

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
held at Cradley Village Hall on

Tuesday, 9th May 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. It with much regret the retiring Chairman, Mr. Rogers, announced the death of Mr. Fred Keep who had very recently retired from the Council after 31 years service. Deepest sympathy was extended to his wife and family and members held two minutes silence in his memory. At the commencement of the business of the meeting Mr. Rogers welcomed the four new members to the Council.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

(a) **Chairman.** On the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mr. Beard, Mr. Rogers was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

(b) **Vice Chairman.** Mr. Beard proposed Mrs. Hurle, seconded by Mrs. Hunt and Ms Skinner proposed Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mrs. Lim. As a result of a ballot Mrs. Hurle was elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

(c) **Members to Sign Cheques.** It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mr. Beard should be given authority to sign cheques on behalf of the Council.

(d) **Planning Committee.** It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr. Allfrey, Mr. Beard. Mrs. Cale, Mrs. Carver Mr. Clarke. Mrs. Fairfax. Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Lim, Miss Pilling, Mr. Spence Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(e) **Footpath Committee.** It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr. Beard, Mr. Bullen. Mrs. Cale. Mrs. Carver Mr. Hames, Mr. Spence, Chairman and Vice Chairman.

In view of the increased membership of the Planning and Footpath Committees it was agreed that this should be subject to review at the next annual meeting.

(f) **Churchyard Committee.** It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mrs. Carver, Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Hunt. Mr Spence Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(g) **Playing Fields.** It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr. Bullen, Mrs. Fairfax, Miss Pilling, Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(h) **Cradley Village Hall Management Committee.** On the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mrs. Cale, Ms. Skinner was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year. (J) **Storrige Village Hall Management Committee** On the proposal of Mr. Allfrey, seconded by Mrs. Fairfax, Mrs. Hurle was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year.

(J) **Hereford & Worcester Association of Local Councils.** As was the usual practice it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman should represent the Council on this body.

(k) **Charities of Richard Hill & Others** The Chairman reminded members that the three members elected to this body by the Parish Council each served for a four year term and were at present Mr. Beard, Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Bibbings. To ensure continuity these members came up for election on a rotational basis and this year it

was Mr. Beard. This was noted and on the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Miss Pilling, Mr. Beard was unanimously re-elected for a further four year term. Mr. Clarke advised that Mr. Keep had been a Trustee appointed by the Malvem Hills District Council on the recommendation from the Parish Council. As it was important that the person appointed should have a good local knowledge he suggested that Mrs. Cale's name should be put forward to the District Council. This was seconded by Mrs. Fairfax and unanimously agreed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. D.771 Highway Matters. Ref. Min D 756

A letter had been received from the County Council's Highways Programme Engineer stating that consideration had been given to the improvements on the A4103 at Ridgway Hill suggested by the Parish Council. However he felt that to widen the A4103 at the cross-roads with the B4220 would involve major construction works which would not overcome the problems associated with vehicles turning west when exiting the B4220 from Bromyard. Furthermore funds available for that type of work were limited and it was unlikely that a major scheme to improve the cross-roads would achieve sufficient justification to be included in the draft Capital Programme. These comments would also apply to the Coombe Lane junction. This was noted and Mr. Clarke felt that the County Council should be advised that the Parish Council did not accept that their proposals for extending the double white lines to make a single track up the hill was an improvement and it was better to leave the road markings as they were at present. Mr. Allfrey advised that the County Council were applying for a 50 mph speed limit on the hill and he felt that if signs erected were as explicit as those on Fromes Hill it would have an effect. After discussion it was agreed to acknowledge the comments made in the letter and to reiterate that the Parish Council could not agree to their previous proposals for changing the white line system.

D.772 Cradley Village Hall Ramp. Ref. Min. D.769. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had received a grant from the District Council amounting to £1,117.09 towards the cost of erecting the ramp. This was noted.

D.773 Survey of Civil Parish Records. Ref. Min. D.759. The Clerk had not yet been able to obtain a quotation for copying the archives and after discussion it was agreed that this should include the cost of binding the volumes.

D.774 Cradley Village Hall. Ref. Min. D.757. The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held on the 20th April with the frontagers and it had been agreed that the Parish Council should obtain quotations for repairing the lane from its junction with the highway at the west end as far as the field gate access at the east end by cutting out all potholes to sufficient depth to give suitable 'key' for stone filling. This was noted. The Chairman advised that the quotation would include a proviso that the stone used for infilling should match the appearance of the existing stone and that a quotation would also be requested for cutting out the concrete repair opposite the gateway to The Rectory.

D.775 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

On the proposal of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mrs. Fairfax, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment: -

Diocese of Hereford - Leasehold rental of Cradley Village Hall 52.00

Beacon Books - Presentations to retiring members 59.76

D.776 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS.

Questionnaires had been received from the Association to obtain the Parish Council's views on the re-organisation of the County and Area committees following the splitting of the two counties. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for all members to have copies of the options suggested and any comments could then be made to the Chairman in time for him to respond by the 9th June.

D.777 HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL.

A request had been received from the Gynaecological Department of the Hospital for a donation towards endoscopic equipment. Members felt that it was not something that the Council could support and that the information should be passed to the WI and Cradley Surgery.

D.778 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A letter had been received from the Council advising that with immediate effect Parish Councils would be receiving courtesy copies of Area Planning Sub-Committee Agendas. Copies of Agendas for other meetings could be obtained on payment of 19.40 per annum. This was noted and it was agreed that copies of other Agendas should be obtained.

D.779 CREATION OF ACCESS ONTO A4103 LAY-BY AT STORRIDGE.

A letter had been received from the Enforcement Officer advising that following investigations he had ascertained that the new access did not require planning permission as it was not onto part of the classified highway. This was noted but members queried whether this lay-by had ever been declassified and Mr. Allfrey agreed to make enquiries of the County Council.

D.780 BUS SERVICE 421.

Notification had been received from the County Council that the contract for the subsidised journeys on Midland Red West bus service 417 expired at the beginning of September. It was intended to seek tenders for a replacement contract without alteration but if the Parish Council had any comments to make these should be received by the end of May. This was noted and it was agreed to make no comment.

D.781 HEREFORD & WORCESTER RURAL ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Notification had been received that Rural Action had now been launched which gave help on grants and practical help for local projects. This was noted.

D.782 MR. V. BRIGDEN.

The Chairman advised that a letter of thanks had been received from Mr. Brigden for the book presented to him on his retirement. This was noted.

D.783 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - CAPITAL AND MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMME.

Mr. Allfrey felt that following the decision made at the last meeting to apply for financial support for the construction of a purpose built village hall for Cradley and the levelling of the playing field, members should give consideration to forming a sub-committee to take these proposals forward. This was agreed. In reply to a query from Ms. Skinner, the Chairman confirmed that the existing village hall would in any event continue to be maintained as an amenity. Mr. Clarke advised that the Diocese of Hereford owned the existing village hall and was leased to the Parish Council. He felt that perhaps the time had come for the Parish Council to express an interest in purchasing the hall and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk should approach the Diocesan Authorities.

D.784 SUCKLEY ROAD.

Mr. Allfrey advised that effluent was again running across the highway and the Chairman agreed to look into the matter.

D.785 PARISH ARCHIVES.

Mrs. Carver reminded members that Mr. Scott had carried out a lot of work in obtaining tape-recording from parishioners and photographs of old Cradley and she felt that this work should continue. The Chairman therefore agreed to contact Mr. Scott to ascertain the present position and that the matter should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

Chairman M Rogers

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Cradley Village Hall on

Tuesday, 13th June 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present;- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Y. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies- Mr. F. A. C. Beard, Mrs. D. Cale. Members asked for it to be recorded that before the commencement of business Mrs. Cale injured her foot on a chair and had to leave the meeting to receive treatment. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Mr. Rogers declared an interest in item D.792. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.** It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. D.786 Payment of Accounts, Ref. D.775. The Chairman reported that following advice it had been ascertained that the funds of the Council could not be directly used for payments to individuals and therefore the payment for the presentations made to retiring members was not an allowable expense. In the light of this he advised that he would cover the cost of this out of his Chairman's Allowance and this was unanimously agreed.

D.787 MHDC - Capital and Major Works Programme. Ref. Min. D.783. A letter had been received from the District Secretary stating that a Working Party had been set up to consider and determine the advice it should give to the District Council on its strategy on the use of the capital receipt from the housing stock transfer and the Parish Council would be kept informed of progress. He advised however that many of the suggestions might be catered for under the increased Parish Council Capital Grant scheme or the proposed Community Buildings Grant scheme. This was noted. Several members stated that they had been approached by parishioners who had expressed their concern for the future of the existing Cradley Village Hall and asking why the money could not be used for increasing facilities at the existing village halls. Members were reminded when the matter was considered in April there had been very little time to register a bid for money and the Parish Council would have been failing in its duty if it had missed the opportunity of sharing in this windfall. However after further consideration it was agreed to ask the Council to add to the application that if money could not be made available for a new village hall, the Council would consider financing the upgrading of the existing village halls in Cradley and Storridge. The other bid for improvements to the playing field would of course still stand.

D.788 Cradley Village Hall Ramp. Ref. Min. D.722. The Chairman reported that a cheque to cover the grant from Hereford & Worcester County Council of 1992.15 had been received from the Cradley Village Hall Committee. This was noted.

D.789 Survey of Civil Parish Records. Ref. Min. D.773. The Chairman advised that a quotation for copying and binding the two earliest hand-written Minute Books of the Parish Council and the hand-written book reporting meetings of the Trustees of the Richard Hill Charities would be available for consideration at the next meeting. This was noted.

D.790 Creation of Access onto A4103 Lay-by at Storridge. Ref. Min. D.779. The Chairman stated that Mr. Allfrey had received confirmation from the County Council that the lay-by at Storridge was still registered highway and therefore planning permission should have been sought for the new access. The Clerk reported that she had advised the Enforcement Officer accordingly. This was noted and on the proposal of Mr. Allfrey, seconded by Mrs. Hurle, it was agreed with two abstentions that the

Clerk should write to the Chief Executive of the Council advising him of this matter and expressing the Parish Council's displeasure at the response received. The Chairman reported that at a recent area meeting of CALC the District Council's new Planning and Technical Services Officer, Ann Bruerton, had attended and he had asked a question on enforcement and she had agreed to look into the matter. He felt that perhaps it would be beneficial to invite her to a future meeting of the Council, in perhaps three months time, and this was agreed.

D.791 Suckley Road. Ref. Min. D.784. In view of the continuing problem with water running across the highway the Chairman agreed to contact the owner of the adjoining property and if the problem persisted, advise the District Council. This was noted.

D.792 PLANNING MATTERS Mr. Clarke reported on two meetings held on the 9th and 31st May 1995 as follows:- MH95/0468. Objection was raised in principle to an application for the demolition of an existing wall and erection of a 2m fence extending the existing garden at 30 Huntingdon, Cradley and asked the Planning Officer to ascertain whether the application contravened any of the conditions imposed when the estate was built. Following this a letter had been received from the Planning Office stating that no conditions had been attached to the planning approval for the estate which would prevent this type of proposal. This was noted. MH95/0482. No objection had been raised to an application for change of use of part of field to garden land and resiting of proposed garage already granted under MH0918/90 at Barratts Cottage, Cradley. Notification had been received from the Planning Office that the application for a temporary permission to retain the existing dwelling (with agricultural restrictions) previously approved under temporary permission MH2824/89 at Grove Court Farm, Cradley had been refused. This was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Officer requesting that enforcement action be taken as soon as possible to have the dwelling removed.

Telecommunications tower on land off Bromyard Road, Ridgway Cross, Cradley (MH94/0008T). The Chairman reported that following the construction of the tower he had asked the Enforcement Officer to look into the matter. He had now received a letter stating that such development was not subject to full planning permission as the apparatus in question did not exceed 15m in height. This was noted.

QUESTION TIME. A member of the public asked if villagers could be invited through the newsletter to express their opinions in writing to the Parish Council on the proposal for a new village hall in Cradley. In reply the Chairman stated that if money was made available by the District Council the views of parishioners would be considered.

D.793 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:- Storridge Village Hall Management Committee - Hire of hall £64.00
Clerk's salary for three months, plus back-dated increase from 1.1.95 £306.25
Reimbursement of postage, photocopying, etc. £31.99

D.794 PARISH ARCHIVES. Ms. Skinner advised that the tape-recordings of interviews with old parishioners had still not been completed and Mr. Scott had stated that he would be happy to continue with this work. This was noted with appreciation. With regard to the photographs of Old Cradley, Mr. Scott was still working on the additional information he had received after the last showing. This was noted.

D.795 RIVER SEVERN LOWER REACHES CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN. A copy of the Management Plan Consultation Report had been received from the National Rivers Authority, together with five copies of the summary report. The

consultation period ends on the 28th July 1995 and the Chairman asked members to submit any comments they wished to make to the next meeting.

D.796 PARISH PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITION. Information had been received from Hereford & Worcester County Council of details of the 1995 competition. This was noted and it was agreed that although it was too late to submit an entry this year a working party should be formed comprising Ms. Skinner, Mr. Bullen and the Chairman with power to co-opt other members to consider schemes for the 1996 competition.

D.797 Notification had been received of the following Annual General Meetings:- (a) Victim Support Herefordshire - The Friends' Meeting House, King Street, Hereford on Monday, 26th June 1995 at 7.30 p.m. (b) CPRE Herefordshire Branch - St. Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury on Friday, 23rd June 1995 at 6.30 p.m. (c) Malvem Hills CAB - Abbey Hotel, Malvern on Thursday, 22nd June 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

D.798 MR. MALCOLM SCOTT. A letter of thanks had been received from Mr. Scott for the presentation made to him at the April meeting which he said would be a memorable reminder of the interesting and enjoyable time he had spent as a Councillor. This was noted.

D.799 OVER 35'S FOOTBALL TEAM. A request had been received from the club to use the playing field for a barbecue on Sunday, 25th June. This was agreed.

D.800 ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE. The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from the Rector asking if it was the wish of members to have a Civic Service this year. This was agreed and the Chairman agreed to advise the Rector accordingly.

D.801 HIGHWAY MATTERS. Mr. Hames advised that the Highway Authority would be carrying out resurfacing work on the A4103 and the B4220 in the Parish during late June, early July but this work would not include traffic calming measures. This was noted.

D.802 GROVE COURT, CRADLEY. Discussion took place on the trading activities at Grove Court under the name of Parsons Nose Poultry and it was agreed that the Clerk should alert the Trading Standards Authority and the Environment Health Officer. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Cradley Village Hall on

Tuesday, 11th July 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, R.S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Messrs. M. A. E. Clarke, W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr. F. A. C. Beard, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. P. Fairfax. The Chairman reported that Mrs. Cale was still incapacitated by the injury to her foot sustained at the last meeting and in the circumstances it was agreed that the Parish Council's insurers should be notified. Mr. Clarke stated the injury to Mrs. Cale's foot had highlighted the need for an improvement in the first aid facilities at the hall and the replacement of the tables which he felt were too heavy and cumbersome for the purpose required. Ms. Skinner agreed to raise these matters at the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. Mr. Hames pointed out that he had also mentioned resurfacing work to be carried out to the B4220. With this addition it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th June 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. D.803 Survey of Parish Records. Ref. Min. D.789. The Chairman reported that the District Council had given a quotation of 245.83 for photocopying and binding the two oldest hand-written Minute Books and the Richard Hill Charities Book. This was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a further quotation and be given authority to accept the lowest satisfactory tender.

D.804 River Severn Lower Reaches Catchment Management Plan. Ref. Min. D.795. Mr. Hames reported that he had read the plan and there was very little of direct relevance to the parish apart from concern at the over-use of the Bromsberrow bore-hole which was used by Welsh Water. He advised that the parish would be included in a plan covering the Teme section which was due to be published in August this year. This was noted and it was therefore agreed to make no comment to this report. Mr. Allfrey expressed concern at the construction of a bore-hole in the Ridgeway Cross area, which had affected the water supply to Greenhill. Mrs. Lim advised that this was one of the few areas where a licence was not required for such work. In the circumstances it was agreed that when commenting on the plan covering the area, representations were made on the need to obtain a licence before making bore-holes.

D.805 Capital & Major Works Programme. Ref. Min. D.787. A letter had been received from the District Council noting the position with regard to the new Village Hall item and stating that the upgrading of the existing Village Halls would be brought to the attention of the group which would be considering the Capital Programme and Capital Grant Scheme matters. This was noted. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from two parishioners regarding the possible construction of a purpose built Village Hall and requesting the Parish Council to hold an open meeting, or to circulate information to each house, with a reply form attached, before any decision was made and also expressing concern at the feasibility of running three Village Halls. In view of the general concern it was agreed to advise parishioners through the Newsletter that the Parish Council would not be reconsidering the matter until the District Council had announced its decision on the allocation of money.

D.806 Parish Archives. Ref. Min. D.794. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Mr. John Drummond offering to be custodian of village archival photographs so that he could continue research into the identification of hitherto unknown people and views; add to the archival collection by copying onto slides further photographs he hoped to borrow from Cradley inhabitants; and to take further modern photographs for comparison and for the benefit of future generations. This was noted with appreciation and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Drummond confirming his custodianship of the photographs on behalf of the Parish Council. Ms. Skinner reported that at the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee she had been asked to ascertain whether the Parish Council would be willing to meet the cost of putting further photographs onto slides. This was agreed in principle and Ms. Skinner was asked to obtain precise details.

D.807 Suckley Road. Ref. Min. D.791. In answer to a question from Mr. Allfrey, the Chairman advised that the District Council were investigating the matter. This was noted.

D.808 Annual Civic Service. Ref Min. D.800. The Chairman advised that it seemed likely that the service would be held in September. This was noted.

D.809 PLANNING MATTERS. Mr. Clarke reported on a meeting of the Committee held earlier in the evening when the following matters had been considered:-

Woodland Grant Scheme at The Cradley Estate. Notification had been received from the County Council of an application for grant aid for forestry work to improve and extend the life of the estate woodlands by diversification of species and for a more uneven aged canopy. This was noted. MH95/0798. No objection was raised to the proposed erection of barn and stable and change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage at Glen Cottage, Chapel Lane, Cradley. MH95/0750. No objection was raised to the proposed removal of existing conservatory and construction of a new conservatory to cover the entire back wall of Birch Cottage, Cradley.

MH95/0764. Objection was raised to the erection of larchlap panel fencing adjacent to 32 Pixiefields, Cradley as it was felt that would be an undesirable encroachment onto highway land which would spoil the visual amenity of the area.

Stores Cottage, Cradley. Mr. Clarke drew members' attention to the appearance of a dormer window which had been constructed in the property during recent building work, which members felt contravened the planning permission. The Clerk had therefore been instructed to ask the Planning Officer to look into the matter.

D.810 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. The Chairman reported that Ms. Skinner and the Clerk had expressed an interest in attending a series of training and development courses for Parish and Town Councils taking place in September. The total cost would be £30.00. He therefore proposed from the chair that the Parish Council authorise this expenditure. This was seconded by Mr. Allfrey and agreed unanimously.

D.811 POLICING. The Chairman drew members' attention to a letter from Inspector Mayor of Ledbury Police Station which had previously been circulated to members. This set out proposals which included the closure of the town police station during the early hours of the morning and the provision of a fast response patrol car with two officers to manage the area during that period. This was noted and the Clerk was asked to ascertain where in the Ledbury area the patrol car would be based.

D.812 DRAFT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN - PROPOSED CHANGES TO MODIFICATIONS. A synopsis had been received from the County Council of the proposed changes to the proposed modifications to the plan. The Chairman advised that there was nothing in these modifications which directly affected the parish and in the circumstances it was agreed to make no comment.

D.813 MHDC - REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES - THE CHARITIES OF RICHARD HELL & OTHERS. Notification had been received from the District Secretary confirming the appointment of Mrs. Cale as the District Council's representative on the Charities until May 1996. This was noted.

D.814 HIGHWAY MATTERS. A copy of the proposed Order for a 50 mph speed limit on Ridgeway Hill, together with a copy of the Public Notice and Statement of Reasons for making the Order, had been received from the County Council. This was noted.

D.815 LAND AT WINTHILL. A letter had been received from the Area Planning Officer stating that although the touring caravan had been removed during May, the pile of building materials still remained, despite requests for its removal. In the circumstances the Council's Solicitors were currently preparing an Enforcement Notice. This was noted.

D.816 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. A letter had been received from the Diocese of Hereford following the Parish Council's offer to purchase the freehold of the property, stating that initially a valuation would be carried out to ascertain the market price of which the Parish Council would be notified in due course. The Chairman advised that the Clerk had made arrangements to meet the valuer the next day. This was noted.

D.817 VICTIM SUPPORT - HEREFORDSHIRE. A request had been received for a donation towards the work of the organisation and it was agreed to donate 20.00.

D.818 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL. Information had been received from the Regeneration & Development Officer on National Lottery Funding and European information within the County. This was noted and it was agreed to pass the information regarding National Lottery funding to the Village Hall Committees.

D.819 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY. Considerable concern was expressed at the failure of Midlands Electricity to provide proper means for the public to report power failures and obtain up to date information on the power cuts caused by the recent storms. It was agreed that the Clerk should write expressing the concern of members to Midlands Electricity with a copy to OFFER.

D.820 GRITTLESEND. In response to concern expressed by Miss Pilling as to the condition of the highway opposite Greystones the Clerk was asked to contact the Highway Authority and request that remedial work be carried out.

D.821 FOOTPATHS. Ms. Skinner reported that at the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee a lady had expressed concern that the stiles on some of the footpaths in the parish were too difficult for older or less able people to get over and she had asked if kissing gates could be installed. It was agreed that the Footpaths Committee would consider this on receipt of precise information as to the stiles referred to. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Cradley Village Hall on

Tuesday, 8th August 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Messrs. M. A. E. Clarice, W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurlle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr. R. Bullen, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. P. Fairfax.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th July 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. D.822 Survey of Parish Records. Ref. Min. D.803. A further quotation of approximately 100 had been received from First Paige Printers. After discussion it was agreed that this quotation should be accepted and that the volumes should be bound using a spiral-type binder.

D.823 Capital & Major Works Programme. Ref. Min. D.805. The Chairman stated that notification had been received from the District Council that the two schemes proposed by the Parish Council would be supported to the value of £150,000 for the playing field improvements and £113,000 for the village halls. This was the gross cost of the scheme reduced only by the amount of any grant obtained from other sources or funds already raised by promoting organisations (in the case of parish councils the maximum grant payable towards the cost would be 75%). He pointed out however that this was only provisional notification and did not include conditions other than to say that the Council was keen for work to start as soon as possible. After discussion it was agreed:- (a) That a letter should be sent to the District Council thanking them for the generous gesture and requesting terms and conditions of the offer. (b) That working parties should be formed of Parish Councillors and others to implement the schemes; and (c) that notice should be given in the newsletter that a public meeting would be held prior to the October meeting, i.e. at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th October, to obtain the views of parishioners.

D.824 Annual Civic Service. Ref. Min. D.808. This would be held on Sunday, 17th September at 11 a.m. at Cradley Church. This was noted.

D.825 Highway Matters. Ref. Min. D.814. Mr. Hames reported that there had been a serious road accident at Pontic caused by the excessive speed of a motor cyclist. He asked if a request could be made for the imposition of a 50 mph speed limit along the whole length of the A4103 through the Parish. The Chairman reminded members however that when this had been previously suggested the Parish Council had been advised that it did not fulfil the necessary traffic regulation criteria.

D.826 Planning Matters. Ref. Min. D.809 (a) Stores Cottage. Cradley. The Clerk was asked to request the Planning Officer for a reply to the Parish Council's query regarding building works at the cottage.

(b) MH95/.0764. Mr. Allfrey advised that the land between 32 Pixiefields and the highway was in the ownership of Wimpey Homes Holdings Limited who had offered to transfer the land into the ownership of the applicant.. The Clerk advised that the Planning Department was recommending refusal of the application. With regard to the trees growing on the embankment, the Clerk further advised that the District Council was applying to have Tree Preservation Orders placed on the four Acers. This was noted.

D.827 Parish Archives. Ref. Min. D.806. Ms. Skinner reported that she had ascertained it would cost approximately 3 per photograph and asked whether the

Council would consider setting aside a budget for this work to be reviewed in twelve months' time. This was noted and it was agreed that a budget should be set of 50 in this financial year. In answer to a query raised by Mr. Drummond it was agreed that he should be asked to liaise with the Clerk regarding the photographic archives. Ms. Skinner also advised that Mr. Drummond had queried the whereabouts of the black and white photographs. She had enquired of Mr. Scott who thought these had been loaned to the school and he had agreed to contact the headmaster. This was noted.

D.828 Footpaths. Ref. Min. D.821. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from a parishioner on behalf of a number of villagers expressing concern at the difficulty encountered by less able people in negotiating stiles along footpaths in the Parish and requesting that either kissing gates be installed or that the steps should be lowered. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Footpaths Committee for consideration.

D.829 PLANNING MATTERS. Blackhouse Cottage. The Chairman reported that the building works at present being carried out to the cottage appeared to be far exceeding the planning permission given and in the circumstances he had notified the Enforcement Officer. Mrs. Lim advised that a Stop Order had been made pending an investigation. This was noted.

D.830 UPPER WESTFIELDS, CRADLEY. A letter had been received asking for the Parish Council's help in establishing the ownership of the land between 5 and 6 The Parleys, Bosbury Road which was being used as a vehicular access, not only by private vehicles but frequently by heavy lorries, to Primrose Cottage, Upper Westfields. It was agreed that this was a matter for the District Council to investigate and the Clerk was asked to forward the letter to the Enforcement Officer.

D.831 BUS SERVICE 417 : WORCESTER - CRADLEY. Notification had been received from the County Council that the contract for the service had been renewed with Midland Red West and that an additional journey would be introduced leaving Worcester at 1400 hrs and returning from Cradley at 1432 hours. This was noted.

D.832 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL. Notification had been received that the Parish Council Reception and Presentation of Parish Pride Awards would be held at County Hall on the 11th October 1995 at 7 p.m. A detailed programme of the evening would be forwarded in due course. This was noted.

D.833 CREATION OF ACCESS ONTO A4103 LAY-BY AT STORRIDGE. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive of the District Council apologising for the confusion and advising that the Parish Council's concerns had been made known to the Deputy Planning & Technical Services Officer, who would ensure that the facts were checked carefully and a full reply given in due course. This was noted.

D.834 HEREFORDSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE. Notification had been received from the County Council that an Area Committee Meeting would be held on Monday, 11th September 1995 at Kington. This was noted and Mr. Allfrey agreed to represent the Council.

D.835 PARSONS NOSE POULTRY, GROVE COURT, CRADLEY. Two letters had been received from the District Council as follows:- (a) The Environmental Services Department had advised that the business was registered with the authority under the Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 for slaughter activities and under the Food Safety Act 1990 as a food retailer and Mr. Dobson was licensed to slaughter poultry under the Slaughter of Poultry Licence and Specified Qualifications Regulations 1991. The premises were regularly inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The business was however only allowed to sell poultry on a local basis or to neighbouring authority areas but this restriction would of course not apply to foods other than fresh poultry.

Any queries regarding the publicity leaflet should be sent to the Trading Standards Department. (b) A letter had been received from the Enforcement Officer advising that he needed to establish whether a breach of planning control had occurred which he hoped to begin investigations within ten days and would advise of his findings in due course. These comments were noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should send a copy of the letter from the Environmental Services Department to the Enforcement Officer asking him to look into the matter as it appeared that consent had been given for the slaughtering of poultry in buildings for which planning permission had not been granted.

D.836 RED LION, STIFFORDS BRIDGE. Notification had been received of an application to the Herefordshire Licensing Justices on behalf of Ronald and Lesley Dobinson for a full transfer of the licence. This was noted.

D.837 HOUSING STRATEGY 1996/7-1998/9. A copy of the draft Housing Strategy document had been received from the District Council. This was noted.

D.838 THE OLD RECTORY, CRADLEY. The Chairman agreed to contact the owners of the property and ask if they would trim the branches of the lime trees which were overhanging the wall.

D.839 PRESTONS CROSS. In view of the considerable concern expressed regarding the traffic hazard caused by cars being parked partly on the verge and partly on the highway, the Chairman agreed to have a word with the owner of the garage.

D.840 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER AT THE RIDGWAY. Several members expressed concerned that the tower exceeded the height permitted and the Clerk was asked to request the Enforcement Officer to investigate the matter. There being no farther business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 12th September 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs. D. Cale, Mr. W. M. Hames, Mrs. S. Lim.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Miss Pilling declared an interest in item D.848.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th August 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING.

D.841 Survey of Parish Records. Ref. Min. D.822. The Chairman reported that the books had been copied by First Paige Printers and the Clerk would be arranging for the originals to be stored at Hereford Record Office. This was noted.

D.842 Capital & Major Works Programme. Ref. Min. D.823. The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from a parishioner giving support to the playing field scheme. This was noted. Considerable discussion took place on methods of raising the 25% towards the cost of the proposed schemes and it was agreed to seek the advice of the Community Council with regard to seeking grant aid. Discussion also took place on the membership of the working parties and it was agreed to ask the editor to give prominence in the Newsletter to the item urging people interested in the schemes to attend the open meeting and to give their views. In view of concern expressed it was also agreed that levels should be taken at the playing field to ascertain the extent of the work required in levelling the area.

D.843 Planning Matters - Blackhouse Cottage. Ref. Min. D.829. Despite a Stop Order being placed on any further building works at the cottage, it was reported that work was in progress and the Chairman therefore agreed to contact the Planning Officer. In view of the general concern of members regarding the considerable delay by the District Council in dealing with enforcement matters, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive expressing members' grave concern at the inadequacy of the staffing of this important section of the Planning Department.

D.844 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mr. Allfrey it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:- Cradley Village Hall Committee - Hire of hall 56.00 First Paige Printers 87.00 Clerk's salary for three months 293.75 Reimbursement of Clerk's travelling expenses for six months 20.70.

D845 **NRA - RIVER TEME CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

CONSULTATION REPORT. A letter had been received from the Area Manager enclosing a summary of the Consultation Report and advising that the launch of the fall Report would take place at Ludlow on the 28th September 1995. In view of the problems experienced with Cradley Brook it was felt that the Parish Council should endeavour to be represented at the launch.

D.846 **MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY.** Letters had been received from the Midlands Electricity apologising for the interruption of the power supply during the 10/11th July but pointing out that in view of the severity and large area affected by the storms it had not been possible to give as detailed information to customers as they would have liked This was noted. Mrs. Hurle reported that she had been advised that the cuts in Cradley had been exacerbated by the fact that the sub-station at Weobley was out of action at the time and also the lack of manpower due to cuts in the number of staff

employed After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write reminding Midlands Electricity of the promises made by their representative in 1994 and urging the employment of sufficient staff to provide the level of service expected of a company with statutory obligations. Letters had also been received from OFFER stating that if the Council was not satisfied with the response received from Midlands Electricity they would investigate the matter farther. In the circumstances it was agreed to send a copy of the letter to OFFER.

D.847 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. An invitation had been received from the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes inviting the Council to send representatives to a Social Evening on the 23rd October when the results of the competition would be announced. It was agreed that Mrs. Carver and Mrs Hunt would attend.

D.848 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL Notification had been received from the County Forestry Officer of an application for a felling licence at Winthill, Cradley. This would entail the removal of a small patch of overgrown Christmas Trees and replanting with broad-leaved trees. This was noted.

D.849 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL. Notification had been received that the annual meeting of Town and Parish Councils with the District Council would be held on the 12th October and inviting the Parish Council to submit topics for discussion and to send two representatives. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would attend and that a question should be raised regarding enforcement action.

D.850 LEDBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS COUNCIL., A letter had been received from the Secretary advising of its formation and of its aims to develop opportunities for greater access to sport and to act as a collective voice for the local sporting community; a copy of the constitution was enclosed. This was noted and it was agreed that it should be considered farther at the next meeting of the Playing Fields Committee. It was also agreed that copies of the information should be sent to the Village Hall Committees.

D.851 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive of Hereford & Worcester County Council advising that the draft Order giving effect to the Government's proposal for Local Government reorganisation in the County included a provision that elections should be held in May 1996, 1998 or 1999 as well as in 2001 and urging the Parish Council to write to the Minister for Local Government & Planning giving support to the County Council's view that an interim election in 1998 or 1999 was unnecessary and undesirable. After discussion it was proposed by Mr. Beard, seconded by Mrs. Carver that the Parish Council should give its support and this was carried by eight votes with three abstentions.

D.852 THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF CALC. It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the meeting to discuss the future structure of the County Association of Local Councils on the 28th September 1995. The Chairman drew members' attention to an item in the current CALC circular advising Councils to include within their insurance policy cover for libel and slander with a minimum cover of 250,000. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries of the Council's insurers to ascertain the cost of the additional cover.

D.853 LITTER CONTROL. At the request of Miss Pilling it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Director of Contract Services asking him to pass on members' thanks to the litter patrol officer for the helpful and efficient way he carried out his excellent work.

D.854 AREA OF GRASS AT THE BOTTOM OF SHEPHERDS HEY LANE. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Highway Authority to include this area of grass in its mowing contract.

D.855 SHEPHERDS HEY LANE. In view of the unacceptable level of dog fouling in the lane it was agreed to highlight this problem in the Newsletter in the hope that dog owners would act in a more responsible manner. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 10th October 1995 at 7 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. P. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. Hames, Mr. G. R. Spence.

Before the commencement of the business of the meeting an open meeting was held to obtain the views of parishioners on schemes for refurbishment of the Village Halls and improvement work at the playing field. The Chairman advised that the District Council had pledged 75% of the costs where the contract prices did not exceed £150,000 for the playing field and £113,000 for the halls. He stated that the meeting had been called:- (a) to decide on the precise nature of the schemes to be embarked upon; (b) to set up working parties to take the projects forward urgently; (c) to consider the nomination of 2/3 architects to carry out feasibility studies over the next few weeks; (d) to put forward any potential village fund raising ideas to meet the shortfall of 25%.

After considerable discussion it was the majority view that the money should be used for the purchase of a site of approximately five acres suitable for full size football and cricket pitches, together with a multi-purpose sports and function hall and car parking facilities, with a rider that at least part of the funding would go towards upgrading the existing village halls.

A sub-committee was appointed comprising Ann Carver, Peter Draper, Prue Hathaway, Sue Lim, Lynn Mitchell, Paul Roach, Mike Rogers, Gillian Skinner and Peter Wynn-James be appointed, with power to co-opt additional members. The committee would consider the feasibility of the scheme and fund raising methods to raise the 25% shortfall.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING.

D.856 Planning Matters - Blackhouse Cottage. Ref. Mind. D.843. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive of the District Council advising that priority had been given to a review of the enforcement service and that the appointment of a Senior Enforcement Officer had been approved and that an additional Enforcement Officer had been appointed on a temporary six month contract. He felt that this, together with changes in procedures already introduced would address the backlog of work and bring improvements to the operation of the service. This was noted.

With regard to Blackhouse Cottage, in view of concern expressed Mrs. Lim agreed to make further enquiries to ascertain that the house extension and garage were being built in accordance with the approved plans. It was further agreed that the Enforcement Officer should be invited to attend the January meeting of the Council and in the meantime a list of all outstanding enforcement matters should be compiled.

D.857 NRA - River Teme Catchment Management Plan. The Chairman reported that he had attended the presentation of the plan and discussion had taken place on the water quality of Cradley Brook when it had been accepted that there was a problem and that this would be addressed. This was noted.

D.858 PLANNING MATTERS. Mr. Clarke reported on two meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 12th and 25th September 1995 when the following applications were considered:-

MH95/1055 & 1056. Strong objection was raised to the conversion and restoration of agricultural building to house at Cowleigh Gate Farm, StorrIDGE. MH95/1058. No objection was raised to the construction of a new timber garage at Hazeter, Cradley. MH95/1059 & 1060. Whilst members accepted in principle the need for an extension to Masons Meadow, Ridgway Cross it felt that it should be more in keeping with the existing listed building. MH95/1146 & 1147. No objection was raised to a bedroom extension and replacement garage at Heath Cottage, Green Hill, Cradley. MH95/1081. No objection was raised to a sun lounge extension at Spring Cottage, Cradley.

D.859 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Beard, it was agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:- MHDC - Payment of Uncontested Election Fees 40.66 George James Office Equipment - Stationery 21.15

D.860 PRECEPT FOR 1996/97. The Chairman drew attention to the estimates of income and expenditure produced by the Clerk which had been circulated to members and proposed that consideration of the precept to be charged be discussed at the next meeting. This was agreed.

D.861 OPEN PARISH MEETING 1996. Several suggestions were made for a guest speaker at the meeting and it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Mr. John Hughes of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group in the first instance. It was further agreed that the meeting should be held on Tuesday, 23rd April 1996 at StorrIDGE Village Hall.

D.862 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER ON LAND OFF BROMYARD ROAD, RIDGWAY CROSS. A letter had been received from the Enforcement Officer advising that he had written to Orange Personal Communications for more details in order to establish the exact height of the tower. This was noted.

D.863 PARISHING OF MALVERN. A letter had been received from the Department of the Environment enclosing a copy of the Malvern Hills (Parishes) Order 1995. This was noted.

D.864 PARISH PROJECTS OFFICER. Notification had been received from the County Council of the appointment of a new Projects Officer who would be responsible for the Parish Pride environmental competition and advising that the closing date for entries to next year's competition was the end of December. This was noted and members suggested that perhaps the Parish could enter the slides of old Cradley.

D.865 WEST MERCIA POLICY AUTHORITY - DRAFT POLICING PLAN. Notification had been received from the Clerk to the Authority advising that a series of public meetings would be held in mid-January and inviting representatives of the Council to attend. This was noted.

D.866 CIVIC SERVICE. The Chairman thanked those members who had attended the Civic Service and asked whether members felt that the practice should be continued and this was agreed. However it was felt that the service should be held in May and that perhaps it should be ecumenical with perhaps a guest preacher.

D.867 MEMORIAL PLAQUE. Mr. Beard advised that the memorial plaque on the Oak tree planted to commemorate the inauguration of the Prince of Wales in 1969 had been damaged and it was agreed that enquiries should be made as to the cost of a replacement. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.44 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 14th November 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr. M. A. E. Clarke. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr. Allfrey declared an interest in item D. 873. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING.

D.868 Telecommunications Tower on Land off Bromyard Road. Ridgeway Cross, Ref. Min. D.862. Confirmation had been received from the Planning Enforcement Officer that the height of the tower did not exceed 15 metres. This was noted.

D.869 Parishing of Malvern. Ref Min. D.863. A copy of the Malvern Hills (Parishes) Order 1995 had been received from the Department of the Environment and a letter from Malvern Hills District Council inviting comments on the proposed electoral arrangements for the new Parish of Malvern. This was noted but as it did not directly affect the Cradley Parish it was not felt appropriate to comment

D.870 West Mercia Police Authority - Draft Policing Plan. Ref. Min. D.865. A letter had been received from the Clerk to the Police Authority enclosing a copy of the draft Policing Plan 1996/97 and requesting that any comments on this be received by the 16th January 1996. He also advised that public meetings would be held in January at five venues to give members of the Police Authority and the Chief Constable the opportunity to explain and present the proposals in the Plan. This was noted and the Chairman agreed to represent the Council at one of the meetings.

D.871 Memorial Plaque. Ref. Min. D.867. Mr. Beard reported that he had received a quotation for a replacement plaque of 86. This would be made in bronze and erected on a post that could be clearly seen. On the proposal of Mrs. Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that this quotation should be accepted.

D.872 Parish Projects Officer, Ref. Min. D.864. Ms. Skinner suggested that the Parish should submit an entry for the 1996 Parish Pride Competition using the archive material, including black and white photographs and also the tapes of interviews with elderly residents. This was agreed.

D.873 RECREATION AND HALLS SUB-COMMITTEE. The Chairman reported on two meetings of the sub-committee when the following matters were considered:-

(a) Acquisition of Land. As the existing playing field was not large enough for the scheme envisaged a suitable alternative had been considered. This was a field at present owned by Mr. Allfrey who had agreed in principle to the sale at a price to be agreed.

(b) Planning Permission. An officer of the Planning Department had inspected the field and whilst he could see no objection to its use as a playing field he would be unable to support an application for the erection of a recreation hall on the site. Nevertheless the sub-committee wished to try and obtain permission and the Chairman asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to submit a planning application.

(c) Existing Village Halls. Schemes for upgrading the existing halls and the costs involved were at present being prepared by the Village Hall Committees who were

mindful that the money spent on upgrading these would reduce the expenditure available for the larger scheme.

(d) Funding. It was felt that perhaps part of the existing playing field could be sold off as two building plots which would help to finance the scheme, bearing in mind that the Parish had to find 25% of the cost. Funds could also be raised through the precept and enquiries were being made to obtain grants from other bodies. The Chairman reminded members that for the scheme to go ahead contracts had to be signed by March 1997 when the present District Council would cease to exist. Mrs. Fairfax felt that the existing playing field was not surplus to requirements as it served a separate purpose as a safe playing area for small children within easy walking distance of the centre of the village and this view was shared by Mr. Beard. Mrs. Fairfax also stated that she was not convinced that the majority of the parish wished to embark on such an ambitious scheme and would like to see this curtailed to provide a cricket and football pitch and a pavilion only. This was noted. In answer to a question from Mr. Bullen the Chairman advised that the Parish Council would be ultimately responsible for the project.

D.874 PLANNING MATTERS. The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 6th November 1995 when the following applications were considered:- MH95/1246. Strong opposition was raised to the application for the rebuilding of cottage with completion of extensions approved under MH92/1311 at Blackhouse, Greenhill, Cradley. It was felt that as the original listed building had been demolished the application should be treated as a new property and therefore refused as it was outside the village envelope in an area of great landscape value and with no agricultural need. MH95/1208 & 1209. Objection was raised to the proposed extension to form garden room at Bulls Head Cottage, Cradley as it was felt that this was not in keeping with a listed building and would not enhance the conservation area in which it was situated.

D.875 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mr. Beard, seconded by Mrs. Fairfax it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment:-
Insurance - Cradley Village Hall £457.76
Insurance - Storridge Village Hall £283.02
Zurich Municipal - Parish Council Insurance £102.50
Hereford Diocesan Board of Education £117.50
P. Moore - Grass cutting £360.00

D.876 PRECEPT FOR 1996/97. On the proposal of Mr. Allfrey, seconded by Mrs. Fairfax, it was unanimously agreed that the precept for 1996/97 should be £10,000.

D.877 REPORT ON COURSE FOR LOCAL COUNCIL MEMBERS. The Chairman drew members' attention to a report produced by Ms. Skinner on a course she had attended for Local Council members which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. This was noted and it was agreed that the Parish Council should purchase three publications suggested, i.e. Parish Council Handbook, Parish Councillor's Guide and National Code of Local Government Conduct.

D.878 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY. Sonia Facey, Investigations Officer at Offer had written asking whether the Parish Council wished her to take up with Midlands Electricity the point made by the Council with regard to the way telephone calls from customers reporting faults were dealt with. After consideration it was agreed that in view of Midlands Electricity's failure to give a satisfactory reply this offer should be accepted.

D.879 PUMPING STATION REFURBISHMENT. A letter had been received from Malvern Hills District Council advising that the Council, acting as agents for Severn

Trent Water Limited, intended to carry out major refurbishment works at the three pumping stations in the Parish at Kings Bridge, Pound Bridge and Stoney Cross. The work would include the construction of new pumping stations at all three locations, diversion of the flows to the new works and the abandonment of the old pumping stations upon completion. This was noted.

D.880 HEREFORDSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE. Notification had been received from Hereford & Worcester County Council that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held on the 28th November 1995 at Ross-on-Wye and requesting that any questions the Parish Council wished to raise be notified in writing in advance. This was noted and whilst there was nothing members wished to raise at this time it was felt it would be useful to have sight of the Agenda for future meeting and the Clerk was asked to request that this be supplied.

D.881 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. A letter had been received from David Watkins, Chartered Surveyor, stating that following the Council's request to the Diocese to investigate the possible purchase of the Village Hall the Diocesan Board of Education, in its capacity as Trustee of the Charity known as Turner's Old (Boys) School was willing to discuss in principle the sale at a price of £60,000. A letter had also been received from the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education stating that in Mr. Watkins' report he had stressed the importance of adequate insurance and had recommended that the tenant provide evidence that it was fully insured. In the circumstances it was agreed that the Clerk should provide this information and also find out more information on the aforementioned charity.

D.882 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. Following a request from the Manager of the Bureau it was agreed to make a donation of 40.00.

D.883 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive giving a summary of the Annual Meeting with Town and Parish Councils which included an item on planning enforcement in which the need was stressed for councils to notify the Planning Department as a matter of urgency cases which needed investigation in view of the time limit on enforcement action. Members noted that the Planning Department was fully aware of the cases in the Parish but nevertheless it was agreed to itemise those matters still outstanding so that they could be taken up with the Enforcement Officer who had been invited to attend the January meeting.

D.884 HEREFORD & WORCESTER CALC. Notification had been received that the AGM would be held on Saturday the 25th November 1995 at 10 a.m. at Hereford.

D.885 MALVERN HILLS JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF AONB. The Chairman advised that a copy of the Agenda for the meeting of the Committee held on the 10th November 1995 had been received. This was noted.

D.886 MALVERN HILLS AGENDA 21. Notification had been received of a meeting to be held at the Winter Gardens, Malvern on Thursday, 30th November 1995 when Professor Chris Bains would lead a debate on a sustainable future for the Malvern Hills area. This was noted.

D.887 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER - APPLICATIONS. Notification had been received from Malvern Hills District Council of an application by S. Ramsden to reduce the crown of an Acacia at The Old Rectory, Cradley. This was noted.

D.888 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL - INSURANCE. In reply to a query from Ms. Skinner the Clerk agreed to make enquiries regarding the Personal Injury section of the insurance.

D.889 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. Mrs. Hunt reported on the meeting she had attended in Hereford when the prizes in the 1995 competition had been awarded. This was noted.

D.890 MOBILE HOME OFF BOSBURY ROAD. CRADLEY. Mr. Hames reported that a mobile home had recently been deposited on land off Bosbury Road and it was agreed that the Planning Committee would consider this at its next meeting. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.13 p.m. when members joined the Chairman and Mrs. Rogers for seasonal light refreshments which were much appreciated.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 9th January 1996 at 7 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with four members of the Recreation and Hall Sub-Committee and the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Messrs. R. S. Bullen, M. A. E. Clarke.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr. Allfrey declared an interest in item D.891 and item D.904.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 1995 should be confirmed and signed.

D.891 RECREATION & HALLS SUB-COMMITTEE. The Chairman welcomed the members of the sub-committee to the meeting and introduced Mr. Peter Wynne-James who presented a feasibility study on behalf of the sub-committee. This included improvements to the existing village halls and the provision of an outdoor football/cricket pitch, plus a community/recreation centre large enough to house indoor sports facilities, changing area, toilets, office, etc. A site had been earmarked which was between the A4103 and Buryfields. Mr. Wynne-James then gave detailed information on three sizes of hall and pointed out that the one which found favour with the sub-committee was the largest of these, i.e. 23m x 16.5m. which he pointed out could be designed to blend in with the surrounding AONB using the slope of the site. The Sub-Committee therefore recommended that the Parish Council approved the appointment of an architect who would submit an outline planning application to the District Council, the cost of which would be approximately £1,000. Whilst this would involve the parish in major expenditure Mr. Wynne-James had made enquiries for the funding of the 25% of the cost and initial enquiries had been optimistic that money would be available from Sports Council and other grants. Mr. Wynne-James and the Chairman then answered queries from members and after considerable discussion it was proposed by Mr. Beard, seconded by Mrs. Hurle, that an architect should be instructed to prepare the initial scheme for outline planning consent for the largest scheme at a cost of approximately £1,000. Mrs. Fairfax then proposed, seconded by Mrs. Cale that planning permission be sought for the sports fields and a small pavilion only. However on being put to the vote this motion was lost by four votes to six. The substantive motion as recommended by the sub-committee was then put to the vote and this was carried by seven votes to four. It was further agreed that the Parish Council, in conjunction with the sub-committee should as speedily as possible produce a questionnaire to obtain the views of parishioners on the scheme.

MATTERS ARISING. D.892 Parish Projects Officer. Ref. Min. D.872. A letter had been received from the Parish Projects Officer at Hereford & Worcester County Council advising that a video of the 1995 Parish Pride Competition was available on loan and it was agreed that this should be obtained. The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from Mr. John Drummond withdrawing his offer to act as custodian of the archive photographs. Members noted with regret Mr. Drummond's decision and in the circumstances it was felt that all the photographic material belonging to the Parish Council should be deposited with the Clerk.

D.893 Planning Matters. Ref. Min. D.874. MH95/1246 Blackhouse. Greenhill.

Cradley. A letter had been received from the Planning Department of the District Council stating that it viewed very seriously cases of deliberate demolition of a Listed

Building without an appropriate consent. However in this particular case there were specific circumstances, not of the property owners' making, which had had a significant bearing on the course of events at the site. Furthermore, whilst agreeing with the Parish Council's comment that the previous permission was now void, development plan policies stated that one of the exceptional circumstances where new dwellings may be permitted was where the proposal was to replace an existing residential building of comparable size. This was noted. The Chairman advised that the District Council's Planning Committee had made a site visit which had been attended by members of the Parish Councillors' Planning Committee and Mrs. Lim stated that it had been agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting pending further information. This was noted and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Planning Committee before the next meeting setting out the Parish Council's views.

D.894 Malvern Hills District Council. Ref Min D.883. A letter had been received from Mr. A. B. Nixon, Head of Development Control at the District Council's Planning Department stating that he would be pleased to attend a meeting of the Parish Council and requesting details of any specific cases members wished to raise. This was noted and the Chairman advised that Mr. Nixon would be attending the February meeting. In the circumstances it was agreed that the meeting should commence at 7 p.m. and the Clerk was instructed to provide Mr. Nixon with a list of outstanding enforcement matters.

D.895 Memorial Plaque. Ref. Min. D.871. Mr. Beard advised that the plaque would be available for delivery within the next week. This was noted.

D.896 Mobile Home off Bosbury Road. Cradley. Ref. Min. D.890. The Chairman advised that the Planning Committee had decided to obtain evidence that the caravan was lived in on a permanent basis before taking any further action. However after discussion it was agreed that the Enforcement Officer should be asked to look into the matter.

D.897 PLANNING MATTERS. The Chairman reported on two meetings of the Committee held on the 20th November and 11th December 1995 as follows:-

MH/95/1308. No objection was raised to the extension to form sitting room and entrance lobby at Mount Pleasant, Ridgway Cross.

MH95/1309. Vigorous opposition was raised to the retention of existing bungalow to permanent dwelling at Parsons's Nose Poultry, Grove Court, Cradley. MH95/1310. The Parish Council vigorously opposed the temporary permission of a mobile home for agricultural worker at Parsons's Nose Poultry, Grove Court, Cradley. MH95/1328.

No objection was raised to the replacement of redundant bathroom with new study and alterations to form new entrance hall and cloakroom at Tudor Oaks, Bosbury Road, Cradley. MH95/1399. No objection was raised to an extension to kitchen at Gaylea, Lower Churchfields, Cradley. MH95/1371. No objection was raised to the erection of pine pavilion for use as a summer house at Vinesend House, Cradley.

D.898 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:- Zurich Municipal Additional premium to cover libel and slander 25.63
Clarke Roxburgh - Insurance for Cradley Village Hall 377.16

MHDC - Photocopying Agendas 6.25 –

Provision of extra skip 58.40

Clerk's salary for three months 293.75

D.899 RESIGNATION OF CLERK. The Chairman advised that it was with regret the Clerk has had to tender her resignation from the post with effect from the 1st April 1996. It was therefore agreed that the post should be advertised.

D.900 LEDBURY & DISTRICT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. A letter had been received from the Herefordshire (Rural) Youth Office stating that over recent months Ledbury Youth Club Support Group, which included the police and district and town councillors, had been meeting with officers of the County Youth Service to plan a more up-to-date and relevant service to young people aged 14-20 years. In order to move forward, the full backing of elected members, allied agencies, voluntary youth groups and young people themselves. The Youth Service was therefore convening an open meeting to take place on the 17th January 1996 at Ledbury Youth Centre. This was noted and Mrs. Lim agreed to represent the Parish Council at the meeting.

D.901 1996/97 COMMUNITY CARE AND CHILDRENS' SERVICES PLANS - SECOND STAGE OF CONSULTATION. Notification had been received from the Director of Social Services, Hereford & Worcester County Council, enclosing a series of Factsheets detailing the problems and issues which needed to be resolved before the plans were prepared and inviting comments. This was noted.

D.902 NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN - 12-21 APRIL 1996. Notification had been received from the Tidy Britain Group advising of the campaign and enclosing a registration form. This was noted.

D.903 DRAFT MILESTONES STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY. A copy of the Hereford & Worcester County Council's Draft Milestones Statement had been received upon which comments were invited. It was agreed that this should be considered by the Footpaths Committee.

D.904 WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME AT WHITMANS HILL COPPICE, STORRIDGE. Notification had been received from Hereford & Worcester County Council of an application for grant aid relating to the ongoing management of the woodland which the County Forestry Officer had commended, but inviting any observations or objections regarding the proposals. This was noted and it was agreed to make no comment.

D.905 RIVER SEVERN REACHES CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN. The NRA had forwarded a copy of the plan which sets out a five year plan for the catchment area. This was noted.

D.906 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION. The Chairman advised that the following letters had been received:- (a) An acknowledgement had been received from the DOE to the Parish Council's letter regarding the electoral cycle. (b) The Chief Executive of Hereford & Worcester County Council had written enclosing a copy of a letter he had sent to the DOE asking the Government to reconsider its decision to delay the implementation of reorganisation and asking for the Parish Council's support. This was noted but it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Council to comment.

D.907 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY PLC. A letter had been received from the company stressing that the delay in carrying out improvement works to the supply was not due to lack of resources but had been caused in part by a delay in receiving permission from landowners to enter their land. Delays had also been caused by reorganisation within the company of which Mr. Denton would have been unaware at the time of his visit. This was noted.

D.908 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER APPLICATIONS. Notification had been received from the District Council of an application by Mr. M. Davies of Church

House, Cradley to fell one tree. This was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should make further enquiries.

D.909 RURAL WHITE PAPER. Notification had been received from the DOE of the Rural White Paper and CALC had advised that it would be holding meetings locally to consider this so that comments could be sent to the DOE by the beginning of March. It was agreed that the Chairman and Mrs. Fairfax would represent the Council at the Malvern Hills area meeting to be held on the 1st February.

D.910 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING. The Chairman advised that the 1996 meeting would be held on Tuesday, 16th April and the guest speaker would be Mr. John Hughes, MBE who would speak on "The Changing Countryside".

D.911 ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL TAX PAYERS. Mr. Allfrey advised that the meeting would take place at County Hall on the 29th January at 7.30 p.m. This was noted. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 13th February 1996 at 7 p.m.

Present;- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Before the commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman introduced Mr. Nixon, Head of Development Control at Malvern Hills District Council who explained to members how the Enforcement Section of the Planning Department worked and the planning laws under which it was controlled. Mr. Nixon pointed out that over the past few years the department had been under-staffed to deal but with the increasing number of cases, at present approximately 600 per annum. However with the appointment of an additional Enforcement Officer and tighter controls throughout the Planning Department he was confident that reported infringements would be dealt with more speedily. Mr. Nixon then reported on the current situation regarding outstanding enforcement matters within the Parish and answered members' questions. The Chairman thanked Mr. Nixon for his attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr. Allfrey declared an interest in item D.912.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

QUESTION TIME. In answer to a question from a parishioner the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be consulting parishioners on the recreation/sports hall scheme.

MATTERS ARISING.

D.912 Recreation & Halls Sub-Committee. Ref. Min. D.891. The Chairman reported that a detailed brief, prepared by Mr. Wynne-James, had been submitted to three firms of architects and a meeting with representatives from those firms would be held shortly. This was noted. With regard to the questionnaire, after considerable discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mr. Allfrey, that a special meeting of the Council be held within the next week to discuss the preparation and distribution of the questionnaire, to which members of the sub-committee should be invited.

D.913 Memorial Plaque. Ref. Min. D.895. Mr. Beard drew members' attention to the new plaque which had been manufactured and advised that he would arrange for this to be erected at the site. This was noted with appreciation.

D.914 Resignation of Clerk. Ref. Min. D.899. The Chairman reported that four applicants for the post would be interviewed on the 27th February and as was the usual practice the interview panel would consist of the Chairman, past Chairmen and Vice- Chairman. This was noted.

D.915 Midlands Electricity Pie. Ref. Min. D.907. A letter had been received from Offer enclosing a copy of a letter from MEB giving detailed information on work they were carrying out to improve the reliability of the supply in the area as well as giving details of the action taken to improve telephone communication. As the letter did not give a date for completion of the work Offer had written a further letter to the MEB asking for this information and also asking how soon after the work was completed could customers in Cradley expect a reduction in the number and frequency of faults. This was noted and it was agreed that this information should be published in the Newsletter.

D.916 Tree Preservation Order Applications. Ref. Min. 908. The Clerk advised that the tree at Church House had been felled because it was interfering with the foundations of the house. However it was a condition of the permission that the applicant planted a replacement tree. This was noted.

D.917 PLANNING MATTERS. Mr. Clarke reported on two meetings of the Committee held on the 9th January and 5th February 1996 when the following applications were considered:- MH95/1208 & MH95/1209. It was unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the amended plans for an extension to Bulls Head Cottage, Cradley. MH96/0065. No objection was raised to an application for demolition of outbuilding and construction of dining room at Hillwyn, Storridge. MH96/0088. No objection was raised to an application for replacing existing conservatory and lean-to structure with new to form extension to kitchen and living room and a conservatory at Church House, Cradley.

D.918 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment:-
Camille - Plaque 85.00

Reed Regional Newspapers - Advertisement for Clerk 104.53

CPRE Subscription 17.50

The Works - Colour photographs re Blackhouse planning application 9.40

Administration costs 60.26

D.919 SEVERN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE. Notice of Application for a transfer of the justices' licence relating to The Severn Stars Public House had been received from solicitors acting for the applicant, Mr. G. R. White. This was noted.

D.920 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL. An invitation had been received from the Chief Executive for representatives to attend a meeting at the Shire Hall, Hereford on the 19th February for consultation and briefing on the County Council's spending plans for 1996/97. This was noted.

D.921 BUS SERVICE. Notification had been received from the County Council of changes in the timing of Bus Service 417 from the 26th February 1996. This was noted.

D.922 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL. A booklet had been received from the Council explaining the procedure for public participation at District Council meetings. This was noted.

D.923 COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF HEREFORD & WORCESTER. Notification had been received of a seminar entitled "European Funding Opportunities for the Voluntary Section" organised jointly by the County Council and the Community Council to be held at County Hall, Worcester on Tuesday, 12th March 1996. This was noted.

D.924 HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL. Information had been received regarding the Travelwise Campaign, a local authority based campaign to change attitudes towards the way we use motorcars and enclosing leaflets giving self-help advice.

D.925 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL. Notification had been received of a one-day event entitled "Greening Your Village" to be held at Dinedor Village Hall on Saturday, 24th February 1996 hosted by South Herefordshire District Council's Village Focus Project.

D.926 PARISH PRIDE COMPETITION. Ms. Skinner reported that the first round of judging was at 3.30 p.m. on the 12th March at Cradley Village Hall. This was noted. There being no further business the Chairman declared the-meeting closed at 9.59 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at
Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 20th February 1996 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mr. W. M. J. Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Miss J. Pilling, Messrs. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), G. R. Spence, with Mrs. L. Mitchell, Messrs. P. Draper, P. Wynne-James and the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Messrs. F. A. C. Beard, M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim and Mrs. P. Hathaway and Mr. P. Roach (Members of the Sub-Committee).
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr. Allfrey declared an interest in item D.927.

D.927 SPORTS FIELD AND RECREATION/SPORTS HALL SCHEME. The Chairman reminded members that the extraordinary meeting had been called to discuss the preparation of a questionnaire to obtain the views of parishioners on the scheme. He advised that in view of the decision of Central Government to delay the re-organisation of local government in the county until March 1998 the timing of the scheme had been extended by one year. This was noted. Mr. Wynne-James gave an update on the further information gathered by the Sub-committee and suggested that the scheme should be presented to the Parish when architect's sketch drawings were available. Considerable discussion then took place as to the timing of the questionnaire and Mrs. Fairfax proposed, seconded by Mrs. Hunt, that the questionnaire be formulated for immediate distribution. On being put to the vote this motion was lost by 3 votes to 4. Mrs. Carver then proposed that a public meeting be held when architect's sketch plans were available at which the questionnaire could be handed out to those present and distributed to all households in the Parish. This was seconded by Miss Pilling and on being put to the vote was agreed with three abstentions. The formulation of the questionnaire was then considered and suggestions given as to questions to be posed. Members then agreed that a sub-committee comprising Mr. Bullen, Mrs. Fairfax, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Wynne-James should meet to finalise the questionnaire for presentation at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Mr. Draper asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to fund a feasibility study for the upgrading of the existing village halls and it was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries of the Community Council to ascertain whether it would be necessary to obtain estimates from several firms of architects if the Parish Council funded this work.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Storridge Village Hall on

Tuesday, 12th March 1996 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. D. Cale, Mrs. A. C. Carver, Mr. M. A. E. Clarke, Mrs. P. A. Fairfax, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurle, Mrs. S. M. Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr. W. M. J. Hames Before the commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Clerk, Pat Courtney. Ms. Courtney would take over her duties from the 1st April 1996 upon the retirement of Valerie Whittaker. On behalf of the members the Chairman wished her a long and happy association with the Parish.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr. Allfrey declared an interest in item D.928.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 20th February 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING. D.928 Recreation & Halls Sub-Committee. Ref. Min. D.912. The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from the occupiers of Homend Cottage, Chapel Lane, Cradley who were concerned about the future of the playing field situated adjacent to their property. It was agreed that the Clerk should write assuring them that the field would remain a recreational open space. A letter had also been received from 29 residents of Buryfields who expressed concern at the proposal to build a sports hall on a green belt area and the heavy traffic which would be generated by the scheme. They felt that the money would be better spent updating the existing playground in Chapel Lane and refurbishing the village hall, with perhaps a football and cricket pitch with a pavilion for the older children. These comments were noted and it was agreed to advise the residents that an open meeting was to be arranged when parishioners would have an opportunity to put forward their views. The Chairman reported that the four members of the sub-committee had met to discuss the questionnaire and this would be available at the next meeting. In answer to the question raised by Mr. Draper at the Extraordinary meeting as to whether it would be necessary to obtain quotations from several firms of architects, the Chairman reported that the Community Council had advised that whilst this was not a legal requirement it would be in the Parish Council's interests to do so. This was noted.

With regard to the open meeting, it was agreed on the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mrs. Carver, that the sub-committee should arrange a date and venue for the meeting as soon as discussions had taken place with the architects. Ms. Skinner advised that a feasibility study for upgrading Cradley Village Hall had been prepared by Mr. Hewitt and would be forwarded to the Chairman in due course. This was noted.

D.929 Midlands Electricity. Ref. Min. D.915. A letter had been received from Offer enclosing a copy of a letter from the Regional Manager of Midlands Electricity Pie. which stated that the work in the Cradley area was well under way and it was hoped that the underground cable would be laid within the next month. However problems were being experienced with landowners who were reluctant to allow heavy plant and equipment needed to carry out the remaining work onto their land in view of the unfavourable ground conditions. This was noted.

D.930 Parish Pride Competition, Ref. Min. D.926. Ms. Skinner reported that the first stage of judging had taken place that afternoon. Twenty four entries had been received for the competition of which only eight would go forward to the second round. This was noted and the Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked Ms. Skinner and her helpers for presenting a superb display of archival material.

D.931 CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Spence, presented a report of a meeting held on the 26th February 1996 when it was agreed that the following grants should be made towards the maintenance of the three Graveyards in the Parish:-

Cradley PCC 310.00

Storrige PCC 240.00

Cradley Chapel 52.50

D.932 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE. Mr. Bullen, the Chairman of the Committee, reported on a meeting held on the 29th February 1996 when the following matters had been discussed:-

(a) Maintenance. A quotation of 116.00 had been received for hedge cutting and quotations would be obtained for grass cutting. Repairs to fencing would be required and a request was to be made to the Highway Authority to erect a playing field sign in Chapel Lane.

(b) Improvements. It had been agreed to erect new metal goal posts and to confine the area around the play equipment to which would be added a play bike and a climbing frame which had been donated by the School.

(c) Long term improvements. It was hoped during the next three years to construct a basket ball area, cycle track and seating. This was noted and on the proposal of Mrs. Fairfax, seconded by Mrs. Lim, the report, including the expenditure for hedge cutting was approved.

D.933 PLANNING MATTERS. Mr. Clarke reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 26th February 1996 when the following applications had been considered:- MH96/0113 & 0114. No objection was raised to general repairs and improvements to Harrells Cottage, Halesend, Storrige. MH96/0104. No objection was raised in principle to a rear extension to extend servery at the Severn Stars Inn, Stiffords Bridge. MH96/0142. Objection was raised to the construction of an outbuilding to form store, office and garage at Wildgoose Hill, Storrige. Blackhouse, Cradley. Mrs. Lim reported that as a result of this case a resolution had been passed at the meeting of the District Council's Main Planning Committee that a procedural review be undertaken by officers and a report of their recommendations be submitted for consideration by the Area Planning Sub-Committees. This was noted and it was agreed that in view of the Parish Council's intimate knowledge of this case the Planning Committee should compose a letter to the Planning Officer giving its suggestions for improvements. It was further agreed that a separate letter should be sent to the Planning Officer asking what action was to be taken with regard to the garage which had been erected on the site which was larger than that for which approval had been given.

D.934 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On the proposal of Mrs. Lim, seconded by Mrs. Cale, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment:-

Clerk's salary for three months 293.75

Clerk's travelling expenses for six months 23.00

D.935 ENFORCEMENT MATTERS. Following the visit of the District Council's Head of Development Control, Mr. Nixon, to the last meeting a letter had been received giving the latest update on outstanding enforcement matters. This was noted and it was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Nixon.

D.936 PROVISION OF SKIPS IN PARISHES. A letter had been received from the District Council offering to provide a skip for one week free of charge. It was agreed to accept the offer and to ask that it be sited on the grassed area at the entrance to Buryfields from Monday, 20th May.

D.937 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION. A letter had been received from the Royal British Legion advising that to mark the 75th Anniversary an event named 'The Great British Poppy Chain' was being arranged from which it was hoped to raise £4.7 million to assist with the Legion's work. The poppy chain would be 75 miles long and the Parish Council was asked to sponsor a yard of chain at £36 per yard. On the proposal of Mrs. Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, this was agreed. It was further agreed that the local branch should be advised of this donation.

D.938 NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 1996. Notification had been received from the District Council that the Tidy Britain Group's Annual National Spring Clean would take place from the 12th to the 21st April 1996. This was noted and it was agreed to advertise the event in the Newsletter and on the notice board.

D.939 PARISH WARDENS. The Chairman reported that Mr. Sandy Fraser and Mr. David Williams had expressed a willingness to act as Parish Wardens. In the circumstances it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the police and request that the two gentlemen be appointed.

D.940 CREDENLEIGH, CRADLEY. Mrs. Hunt reported that there were several potholes in the highway at Credenleigh which were a hazard. Mr. Allfrey agreed to ascertain whether the maintenance of this road was the responsibility of the County Council.

D.941 HIGHWAY MATTERS. In view of the traffic accident which had occurred on the A4103 at Storridge it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the highway authority and request that the double white lines be extended from the Church to just below Brookhouse Farm.

D.942 CORRESPONDENCE. Mr. Allfrey stated that he was concerned that matters were raised at meetings and letters were sent to which replies were not received. In the circumstances he asked that a list of matters requiring replies be kept which could be reviewed each month. This was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Cradley Village Hall on

Tuesday, 9th April 1996 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs. M. R. Allfrey, F. A. C. Beard, R. S. Bullen, Mrs. A. C. Carver Mrs P A Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurlle, Miss J. Pilling, Mr M J Rogers (Chairman), Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs D Cale, Mr M A E Clarke and Mrs S M Lim
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mr, Allfrey declared an interest in items D 928 and D 933 (MH 96/0142)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

D.943 Playing Fields Committee - RefMin. D.932 Miss Pilling pointed out that the climbing frame was donated by the school and not the Church as previously stated. This was noted. With regard to grass cutting, it was agreed on the proposal of Mr Bullen, seconded by Mrs Fairfax that M H contract Services should be employed at a cost of £30 per cut plus VAT. Mr Allfrey wished it to be

D.944 Recreation and Halls sub-committee - RefMin. D.928 The Chairman reported that in view of the fact that the site originally earmarked was no longer available, the sub-committee were considering three further sites and the three firms of architects would be asked to look at these with a view to their feasibility. With regard to the questionnaire, this had been drafted but not yet finalised. Mr Allfrey asked if there had been any response to the petition from the 29 residents at Buryfields. The Chairman agreed to contact them.

D.945 Midlands Electricity. Ref. Min. D.929 Mrs Hunt stated that she had heard that The Director General had told MEB that it had to pay out for loss of electricity when this had been for over 24 hours. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries and to report at the next meeting. Mr Allfrey reminded members that MEB had promised to complete the laying of the new underground cable within the next month. As this had not yet been carried out it was agreed that ie Clerk should write to the MEB and ask for an update of the situation.

D.946 Planning Matters - Blackhouse. Cradlev - RefMin D 929 The Chairman reported that a reply had been received from the planning office and the recommendations would be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee on the 5th June. This was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should write and ask that a copy of the 'port be forwarded.

D.947 - Credenleigh, Cradlev - RefMin D 940

It was agreed that Mr Allfrey contact the relevant CC department and ask if the potholes in the highway could be filled in. Mr Allfrey also agreed to ask the County Council to repair the potholes at the entrance to Buryfields.

D.948 - Parish Pride Competition. Ref. Min. D.930 Ms. Skinner reported that the Parish Council's entry had got through to the final round of judging which would take place on Wednesday, 22nd May. £100 prize money had been awarded for reaching this stage. The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked Ms Skinner, Mr Scott, Mr Diamond and others who had helped with the exhibition. It was suggested that after the final judging had taken place. Parishioners should have an opportunity of seeing the exhibition at which donations could be made to a charity

D.949. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On the proposal of Miss Pilling, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment.
6 month's hire of Storridge Village Hall 48.00

First Paige Printers 71.67

H & W Community Council 15.00

D.950 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY A letter had been received advising that the NRA, HMIP and WRA are to become absorbed into the Environment Agency. Pat Fairfax was concerned about this and felt that the function to monitor pollution would be negated. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the environment Agency thanking them for their report and stressing members concern of the pollution level at Cradley Brook in the region of Archer's Mill made worse by the situation at Croft Bank and Colwall

D.951. ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE The Chairman reported that the rector had suggested that this years service should be held at Storridge Church on Sunday, 5th May at 10.30am. However, members noted that this was a Bank holiday week-end and it was therefore agreed to ask the rector for an alternative date.

D.952. GREAT MALVERN TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY A letter had been received together with a copy of the Great Malvern Town Centre Strategy. The Parish Council's views, comments and suggestions had been invited and these should be received before the end of May. Any comments to be discussed at the next meeting.

D.953. FOOTPATHS Mrs Carver advised members that she wished to resign as Parish Footpath Officer. This was noted, and the Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked her for work over the last few years. was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

D.954 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL Members expressed a wish for the Parish Council to acquire the freehold of Cradley Village Hall and it was agreed that further enquiries would be made. With regard to the track to the village hall, Mrs Carver stated that there were several dangerous potholes, quotations for the resurfacing were still awaited. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.27pm.