmed the new notice board would be installed in the New Year. Ms Turnbull joined the meeting at this point.

F.617 Village Signs - Ref.Min.F.600 A letter had been received from Mr P Moore, Traffic Engineer at Herefordshire Council, together with a location map of the proposed siting of the two signs. Members agreed they were in the wrong locations and the Clerk was asked to inform Mr Moore of the correct locations and provide him with the grid references.

F.618 Aerial Flyer-Ref.Min.F.601 Mr Creed-Newton advised members that the end parts of the apparatus were welded therefore he would contact Wicksteeds for further advice and a construction drawing before attempting to fill the tubes with sand.

F.619 New School - Ref.Min.F.603 Mrs Hurle said she was disappointed that no member of the Council looked at the map at the last meeting.

F.620 Village of the Year Competition - Ref.Min.F.604 Mrs Hunt reported on the recent presentation and said that judging for the Regional Competition would take place in London on 11th December 2002 and that the winner would progress to the National Competition. Mrs Hunt said that over £500.00 in prize money had accumulated from competitions won since 1996 and it was agreed that members should bring suggestions for its expenditure to the January meeting. It was further agreed that suggestions should also be sought from parishioners through the newsletter. Following a suggestion for sensor lighting along the track to Cradley Village Hall, Mrs Hunt said would obtain the necessary information.

F.621 Playing Fields - Ref.Min.F.601 Following the weekly inspection of Chapel Lane playing field, it was reported that a vast amount of litter, including bottles and lager cans, had been strewn around the area and the newly erected fence had been vandalised. It appeared youths had been abusing the field and members agreed that a notice should be placed in the newsletter asking parishioners if they thought the playing field should be preserved. The Chairman said he would arrange for the removal of the broken tree bough. Mr Rogers expressed concern at a deep pool of water that had collected at the Buryfields site due to a blocked culvert. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department accordingly. It was further agreed that the Clerk should arrange for Mr Home to cut the hedges at both playing fields.

F.622 Golden Jubilee Mugs - Ref.Min.F.615 In reply to a question from Mrs Cale, Mr Creed-Newton said there were approximately seventy-six mugs remaining and he anticipated they would be disposed of by Christmas. The Clerk reported that she had sent two invoices to the Treasurer of The Friends of Cradley School for monies outstanding but had received no response. Ms Turnbull agreed to look into the matter. F.623 PLANNING MATTERS.

Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Thursday, 7th November 2002 when the following applications had been considered:-

NE2002/3155/F and NE2002/3156/L The Crown, Bosbury Road, Cradley WR13 5LS. Alterations and extensions to convert public house and attached barn to 3 no. dwellings, demolition of kitchen, toilets and link between pub and bam and erection of 4 no. new dwellings. Members supported the redevelopment of the site subject to the barn being removed in the interest of highway safety and to enable a footpath to be installed in its place, the erection of only one 4-bedroomed detached house, of a design in keeping with the pub and village, rather than the two proposed to prevent over development of the site and that the proposed dwellings should include three or four affordable, terrace type houses. Members also supported the use of reclaimed materials but expressed concern that there would be more than five dwellings from one access.

NE2002/2969/F Members agreed to raise no objection for the construction of private ménage with post and rail fencing at The Mill House, Cradley.

NE2002/3075/K No objection was raised to reduce height of horse chestnut tree by 50% at Stoney Villa, Cradley.

NE2002/3146/F Members agreed to raise no objection for change of use of building from agricultural storage to indoor exercise area for horses at Yew Tree House, Storrige.

NE2002/3095/F Members agreed, with one abstention, to raise no objection to the application for a two-storey extension at Bay Tree Cottage, Birchwood, Storrige.

NE2002/3225/0 No objection was raised to the outline application for the erection of one bungalow on land adjacent to Oak Bank, Chapel Lane, Cradley provided that, on full planning, the application was for one bungalow only with no dormers.

NE2002/3034/F It was agreed to raise no objection for a retrospective change of use of agricultural land to extend domestic curtilages at Butterfields, Bosbury Road, Cradley, 6, 8 and 10 Oaklands, Cradley and 5 Beech Close, Cradley. No objection was raised to the application for works to trees in conservation area at Barratts Cottage, Cradley. The following applications had been considered during this evening's meeting:-

NE2002/3279/F No objection was raised to the application for renewal of Planning Permission MH97/1578 for a new garage at Eskbank House, Upper Churchfields, Cradley.

NE2002/3277/RM No objection was raised to the application for reserved matters for the erection of one new dwelling on site adjacent to Myrtle Villa, Upper Westfields, Cradley but members requested that the house and garage should be in keeping with the adjoining property. Miss Pilling reported that planning approval for the new school had been received but said a further notice of approval for an application for storage building for fodder, machinery and materials at Shuttifield Cottage, Birchwood, Storrige had not come before the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to clarify if the application was permitted development.

F.624 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect of the Parish Plan:- (a) Mr A Edwards - reimbursement of expenses £43.44 (b) Storrige Village MngtCtee-hire of hall £15.00 (c) Mr J Edgar-reimbursement of expenses £300.77.

F.625 INSURANCE AND VILLAGE HALLS' GRANTS FOR INSURANCE. On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Mr Edgar, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment- (a) Clarke Roxburgh - playing fields 315.00 (b) Zurich Municipal - public liability 200.00 Due to the absence of Mr Thomas the cost of insurance for Cradley Village Hall was unknown therefore the Parish Council was unable to make a grant to cover the cost. It was reported that Storrige Village Hall Management Committee was looking into the increased amount

of its insurance. Members agreed that grants for both halls should be placed on the agenda for the extraordinary meeting on 3rd December 2002.

F.626 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. Members agreed that the item should be brought forward. However, there were no questions from the public.

F.627 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. A letter had been received from Liz Pusey, Manager, requesting a donation towards the cost of operating the Bureau. On a proposal by Mrs Hurlle, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed to make a donation of £130.00.

F.628 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH. Mr Rowe reported on the scheme which entailed recruiting volunteers to monitor the speed of motorists at selected locations with speed-monitoring equipment. He said volunteers would receive appropriate training from the police but the monitoring could only take place on roads with a 30mph speed limit and would therefore exclude the A4103. Mr Rowe said the equipment, which would cost approximately 250.00, could be shared with four or five other parishes and used on a rotational basis. Following a discussion it was agreed, with two abstentions, to apply to join the scheme and that the Clerk should contact Chief Inspector Shane Hancock to register the Council's interest.

F.629 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. The Chairman advised members that an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday, 3rd December 2002 at 7.30pm in Storridge Village Hall to discuss the UDP. Mr Edgar reminded members that the Council had only until 12th December to respond and felt a consultant should be engaged to assist in producing a response to the plan. On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should be given the authority to appoint a consultant following the Parish Plan meeting on 19th November 2002. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Plan could be discussed with a view to adopting it at the 3rd December meeting. Members were advised that a meeting of the East Herefordshire Area Committee would take place at 7.30pm on Thursday, 28th November 2002 at Wellington Heath Memorial Hall and the speaker would be a representative of Herefordshire Council's Forward Planning Office.

F.630 CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW. Members agreed the Clerk's Terms of Employment and in accordance with NALC recommendations, further agreed that her salary be raised to SCP 20 with effect from 1st April 2002. It was also agreed that her telephone allowance be increased by £10.00 per annum. A payment of £741.22 to include two month's salary, back pay, telephone and computer allowances was approved. The Clerk left the meeting during this item.

F.631 PRECEPT 2003/2004. The Clerk had previously circulated a copy of the estimated income and expenditure and following a discussion it was unanimously agreed that the precept for 2003/2004 should be set at £8,000.

F.632 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Mrs Dorothy Coleman:- Satisfaction Survey, Community Building Grant Scheme 2002/2003, Forward Plan November 2002 to February 2003, Schedule of Meetings, Planning Bulletin, Arts Information. The correspondence was left on the table for members' perusal.

F.633 HEREFORDSHIRE IN BLOOM. A letter had been received from Mr Trevor Swindells, Chairman, stating that a meeting would be held on 21st November 2002 for villages interested in taking part in the competition. This was noted.

F.634 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE. Notification had been received from Herefordshire Council that the CI140 Stoney Cross to Grittlesend Road would be closed from 21st October 2002 for a few days to allow drainage works to be carried out. This was noted.

F.635 HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP. A letter had been received from Miss Lisa Bedford, Community Planning Worker, together with local guidance on developing Parish Plans in Herefordshire and advising of workshops being arranged in the County. The information was passed to Mr Edgar.

F.636 POLLING DISTRICTS. A letter had been received from Mr S R Oram, Public Services Manager, advising of a new Order which would come into effect from the next Council elections on

1st May 2003 and would abolish the District Council's existing 44 Wards and create 40 new Wards returning 58 Councillors. This was noted.

F.637 GRASS CUTTING AT WAR MEMORIAL. Members unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Nigel Jones who had cut the grass around the War Memorial throughout the year.

F.638 VENUES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS. Mr Edgar confirmed that Cradley Village Hall would be available for Parish Council meetings from April 2003. The Chairman advised the new members of the Council that parish meetings were held from April to August inclusive in Cradley Village Hall and from September to March (excluding December) in Storridge Village Hall.

F.639 HIGHWAY MATTERS. It was reported that the Highways department had cleared ditches in the parish but had failed to clear the drain in the lane between Vinesend Lane and Buryfields. It was also reported that excess water was running out of Cowleigh Gate Farm drive in Malvern Road and washing rubble down the lane and blocking the drain. The Clerk was asked to notify the District Surveyor of both matters.

F.640 SEVERN CATCHMENT AREA. Mr Hames reported that he had perused documents relating to the matter and confirmed there was no direct relevance to the Parish.

F.641 POWER SUPPLY. It was reported that a recent loss of power was due to works on power lines at a property in Storridge.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm and invited members to join him and Mrs Allfrey for refreshments.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 3rd December 2002 at 7.30pm in Storridge Village Hall. Present: Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J Thomas, Ms K E Turnbull with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs D Cale, Mr S Knight.

Declarations of Interest: All members present, with the exception of Miss Pilling, declared an interest in the Unitary Development Plan in view of their living in the parish. Mr Thomas declared an interest in Cradley Village Hall.

F.642. **VILLAGE HALLS' GRANT FOR INSURANCE.** It was reported that Storridge Village Hall Management Committee had received an invoice for the hall's insurance in the sum of 1,019.54. Although the premium had been paid, the Committee felt the contents value was too high and was currently trying to negotiate a lower premium. It was agreed that a grant to cover the cost should be paid but if a lower premium was secured, the difference should be repaid to the Parish Council. On a proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed the following grants should be approved:- Storridge Village Hall 1,019.54 Cradley Village Hall 888.31

F.643. **AQUILA - POWER LOSS.** The Chairman advised members that he had been handed a petition signed by parishioners regarding the recent power cuts. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Aquila, enclosing the petition, to establish what was causing the power losses and how it could be resolved.

F.644. **UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.** The Chairman welcomed members of the public and introduced Planning Consultant, Mr Bernie Smith, who had been appointed by the Parish Council to make a presentation and prepare a response to the Draft Unitary Development Plan (UDP): First Deposit. Mr Smith advised members that ever changing government policy required an up to date plan and would replace the current plans which included the Hereford and Worcester Structure Plan, Malvern Hills Local Plan and South Hereford District Plan. He said the purpose of the UDP was to allocate land for housing and employment to meet current and future needs in market towns, main larger villages, of which Cradley was included, and planned infill sites in wider rural areas. Mr Smith said that settlement boundaries drawn on the maps for towns and main villages provided certainty for the community. However, he was aware that Herefordshire Council had proposed to extend the settlement boundaries for two areas in Cradley, one of which would encroach into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Mr Smith reminded members that the deadline for the response to the UDP was Thursday, 12th December 2002 and that objections received after that date would not be considered although comments could be made on the 2nd Revision. He said that every representation, which would be available for public inspection, would be acknowledged by Herefordshire Council and that individuals, as well as the Parish Council as a body, could support or object to policies in the plan. Members commented that the UDP made little or no reference to Village Design Statements, that the importance of the view from, as well as to, the Malvern Hills should be considered when the planners considered applications, and that Cradley needed smaller houses for local needs. In reply to a question regarding windfall and allocated sites, Mr Smith said that applications for development on allocated sites should be accompanied by a design statement and development brief. Following further questions and answers it was agreed that objections should be made on policies regarding settlement boundaries, protection of open areas and green spaces, design and sustainable residential design. Support would be given to policies on affordable housing and high standards of design. Mr Smith would send a copy of the draft responses to the Clerk and Chairman for approval before submission to Herefordshire Council and once approved, copies of the Parish Council's responses would be displayed at the post office. The Chairman then thanked Mr Smith and members of the public for their attendance and said that forms for objecting or supporting policies in the plan would be available from the post office. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 14th January 2003 at 7.30 pm. S^r J[^], ^y116"^(^airman), Mrs A C Carver, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Tumbull Cllr Roy Stockton (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. ' AEologies- Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mr D G Creed-Newton. Mr S Knight, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor). DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Ms Tumbull declared an interest in F.653. Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.665. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2002 be confirmed and signed. MATTERS ARISING F 642 Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau - Ref.Min.F.627 A letter of thanks had been received from . Mrs Liz Pusey for the Council's donation and its increased support for the Bureau. F 643 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.63Q A letter had been received from K J Hewitt, Senior Technician at Herefordshire Council, stating that the blocked culvert at the Vinesend Lane junction would be inspected and cleared as necessary and that the gullies would be emptied near Cowleigh Gate Farm. Mr Hewitt added that flood damage erosion outside the Post Office would also be inspected and the steel grid at the end of the culvert cleared. This was noted. Members agreed that the flooding situation outside the new school site was now critical as the bank was being worn away. Miss Pilling reported that the Suckley road, outside Harrell's Cottage, was a sheet of ice after recent flooding and members agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department accordingly. K644 Crown Inn - Ref.Min.F.623 Mr Edgar suggested that the Council engage Planning Consultant Mr Bernie Smith to tackle the problem and make representations to Herefordshire Council. However the Chairman said that the Parish Council could only comment on planning applications put before it He reminded members that the Parish Council had, over the past ten years, written to both Malvern Hills and Herefordshire Councils requesting action for the building works to be finished and the pub re-opened. F.645 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:- NE2002/3440/L Listed Building consent had been received for the conversion of agricultural buildings to form one dwelling at Lower Nupend, Cradley. Members agreed to reiterate the previous comments made on the Full planning application on 8 October 2002. NE2002/3557/F Members agreed to raise no objection for an agricultural machinery store at Stonehouse Ridgeway Cross, Cradley. NE2002/3541/F No objection was raised to the application for a loft conversion with rear facing dormer at Old Orchard, Cradley. NE2002/3654/F No objection was raised to the application for the retrospective change of use from agricultural to domestic garden at Tudor Oaks, Cradley, but members suggested that prescriptive developments rights were withdrawn. NE2002/3747/F Members agreed to raise no objection to a change of use from agricultural to domestic garden on land north of Paddock Bank, Tanhouse Lane, Cradley, but members suggested that prescriptive development rights were withdrawn. Miss Pilling reported that members of the Parish Council had been circularised with a copy of a letter from Mrs Sally Ramsden regarding the Crown Inn. On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed to thank Mrs Ramsden for her letter and advise her that her comments had been noted. F.646 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a)Clerk's salary £264.00 (b)Black Pear Planning - consultancy fee for UDP £227.60 (c)Local Council Review - subscription £11.59 (d)Society Local Council Clerks - subscription £48.00 (e)R E Daniel - grass cutting at playing fields £655.65 (f)Viking Direct - stationery £100.99 (g)Margaret White - reimbursement of expenses £22.71 On the proposal by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment in respect on the Parish Plan:- (a) Storridge Village Hall Management Committee £30.00 F.647 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION-EXPENDITURE OF PRIZE MONEY. The Chairman advised members that £630.00 in prize monies had accumulated over the past few years and after £50 63 was spent on archive material there was a balance of £579.37. Following a

discussion it was agreed to approach the PCC to seek its views on low sensor lighting along the path in the churchyard. Mr Hames arrived at the end of the discussion.

F.648 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. An acknowledge had been received from Dr. David Nicholson, Chief Forward Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council, in response to the Parish Council's comments on the UDP. Dr. Nicholson said his Council would consider the comments in due course and may propose changes to the plan in seeking to overcome objections and that any changes would be subject to a second deposit period. This was noted. The Chairman advised members that the Clerk had copies of the Parish Council's response to the UDP which they could access if required. Supplementary Planning Guidance books had been received from Herefordshire Council which were passed to Mr Edgar. It was agreed that further copies should be obtained for the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

F.649 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD. A letter had been received from a parishioner living near the playing field stating that wooden play equipment should have been installed rather than the current metal apparatus. However, the Chairman reminded members that the previous Parish Council took the decision following consultation with local children and that the old wooden equipment had been vandalised. Mr Edgar reported that Wicksteeds had said that each section of the aerial flyer was blocked which would prevent sand being poured down it. He said he, together with Mr Creed-Newton, would drill a section and fill with polystyrene foam and if this was successful they would fill the remainder.

F.650 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH. Mr Rowe advised members that he and Sandy Fraser would be attending a meeting on 23rd January 2003 at the Shirehall, Hereford. He said that three volunteers had shown interest but eight were required to form the group.

F.651 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. The Chairman welcomed several members of the public but no questions were asked.

F.652 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence had been received from Mrs Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer, and were left on the table for members' perusal:- Thinking of Becoming a Herefordshire Councillor, Programmed Street Works, Feedback of Parish Liaison Service, Code of Conduct Seminar, Forward Plan, Planning Bulletin, Charter for Herefordshire Councils, Parish Plans Open Evening, Awards for All Consultation and Meetings Schedule.

F.653 PRIVATE ROAD SIGNS - RECTORY LANE. A letter dated 31st December 2002 had been received from Mr R Hemblade, Acting Rights of Way Manager at Herefordshire Council, in response to the Parish Council's letter of the 20th May 2002 and stating that footpaths were only available to the walking public and anyone wanting to drive down the lane to gain access to the Village Hall would need to show they had lawful authority to do so. Mr Hemblade said that he would ask the Area Warden to ensure adequate signage and waymarking was in place so that walkers were not deterred from using the path. This was noted.

Cllrs. Stockton and Mills agreed to ascertain why it had taken so long for Herefordshire Council to reply. Members questioned whether the footpath over the lane, which was full of potholes, should be maintained by Herefordshire Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Hemblade pointing out that there was no lighting along the footpath and was in a very dangerous condition. In reply to a question from Mr Thomas, the Chairman confirmed that Rectory Lane ran from the War Memorial to Jubilee field.

F.654 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. A copy of the Parish Council Model Scheme had been received from Mr Graham Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner. This was noted.

F.655 FIREWORK DISPLAYS. A letter had been received from a parishioner expressing concern at the number of fireworks that have been let off since November, especially late at night.

Following a discussion it was agreed that an item should be placed in the newsletter asking people to give warning of a private firework display through the newsletter. It was further agreed that a letter should be written to Mr Bill Wiggin MP to obtain details of the Bill of Parliament regarding fireworks.

F.656 PARISH LENGTHSMAN SCHEME. The Chairman advised members that a meeting was held on 16th December 2002 at Eardisland Village Hall and that Mr Creed-Newton had agreed to attend. However, Mr Creed-Newton later informed the Clerk that he was unable to attend and she was unable to find a replacement. Another meeting would be arranged by Herefordshire Council at a later date.

F.657 HALC. Various items of information had been received from the organisation and were left on the table for members' perusal.

F.658 POSTAL VOTING. It was reported that Herefordshire would be a pilot for postal voting in May and that there would be no polling stations at the village halls. Electors would receive a voting card up to two weeks before Election day on 1st May and should return the card to Herefordshire Council before 5pm on that day for the vote to be registered. F.659 REGISTER OF ELECTORS. In reply to a question from Mr Hames, the Chairman said he should write to Mr Steve Oram at Herefordshire Council to clarify a point in his letter.

F.660 POUND BRIDGE. It was agreed the Clerk should remind the Highways department that it was agreed that repairs would be carried out before the water level rose.

F.661 LITTER PATROL. The Clerk was asked to notify the Waste Management section of the litter in and around the hedge at Doddenham Grove and at the layby by Storridge church.

F.662 CROWN PUB. Mr Rogers advised members that he had received a letter from a parishioner who opposed a housing development on the site and would be campaigning to have the pub revived. The parishioner felt certain that the owner of the Crown had gutted the interior of the buildings contrary to planning laws. In the ensuing discussion the Chairman said points regarding the development had already been discussed, however, it was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Enforcement Officer to investigate. Mr Rowe said the owner had not been approached by CAMRA and that he had been into the building recently and confirmed that it had not been gutted.

F.663 POTHOLES IN PARISH. The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department of the various potholes in the parish.

F.664 VEHICLES OBSCURING SIGNS. It was reported that Landrover vehicles for sale were being left on the ground at the junction of the A4103 and B4420. Complaints had been received that they were obscuring road signs. The Clerk was asked to report the matter to the Highways department.

F.665 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. The Clerk reported that she had enquired about booking the hall for the parish council meetings but understood the hourly rate had risen considerably. Mr Thomas agreed to liaise with the Clerk to discuss the matter.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 11th February 2003 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr W M J Hames, Ms K E Turnbull. Mr J Rowe (Vice Chairman) started the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and welcomed members of the public and a journalist from the Malvern Gazette.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mrs Hurle declared an interest in F.688. Mr Thomas declared an interest in

F.673. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 3rd December 2002 be confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment: Mr W M J Hames was present at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 14th January 2003 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.666 The Crown Inn Public House - Ref.Min.F.644 Members had been circularised with copies of correspondence between Mrs S Ramsden, on behalf of the Crown Crusaders, and the Chairman. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed, on a vote of seven to five, that the Chairman's response be adopted by the Parish Council as its official reply. The Chairman joined the meeting at this point, took the chair and thanked Mr Rowe for starting the meeting. A further letter received from Mrs Ramsden stated that the Parish Council was on record as supporting the change of use of the Crown Inn. This was refuted by Mr Creed-Newton who said the Parish Council did not support a change of use. It was noted by councillors that Mrs Ramsden's letter contained inaccuracies. Mr Rowe reported that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site and was satisfied that the conditions on the approval notice were being adhered to. In reply to a statement from Mr Edgar, the Chairman said the Parish Council had not yet adopted the parish plan. In the ensuing discussion the Chairman said the Parish Council had written several times during the past 12 years to both Malvern Hills and Herefordshire Councils trying to get the pub re-opened. It was agreed, with four abstentions, that the Parish Council should continue to support the re-opening of the Crown.

F.667 Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.649 Mr Creed-Newton advised members that a section of the aerial flyer had been successfully filled with polystyrene foam but had not reduced the noise. It was unanimously agreed that the carriage should be removed until a solution could be found. It was further agreed that a notice of explanation be placed on the entrance to the field and in the newsletter and that the playground inspection, due to take place sometime in March, be postponed until April. A letter had been received from a parishioner suggesting the aerial flyer be moved to Buryfields play area. In the ensuing discussion members were reminded that the site was close to properties of elderly residents and that the apparatus, purchased with the aid of funds from the Malvern Millions, was subject to a contract which might be breached if moved from Chapel Lane playing field. During the weekly inspection of the playing field, members reported that they have had to remove glass from bottles which had been deliberately smashed near the roundabout. It was also reported that the fence had again been ripped down. It was agreed that the matter be put on a future agenda for further discussion.

F.668 Community Speed watch Scheme - Ref.Min.F.650 Mr Rowe reported on a recent meeting and said the equipment could only be used on a straight stretch of road with a speed limit of under 40mph and that the only suitable site in the village was near the butcher's shop. He added that only four volunteers had come forward and he would be having further discussions with the police next month.

F.669 Footpath - Rectory Lane - Ref.Min.F.653 A letter had been received from Mr Rob Hemblade, Acting Rights of Way Officer at Herefordshire Council, stating that the Area Warden would inspect

the footpath to assess what repairs were required to bring it up to a standard acceptable as a footpath. This was noted. Mr Creed-Newton, on behalf of Ms Turnbull, asked if the lane could be repaired similar to the recent works carried out to the lane adjacent to St. Katherine's and if the Warden could consult with residents of the lane prior to works being carried out. It was agreed the Clerk should pass the comments on to Mr Hemblade. Mrs Carver asked if a direction sign could be placed at the entrance to Rectory Lane to indicate the location of the village hall. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to the Highways department accordingly.

F.670 Fireworks - Ref.Min.F.655 A letter had been received from Mr Bill Wiggin MP, together with information from the Department of Trade and Industry and a fact sheet. It was agreed that the information should be copied and forwarded to Miss Roadknight.

F.671 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Ref.Min.F.656 Further information had been received from Miss Sarah Davies. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was agreed to postpone any decision to join the scheme until after the elections in May.

F.672 Postal Voting - Ref.Min.F.658 A letter had been received from Mr S Oram, Public Services Manager at Herefordshire Council, with an update on the details of his Council's application for all-postal voting at the May 2003 elections and the impact on the parish council elections scheduled to take place at the same time. This was noted. The Clerk reported that, in association with HALC, a seminar for Clerks had been provisionally arranged for 6th March 2003 at the Shirehall, Hereford at 7.30pm. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive, Mr Neil Pringle, expressing the Council's disappointment that he would not be presenting the seminar.

F.673 Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.F.665 The Chairman advised members that the hire charges for the hall had been reduced to £4.00 per hour and that the hall had been booked for parish council meetings from April to August inclusive.

F.674 Pound Bridge - Ref.Min.F.660 It was reported that repairs had not yet been carried out and the opposite side of the bridge had become affected. Cllr. Mills agreed to liaise with Mr Hewitt in the Highways department.

F.675 PLANNING MATTERS.

Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:-

NE2003/0233/F A planning application for works to Church House, Rectory Lane, Cradley had been received and members commented on each section as follows:- Cider House Change of use and alterations to cider house for half office and half residential. Members strongly resisted the change of use on the grounds that the applicant had not demonstrated a need for the change.

Double Garage During a routine site inspection the committee observed that the garage had already been erected on a site within the AONB and the structure was considered to be an over development of the site. The application was not retrospective and furthermore the partner of the applicant is a member of this council's planning committee and was therefore aware of planning requirements. As such the committee recommended that the garage be taken down.

Pavilion Members agreed that the proposed height was too high and no indication had been given on the application of the intention or requirement for the extension and pitched roof. Further information was required.

Extension to House Further information was required in respect of materials to be used. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Russell Pryce, Planning Officer, requesting that proper architectural plans be submitted by the applicant instead of drawings with little detail on small pieces of paper as previously submitted.

NE2003/0075/F The Parish Council agreed to actively support the application for the erection of office/garage/laundry and store room at Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp. (Supersedes previous approvals NE001/1209/F and NE00/2372/F).

NE2003/0129/F Members agreed, with one abstention, to raise no objection for an extension at Whitewells Farmhouse, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley.

NE2003/0248/K No objection was raised to the application to fell two poplars in conservation area at Eskbank, Upper Churchfields, Cradley. The following applications had been approved:-

- 1) Agricultural machinery store at Stonehouse, Ridgeway Cross.
- 2) Retrospective change of use from agricultural to domestic garden at Tudor Oaks, Bosbury Road, Cradley.
- 3) Loft conversion with rear facing dormer at Old Orchard, Cradley.

The Chairman advised members that he had spoken to the Monitoring Officer and hoped Ms Turnbull could explain to the Parish Council why building works to the garage at Church House had commenced before plans had been submitted and approval obtained. He reminded members that under the Code of Conduct members had a duty to report a councillor who they felt was in breach of the code and if they failed to do this then they too would be in breach of the code.

Following a discussion members agreed that a letter should be written to Ms Turnbull asking for an explanation within seven days and that a letter, together with a copy of Ms Turnbull's comments, should be sent to the Monitoring Officer who would register the complaint and raise the matter with the Chairman of the Board. With regard to the Code of Conduct, the Chairman said it had been brought to his attention that certain parish councillors had disparaged the Parish Council and had therefore brought the Parish Council into disrepute. He added that he hoped it would not happen again. F.676 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a) Clerk's salary £264.00

F.677 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING. It was agreed that the Open Meeting should take place in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday, 29th April 2003 at 7.30pm. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that Mrs Wynnell Hunt be invited to address the meeting on the history of Cradley.

F.678 CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE MEETING. It was agreed that the committee should meet on Wednesday, 26th February 2003 at 8.00pm at Wildgoose Hill to discuss the grant payments.

F.679 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. In reply to questions from parishioners regarding the Crown Inn, the Chairman said the Parish Council had not supported a change of use. No proposal had been made to demolish the barn, but the committee had considered it due to the many complaints about the absence of a footpath on the road adjacent to it. The committee had recommended the stone from the barn be re-used and these comments were sent to the planners. The Chairman reminded members and the public that the comments were sent before an open meeting about the Crown. He added that up until then the Parish Council had been unaware of any strong feeling to retain the pub as there had been no local support during the past 12 years when the Parish Council had tried to get the pub re-opened. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Planning Officer and understood the application was likely to be withdrawn. As the time allotted for question time had been exceeded the Chairman said members would discuss a further question during the final item on the agenda.

F.680 SPEED LIMIT ORDER. Notification had been received of an Order which would introduce a 50mph speed limit along the A4103 Storridge from a point 745 metres west of its junction with the C1162, in a north-easterly direction, to a point 350 metres north-east of its junction with the B4219. The Order was made due to an anomaly in the first Order and Cllr. Mills was asked to ascertain who was responsible for the first one being incorrect.

F.681 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Mrs Dorothy Cole, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Corporate Plan, Forward Plan, Services Update, Planning Bulletin, Funding Directory and Herefordshire Houses, Horses and Hounds Exhibition.

F.682 SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY. A letter had been received from Mr David Pryor at Herefordshire Council stating that work on a sports pitch strategy would be completed in the Spring of 2003. This was noted.

F.683 QUIET LANES. A letter had been received from Mr Cyril Stone, Chairman of Ledbury CPRE, advising that a meeting to promote Quiet Lanes network in this area would be held on Friday, 21st February 2003 in the Millennium Room in Colwall Library at 7.30pm. This was noted.

F.684 DRAINAGE ON A4103. It was reported that surface water on the bend opposite Brook House Farm had not run into the drain and had turned to ice in the cold weather. This had resulted in several cars spinning into the bank. The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department.

F.685 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT PLANNING MEETINGS. Further to a question from a parishioner during question time, members discussed representation by this Council at Herefordshire Council Planning Meeting when the application for the Crown Inn was listed. On a proposal by Mr Creed- Newton, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed, in principle, that if the application comes before Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council should be represented, and before such a meeting the Planning Committee should convene to discuss the policy on how to make the representation. Cllr. Mills agreed to inform the Clerk when the application was listed.

F.686 CRADLEY POST OFFICE AND STORES. It was unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to David and Sue Mayor to congratulate them on the work carried out to upgrade and modernise the shop.

F.687 BUS SHELTER. Mr Rowe reported that he had been approached by some parishioners requesting a bus shelter at the top of Oaklands. It was agreed the item be placed on next month's agenda.

F.688 NEW SCHOOL. In reply to a question from Mrs Carver, Mrs Hurle said the plans for the school were on target and it was anticipated the school would be open for the Summer 2004.

F.689 POST OFFICE PENSIONS. It was reported that following Government changes, and with proper identification, cash payments for pensions could be obtained from any post office. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 11th March 2003 at 7.30 pm. Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs A C Carver, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Tumbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor). The Chairman welcomed several members of the public. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Mrs Hurle declared an interest in F.703. Mr Creed-Newton declared an interest in F.707. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 11th February 2003 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.690 The Crown Inn Public House - Ref.Min.F.666 Before discussing the item the Chairman read a statement that he had prepared. He said that following publication of a letter from the Cradley Crown Crusaders to him in their newsletter dated 1st February, he had been assured by Mrs Sally Ramsden that his response, outlining the Parish Council's role in the matter, would be published in their next newsletter but this had not been done and furthermore their newsletter contained inaccurate statements. The Chairman informed members that although the group had claimed a total of 772 signatures on the petition, the total number was 746, of which well over half (412) were of people living outside the village including places such as Cornwall, London, Derbyshire, Leicester and Yorkshire. The actual figure of local people was 285 out of an electorate of 1,650. The Chairman again reminded members that the Parish Council had, over the past 12 years, tried to get the pub re-opened and during that time it had received no local support. He said the Parish Council had received no letters of objection to the recent application before the planning committee considered it and that the Cradley Crown Crusaders had been set up only after the committee's comments had been sent to Herefordshire Council. The Chairman advised members that the planning application for the Crown Inn had now been withdrawn and a new application had been received which would be discussed at a later date. Although a further letter had been received from Cradley Crown Crusaders, it was agreed, in the light of the application being withdrawn, to take no action on their proposals at this juncture. With regard to the application being withdrawn, Mr Rowe asked if the Crusaders would now remove their "save our pub" signs which had been placed in highway verges around the village.

F.691 Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.667 Members were advised that the cost of an out of sequence inspection would be 180.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that as the carriage of the aerial flyer would not be modified and fitted before the end of March the previously arranged annual inspection should proceed.

F.692 Community Speedwatch Scheme - Ref.Min.F.668 Mr Rowe reported that 11 volunteers had now come forward and that the Parish Council's interest in the scheme had been registered with the police.

F.693 Footpath and Sign - Rectory Lane - Ref.Min.F.669 A letter had been received from Mr Rob Hemblade, Rights of Way Officer at Herefordshire Council, stating that the Council's request for works to be carried out similar to Sandy Lane would be passed to the Area Warden for consideration. With regard to a direction sign to the Village Hall, Mr Hemblade said he did not have the funds available but would have no objection to the Parish Council making its own arrangements provided the relevant permission was sought on the intended location of the sign. Members agreed that the information should be passed to the Village Hall Committee.

F.694 Fireworks - Ref.Min.F.670 A letter of thanks had been received from Miss Roadknight for the information passed to her.

F.695 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Ref.Min.F.671 Notification had been received from Miss Sarah Davies, Lengthsman Co-ordinator, that the Health and Safety training for the scheme has been postponed until all parishes have Lengthsmen in place. This was noted.

F.696 Postal Voting - Ref.Min.F.672 A letter had been received from Mr Neil Pringle, Chief Executive at Herefordshire Council, stating that the seminar had been arranged to cover procedural

issues for the postal ballot and that it was appropriate that Mr Steve Oram, as Deputy Acting Returning Officer, should conduct the session. This was noted.

F.697 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.674 A letter had been received from Mr K Hewitt, Senior Technician, advising of the following matters:-

Pound Bridge Maintenance work should have been carried out last summer but this had not been done. As water levels were now unfavourable, the work would be actioned when water levels dropped. Mr Rowe said that Cllr. Mills would report on the situation at the next meeting.

Suckley Road - U65625 The site adjacent to Harrell's Cottage would be investigated to establish the cause of flooding.

Potholes The various potholes in the parish would be repaired as soon as possible.

A4103/B4220 Junction Highway inspectors would monitor the vehicles which were obscuring road signs and take action taken if necessary.

F.698 Church House - Ref.Min.F.675 A letter had been received from Ms Turnbull explaining that Mr Davies had commenced construction of the garage on the understanding that it would be permitted development. However, it was later decided to include the garage on the planning application. The Clerk had been asked to establish if it was permitted development before any action was taken. The Chairman advised members that the Planning Officer had confirmed that it was not permitted development because the construction was in the AONB within a conservation area and that he had warned Mr Davies of the risk if works commenced before an application was submitted. Following a discussion members unanimously agreed that the matter should be referred to the Monitoring Officer.

F.699 Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.F.677 The Chairman advised members that Mrs Wynnell Hunt had accepted the Council's invitation to address the Annual Open meeting on 29th April 2003.

F.700 Quiet Lanes - Ref.Min.F.683 Minutes of a meeting held recently by the CPRE had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the organisation asking to be kept informed of the project.

F.701 A4103 Surface Water - Ref.Min.F.684 A letter had been received from Mr K Hewitt, Senior Technician, stating that the site would be inspected and that he would reply in due course. This was noted. It was reported that work to clear the drains had already begun.

F.702 Cradley Post Office - Ref.Min.F.686 Members had been circularised with a copy of a letter from David and Sue Mayor thanking all members of the Parish Council for their support in the application for a Vital Villages grant and in particular the Chairman who, in responding promptly to a request for the necessary letters, had allowed David and Sue to keep to the time schedules allowed. This was noted.

F.703 New School - Ref.Min.F.688 Mrs Hurlle reported that the Parish Council would be receiving a letter shortly from Herefordshire Council regarding extended street lighting from Buryfields to the lane outside the new school. She asked members for their views and added that funding would have to be in the overall costs. In the ensuing discussion it was unanimously agreed that street lighting should not be installed. It was further agreed that, due to the problem of drainage along the lane, the Clerk should write to the Highways department asking if works could be carried out to reinstate the road.

F.704 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:- NE2003/0451/F No objection was raised to the application for a ground floor extension to rear of property at Tolcame, Storridge.

NE2003/0570/F Members agreed to raise no objection to the application for dormers added to rear, new conservatory to rear, existing porch to the front to be replaced with conservatory, new porch to the front and first floor extension to side at Greenhill Farm, Greenhill, Cradley.

The following applications had been approved:-

1) Erection of office/garage/laundry and store room at Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp (supersedes previous approvals).

2) Change of use from agricultural to domestic garden on land north of Paddock Bank Tanhouse Lane Cradley.

The following applications had been withdrawn:-

- 1) Conversion of agricultural buildings to form one dwelling at Bam at Lower Nupend, Cradley.
- 2) Alterations and extensions to convert public house and attached barn to 3 no. dwellings, demolition of kitchen, toilets and link between pub and bam. Erection of 4 no. new dwellings at The Crown, Bosbury Road, Cradley.

F.705 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- (a) Clerk's salary £264.00 (b) Winross Hacker Young - audit fee £293.75 (c) Clerk's telephone allowance for 3 months £27.50 (d) Clerk's computer allowance for 3 months £62.50 (e) Clerk's car allowance for 6 months £21.70 (f) Administration expenses for 6 months £23.19 (g) Storridge Village Hall Mngt Cttee - Hire of Hall for year £126.00 The Chairman advised members that the Clerk had attended a course run by HALC on Saturday, 8th March 2003 and had paid the 25.00 course fee. It was unanimously agreed that she should be reimbursed. Mr Hames joined the meeting at this point. The Clerk reported that the Council's High Interest Deposit Bond of £30,000 had matured and had been credited to the Council's current account. She further reported that the auditor had advised that reserves should not be placed in high interest savings accounts unless funds had been earmarked. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek advice on alternative interest accounts from the bank. It was reported that the Friends of Cradley School had still not reimbursed the Council for mugs purchased and the Clerk was asked to send a further invoice.

F.706 REPORT OF THE CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE. Mrs Hunt reported on a meeting held on 4th March 2003 when it had been recommended that the following grants be paid towards maintenance of the three churchyards in the parish:- Cradley £600.00 Chapel £80.00 Storridge £350.00 Mrs Hunt said that the total cost of maintaining the Chapel graveyard during 2002 had been £80.00 and although the previous year's grant had been higher, the Parish Council was unable to pay a grant more than the expenditure. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to this effect to the Chapel's treasurer. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed to accept the committee's recommendations.

F.707 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL - CHAIR. It was agreed that the Parish Council should sponsor a chair in the sum of 30.00 for the Village Hall. Mr Creed-Newton declared an interest and did not vote.

F.708 VOTE OF THANKS. Several names were put forward to give the vote of thanks at the Open Meeting and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

F.709 BUS SHELTERS. A letter had been received from a parishioner requesting a bus shelter for the use of children waiting for the school bus at the junction of Oaklands and Bosbury Road. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries as to costs and maintenance.

F.710 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. In answer to a question from Mr Lowder, the Chairman said the sign he was complaining about was on private property. In reply to a question from Mrs Ramsden, the Chairman said he had no idea who was going to stand for the forthcoming election.

F.711 CHURCHYARD LIGHTING. A letter had been received from Revd. Sam Ashton stating that the PCC took a positive view in principle of the idea for lighting in the churchyard but it wished to see outline plans. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that further information should be sought on costings and the matter placed on next month's agenda.

F.712 UDP. The Chairman advised members that an e-mail had been received from Mr Bernie Smith who said that Herefordshire Council had requested clarification of areas referred to in the objections regarding protecting important spaces. Mr Edgar said he would contact Mr Steve Dring at the Forward Planning office for clarification.

F.713 HEREFORDSHIRE COUCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Mrs Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Forward Plan, Schedule of Council

Meetings, Herefordshire Culture and Leisure Funding Fair Leaflet. The literature was left on the table for members' perusal.

F.714 PORTWOOD SERVICES. Notification had been received of an Application for Transfer of Justices Licence at the New Inn, Storrige. This was noted.

F.715 LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS. A letter had been received from Mr Stephen Oates, Head of Engineering and Transportation at Herefordshire Council, outlining details of the Forum currently being established which would advise the Local Highway Authority, The Countryside Agency and other bodies in relation to the improvement of public access. This was noted.

F.716 AQUILA. A letter of apology had been received from Mr Neil Taylor, Network Customer Services, in response to the petition which was sent to the company protesting against the frequency of loss of power in the area. Mr Taylor said that faults occurred for many reasons and that the company could not guarantee a continuous supply of electricity. Furthermore, Mr Taylor added that there were no immediate plans to carry out any work on the system in the area but that the situation would be monitored. This was noted. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should be displayed in the post office.

F.717 MEETINGS. Notification had been received of the following meetings:-

1) JAC - Postponement of the meeting of the 21st March 2003. This meeting will now take place on 23rd May 2003.

2) LAF - The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 19th March 2003 at 7.00pm at Ledbury Primary School, Long Acres, Ledbury.

F.718 FOOTPATHS OFFICER. Mr Hames advised the Council that due to work commitments, he would be unable to fulfil his role as footpaths officer from 1st April 2003. He said that a parishioner had shown an interest in succeeding him. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Mr Hames for all the work he had put into the work over the past few years. It was agreed to ask parishioners through the newsletter to respond if they were interested in the position and to place the item on next month's agenda.

F.719 PARISH SIGNS. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase up the Highways department for the erection of the Cradley signs along the A4103 and ask if the sign near Ashvale, Bosbury Road could be replaced and re-sited at the edge of the parish boundary by Tudor Oaks. It was further agreed to notify the department that the chevron sign and a marker post had been demolished outside Storrige Village Hall.

F.720 MILLBANK GARAGE. The Chairman reported that Millbank Garage would not be serving petrol after March. However, he understood that the car sales and workshop would continue.

F.721 ROUNDEL. The Clerk was asked to write to the Transportation Section to ask if a further roundel could be installed at the entrance to the village at Stoney Cross as vehicles which were permanently parked on the grass verge were obscuring the speed limit sign.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of an ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th April 2003 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed- Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. The Chairman welcomed members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Ms Turnbull declared an interest in F.722.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 11th March 2003 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

F.722 Church House - Ref.Min.F.698 A letter had been received from Mr Russell Pryce, Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council, confirming that the garage was not permitted development and that he had advised the landowner that he should cease works until such time an application had been submitted. The Chairman reminded members that the building works to the garage had continued. Following receipt of Ms Turnbull's explanation and Mr Pryce's letter, copies of all correspondence were forwarded to the Monitoring Officer as previously agreed.

F.723 Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.F.699 The Chairman advised members that Major Sandy Fraser had kindly agreed to give the vote of thanks at the Open Meeting on 29th April 2003.

F.724 Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.691 It was reported that the fence between the Chapel and the playing field had broken away and that the grass needed cutting. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chapel to establish ownership of the fence. Mr Edgar said that the bearings on the aerial flyer had disintegrated and he would be looking for a different type of bearing to reduce the noise. He agreed to report back at the next meeting with costs. He added that the apparatus was welded together therefore it would be very costly to move it to another location.

F.725 Village Hall Sign - Ref.Min.F.693 Mrs Carver asked if the Parish Council would fund the cost of a direction sign to Cradley Village Hall. It was agreed to place the matter on next month's agenda. In the interim the Clerk would seek permission from Herefordshire Council for the sign to be erected.

F.726 Highway Matters - Ref.Min.F.701 A letter had been received from Mr K Hewitt, Senior Technician at Herefordshire Council, stating that surface water on the A4103 had been caused by a spring in the highway verge and that drainage works to prevent surface water problems at the site would be carried out. It was reported that the work had now been done. Mrs Carver informed members that works to Pound Bridge had also been carried out.

F.727 Bank Account - Ref.Min.F.705 The Clerk reported that she had obtained some information on instant access accounts and was awaiting further details. It was agreed the matter be deferred until next month's meeting.

F.728 Churchyard Grants - Ref.Min.F.706 Letters had been received from the Treasurers of Storridge PCC and Cradley Chapel respectively thanking the Parish Council for the grants given towards churchyard maintenance.

F.729 Village Signs - Ref.Min.F.719 It was reported that Herefordshire Council had erected the signs at the wrong locations on the A4103. The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department accordingly. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue the re-siting of a replacement sign in Bosbury Road.

F.730 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered:-

NE2003/0938/F No objection was raised to the application for a double garage and extension to house at Uplands, Westfields, Cradley.

NE2003/0881/U Members agreed to raise no objection to the application for residential use of The Observatory and mobile home at Crumpton Oaks Farm, Storridge. Planning Approval had been received for an extension to Whitewells Farm, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley. Refusal of Prior Approval had been received for general purpose agricultural storage building on land adjoining Seven Oaks, Birchwood, Storridge. The Chairman thanked Miss Pilling for her report and reminded members

that the Parish Council had agreed that it would send a representative to give the Parish Council's views at the Northern Area Planning Sub-Committee meeting when the Crown Inn was listed and understood the application was listed for 30th April 2003. Mr Creed-Newton agreed to represent the Parish Council at the meeting.

F.731 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Mr Beard, it was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:-

(a) Clerk's salary £264.00

F.732 BUS SHELTER. The Chairman advised members that the cost of installing a bus shelter on the highway verge at the junction of Oaklands and Bosbury Road would be between 2,000 and 5,000 according to the design and, subject to an approved design, 75% of the cost would be met by Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council would be responsible for maintenance and cleansing and the time scale for installation would be a minimum of 6 months. On a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that the matter should be deferred until next month and the decision made by the new Council.

F.733 CHURCHYARD LIGHTING. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain brochures and prices and report back at the next meeting. It was further agreed that once the information was acquired a meeting should be sought with the PCC.

F.734 VACANCY FOR FOOTPATHS OFFICER. The Chairman said that two parishioners, Mr Hackling and Mr White, had expressed an interest in the post and as the parish had 52km of footpaths members unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should appoint both Mr Hackling and Mr White as joint Footpath Officers. The Clerk was asked to write to both parishioners to thank them and ask that they liaise with each other to arrange a joint schedule.

F.735 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. Mrs Ramsden referred to a matter in the Council's minutes of October 2002. The Chairman read the minute and said that guidance regarding the Freedom of Information Act 2000 was being produced by NALC. It was agreed to ask the County Association when the information would be available. In reply to a question from Mr Parkhill, the Chairman said the Parish Council could not comment on a development prior to receiving a planning application.

F.736 DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT JUNCTION OF A4103/B4220. A letter had been received from a parishioner who had expressed concern at the development taking place on land at a dangerous junction and of the water draining off the site onto nearby properties. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the parishioner advising that the Senior Enforcement Officer was aware of the situation. In reply to a question from Ms Turnbull, the Chairman said the Enforcement Officer was involved because the development had taken place without planning permission.

F.737 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received:- Postal Ballot Posters, Meetings Schedule, Herefordshire Partnership Newsletter, Forward Plan, Parish Plan Protocol, Quarterly Economic Report. The literature was left on the table for members' perusal.

F.738 DEFRA. A letter had been received from Rt Hon Alun Michael MP together with a Ministerial statement recently issued which made clear the Government's intention not to impose unnecessary burdens on village halls in association with entertainment facilities under the licensing regime. This was noted.

F.739 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE. Members had been circularised with a copy of a letter from a parishioner who had expressed concern about the lack of public services from Herefordshire Council. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should contact the parishioner to discuss his concerns. Before closing the meeting the Chairman thanked all Councillors for the support they had given him over the past 3 years and for their dedication to the work of the Parish Council. He also thanked the Clerk for the work she had carried out on behalf of the Council. Mr Rogers, who was standing down from the Council after 22 years service, also thanked Councillors and said he had enjoyed his work on the Council during those years and although the Parish Council had had to contend with both bad and good times, he said that all the meetings had been conducted in a professional manner and he was grateful that the Parish Council had diligently looked after both

Cradley and Storridge. He gave his best wishes to the Councillors standing for the forthcoming election and to the new Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm.