

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

Tuesday, 14th May 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, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Mrs. P. M. Hurlle (Chairman) Mrs S Lim, Miss J. Pilling, Mr. M. J. Rogers, Ms. G. Skinner, Mr. G. R. Spence, with the Clerk in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. (a) Chairman. On the proposal of Mr Rogers, seconded by Mr Beard, Mrs Hurlle was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year. (b) Vice Chairman. On the proposal of Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers, Miss Pilling was unanimously 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, Mr Rogers, 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, Ms Skinner, Mr Spence, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (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, Ms Skinner, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (h) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee. On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, Ms Skinner was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year. (i) Storrige Village Hall Management Committee. On the proposal of Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Allfrey, Mr Beard was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year. (j) Hereford and 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 and 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 Clarke. This was noted and on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rogers, Mr Clarke was unanimously re-elected for a further four year term.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

D.943. Mr Allfrey wished it to be Minuted that he considered the failure to approach the previous contractor to tender for this work appeared to be a vote of no confidence in that contractor.

D.947. The first sentence 'As it had been established that the maintenance of the highway at Credenleigh was the responsibility of the County Council' to be removed from the minutes. It was agreed that Mr Allfrey contact the relevant County Council department and ask if the potholes in the highway at Credenleigh could be filled in. D.950. Mr Allfrey pointed out that the pollution level at Cradley Brook in the region of Archers Mill was made worse by the situation at Croft Bank and Colwall. With these amendments it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

D.955 Midlands Electricity Board - Ref Min. D.945 A letter had been received from OFFER regarding supply interruptions in the Cradley area and in particular on 10-11 July, which for some customers lasted for more than 24 hours. Although MEB would not be making payments, claiming an exemption under the Regulations, the Director General could determine whether it was reasonable for the Company to claim the exemption. The Director General recently issued two determinations in which he ruled that it was not reasonable for the Company to claim an exemption and that payment under the Guaranteed Standards of Performance should be made. It was agreed to place copies of the letter from OFFER in the windows of the Post Office, the butcher's shop and on

the village notice board, and to draw attention to it in the newsletter. Although members agreed that MEB should be making these payments to the affected residents, it was however down to the individual to make their own claim by writing to the MEB quoting the letter from OFFER. It was also pointed out that the work MEB were carrying out to improve the reliability of the supply in the area had still not begun and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to them again for an update on the situation and requesting a prompt reply.

D.956 Credenleigh, Cradley - Ref Min.D.947 Mr Allfrey made enquiries regarding Credenleigh, and established that it was not an adopted road. Mrs Hunt stated that she still had a copy of a letter sent to Mr Rogers, when he was District Councillor, in 1983 from Mr Forwood stating that none of the road is adopted and that as part of the deal for purchasing the properties at the far end of the road, the District Council did in effect take over the responsibility for maintaining the whole length and that it was the responsibility of the Housing Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council enclosing a copy of that letter and asking for confirmation that the contents are true.

D.957 Burvfields - Ref Min.D.944 Mr Rogers confirmed that he has spoken to the writer of the petition and their fears seem to have arisen from mis-interpretation. The writer was extremely grateful for clarification and is keen to help with fund raising to boost the scheme. The residents now know of possible alternative sites.

D.958 Annual Civic Service - Ref Min.D.951 A new date has been given as 30th June at 10.30am at Storridge Church. Mr Rogers spoke to the Rector and broached the subject of a guest preacher and although John Guise was mentioned, the Rector said he had been unable to come up with a preacher. It was agreed that Sue Lim would speak to John Guise.

D.959 Parish Pride Competition - Ref Min.D.948 Ms Skinner requested 30 from the fund for expenses incurred. It was unanimously agreed that 50 could be allocated from the sum previously authorised.

D.960 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th April when the following applications were considered:- MH96/0393 Nethergreen Farm, Cradley - Application to open tea room in house. It was found impossible to give proper consideration to the application in view of the poor standard of plans with no indication thereon of parking provisions. Furthermore it was pointed out that the property stands on a lay-by which was believed to serve at least one other property. In view of the difficult access to and exit from the lay-by onto a fast unrestricted section of road, it was felt a serious road hazard would be created. There appeared to be no patron or visitors parking facilities within the curtilage of the site. MH96/0290 Queenswood, Cradley - Application to establish a nursery. The Committee considered the application at great length and although no basic objection was raised, it was suggested that if approved, any Consent be made personal to the present applicants. The main concern was safety in relation to the proposed pedestrian access which is close to a bend in the road. It was felt that if a Nursery was established, it was likely that persons delivering or collecting children may stop close to the pedestrian access rather than tLim into the drive. On that basis it was suggested that it would be safer and cause less possibility of roadside parking if there were no pedestrian access. It was suggested that there be a continuous stone wall at that point, matching the existing wall. It was also suggested that for the protection of neighbours, it should be made clear that there are to be no developments, such as a play area, on the land to the South/West of the house.

D.961 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On the proposal of Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Beard, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment.

(a) Hire of Cradley Village Hall for Parish Pride Competition 16.00

(b) Audit Commission 56.87

(c) J Hughes MBE - Wildlife Consultant 30.00

D.962 APPOINTMENT OF FOOTPATHS OFFICER The Chairman thanked Mrs Carver for all her work over the last few years as Parish Footpaths Officer. It was agreed to make enquiries to find a replacement.

D.963 THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION - TURNERS OLD SCHOOL
Mr Clarke agreed to investigate the records of ownership.

D.964 MHDC - PROVISION OF SKIPS IN PARISH A letter had been received from the District Council confirming that a skip had been booked for the Parish from Friday 24th May until the following Friday and enclosing a plan to confirm the site marked and requesting completion of a Duty of Care certificate. As in previous years, it was agreed on the advice from CALC, not to sign the form as there was no legal requirement to do so. It was therefore decided to send back the plan together with a covering letter agreeing to the proposed site.

D.965 MHDC - WORKSHOP AT BIRCH TREE GARAGE A letter had been received from the District Council informing the Parish Council that planning permission would have been required for this structure and notification of the owner's intention was awaited. This was noted.

D.966 MHDC - HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY A letter had been received from the District Council advising that questionnaire forms are to be sent to over 13,000 households in the district asking householders to complete the form whether they are in housing need or not in order to obtain much needed information about the housing circumstances and the present and future housing needs of the people living in the district, also to provide the Council with an overall picture of the housing situation within the Malvern Hills district. In addition some 400 face to face interviews would take place. This was noted.

D.967 MHDC - CORPORATE STRATEGIES A letter together with a Corporate Strategies Document was received expressing the intention to support the Members' role in strategic decision making and directing resources to key policy areas. It was felt important that those organisations in which Members work in partnership, are kept informed about the Council's strategic direction. This was noted.

D.968 MHDC - MALVERN PARISH COUNCIL - APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CLERK Notification had been received from the District Council that elections to a new Malvern Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2nd May and the inaugural meeting of the new Council would be held on Thursday 16th May in Priory Lodge Hall, Great Malvern. The new Council would be discussing the appointment for a new Clerk, but because the District Council would not be able to provide on-going assistance for more than four weeks after the first meeting and because it may be a few more weeks before a permanent appointment is made it was felt an interim appointment could be made to assist the Council in its first months. An advertisement had been placed in the local press and a copy was forwarded to the Parish Council asking if they knew of some suitable people who may wish to be considered. This was noted.

D.969 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - CHILDREN WARNING SIGN A letter had been received from the County Council enclosing a plan showing the suggested location of a warning sign in Chapel Lane, Cradley for vehicles approaching from the B4220. It was also suggested that a gap in the hedge near to the Chapel be closed and that the gated entrance to the field at the Homend Cottage end was safer, as visibility of children crossing was improved at that point. It was agreed that the Playing Fields Committee would consider this.

D.970 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - SPEED LIMIT AT RIDGEWAY HILL Notification had been received from the County Council stating that an Order which will impose a speed limit of 50 mph on the A4103 Worcester to Hereford Road at Ridgeway Hill, Cradley from its junction with the C1140 to a point 325 metres west of its junction with the B4220, would come into operation on 7th May 1996. A copy of the Order, relevant map and Statement of Reasons for making the Order can be inspected at County Hall during normal office hours. This was noted.

D.971 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS A letter had been received from the County Council and although it had been suggested that an extension of the double white lines on the A4103 Storridge would solve the problem of occasional parked vehicles, delivery vehicles would still be able to stop to enable goods to be loaded and unloaded. Arrangements are being made for the current markings to be investigated and if found lacking in any way, to be rectified. Mr Rogers commented that the request was to prevent vehicles from overtaking.

D.972 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - AREA COMMITTEE Notification had been received of a meeting on 20th May 1996 of an area meeting for public questions and discussions on any topic concerning the County Council. This was to enable Members to raise any issue of interest or concern, or to make a presentation to the Area Committee. This was noted.

D.973 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Notification had been received of two meetings scheduled to take place on 14th June 1996 and 8th November 1996 respectively. It was agreed there were no matters for consideration. D.974 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - PARISH PRIDE AWARD PRESENTATIONS Notification had been received that the County Council would be holding the Annual Parish Reception and Parish Pride Awards Presentation on Thursday 25th July. Nominations of two members of the Parish Council were invited, to attend as guests of the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor John Wardle MBE. It was agreed that Ms Skinner should go as an appreciation of all the hard work she put into the competition and it was agreed that she would ask Malcolm Scott to accompany her.

D.975 OFFER - QUESTIONNAIRE RE: STANDARD OF SERVICE A questionnaire had been received from OFFER for completion as to the standard of service given. It was agreed that Mrs Hunt should complete the form.

D.976 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - BRANCH SECRETARY A letter had been received from the Club Treasurer, Terry Robshaw, informing the Parish Council that any future correspondence should be addressed to the Branch Secretary, Mr Terry Wykes. This was noted.

D.977 WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY - PARISH COUNCILLORS' MEETING A letter had been received from the Divisional Commander, Hereford Division, inviting two representatives from the Parish Council to a meeting at the Shirehall, Hereford on Wednesday, 22nd May to hear how the Commander and his Command Team intend to police the new Division following the re-organisation of West Mercia Constabulary. It was agreed that Mr Spence would attend the meeting and Mr Fraser would be invited to attend.

D.978 EVENING NEWS - NEWSTIMES A letter had been received requesting a regular correspondent in the area to supply regular stories in connection with the Parish Council. It was suggested that perhaps Mrs Prescott could be approached and asked if she would be interested.

D.979 VALERIE WHITTAKER - LETTER OF THANKS The Chairman read a letter which had been received from Valerie expressing her thanks for the presentation made to her at the Open Parish Meeting.

D.980 ROAD SIGN - COWLEIGH ROAD Mrs Carver expressed concern that there was no sign on the Malvern side of Cowleigh Road to indicate its unsuitability for long vehicles. Although many lorry drivers are familiar with the narrow winding road, lorry drivers who were strangers to the area are not familiar with it. It was suggested that perhaps a sign could be erected at Cowleigh Bank. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the District Council asking if there were any plans to de-trunk the road. D.981 APPEARANCE OF SOIL LOADS Mr Rogers pointed out that an ex-Parish Councillor had commented that three loads of soil had appeared over the week-end on the roadside verge below Birch Tree Garage, at the foot of Ridgeway Hill. This was noted.

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

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

Tuesday, 11th June 1996 at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Messrs M R Allfrey, 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 (Chairman) Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Ms G Skinner, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies: Messrs F A C Beard, M J Rogers and G R Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES Election of Officers (a) Mrs Lim requested her name be added to the Playing Fields Committee. This was agreed.

D.982 Midlands Electricity Board. Ref Min. D.955 A letter had been received from Mr Holliday, Head of Network Customer Services, confirming that work to improve supply reliability in the area, was in progress. Reconductoring had already taken place and they were well advanced in providing a new interconnector which would supply Cradley from the nearer Malvern primary substation rather than one situated at Bromyard. As part of the scheme, 3/4km of underground cable was being installed which should result in the circuit being less susceptible to faults associated with overhead lines. It was anticipated that the work would be completed by the end of July. In addition to this work being carried out, another scheme was in progress which involved bringing in another interconnector link to the Cradley area, and once the necessary Wayleave Agreements had been completed with the landowners, this work should be in progress towards the end of the year. This was noted.

Members stated that there had been a power cut during the night of 7-8th June, when the supply was off between 5 and 8 hours. Some residents found it impossible to get through on the telephone to report this. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Holliday thanking him for his letter and informing him of the recent problem. Miss Pilling stated that due to the letter from OFFER being displayed at various points in the village advising residents to claim for the loss of supply during the power cuts of last year, some people had started receiving payments.

D.983 Road Sign - Cowleigh Road. Ref Min. D.980 A letter had been received from Mr M J Davis, Divisional Engineer, stating that the provision of new traffic signs was the responsibility of the Traffic Regulations Section at County Hall and that they would reply direct. This was noted. Mr Allfrey reported that he had spoken to the Chief Engineer Martin Heyes, who agreed the highway should have signs on it. It was agreed Mr Allfrey would speak to Mr Heyes again.

D.984 Civic Service. Ref Min. D.958 Mr Rogers had spoken to Rev. Geoffrey Howell who confirmed that the service would be held in Storridge Church on June 30th at 10.30am. He had attempted to find a guest preacher but had so far been unable to. After discussion it was agreed that Mr Clarke would approach Eric Dickinson, a Methodist Lay Preacher and John Willis, an Agricultural Chaplain and report back to the Chairman.

D.985 - West Mercia Constabulary. Ref Min. D.977 The Chairman read out a report from Mr Spence concerning the meeting which he and Mr Fraser attended at the Shirehall on 22nd May. This was noted.

D.986 - Skips in Parish. Ref Min. D.964 It was reported that the skip delivered on Friday 24th May became full in a very short space of time. The Chairman contacted the District Council on the following Tuesday and asked if the skip could be replaced free of charge and if it was smaller than last years. The District Council's response was that: a) It was not smaller than last years and b) If a second skip was provided, the Parish Council would have to pay for it. After discussion members felt that if a second skip had to be paid for it should be hired at a different time such as over the August bank holiday weekend. This was agreed and to announce it in the August newsletter after the July meeting. It was also agreed to investigate companies hiring skips for best possible prices and that the Clerk should write to the District Council and enquire if they had changed their policies of replacing skips free of charge when full.

D.987 Appointment of Footpaths Officer. Ref Min. D.962 Mr Hames approached Mr David Williams of Oaklands who agreed to be joint footpaths officer with Mr Hames subject to approval by the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed. They attended a meeting two weeks ago and met Local Area County Footpath Officer John Light who explained the system of improvements. Mr Hames asked if there was a list of work done on parish footpaths, also any maps. It was agreed that he would arrange a meeting with Mrs Carver to discuss this and to see what information she had, which would assist the County Council in its compilation of records. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Williams and thank him for taking over the job.

D.988 The Hereford Diocesan Board of Education - Turners Old School. Ref Min. D.963 Mr Clarke reported that Cradley Parish Council had the lease from the Diocese and understood that any rent should be paid to, or for the benefit of the present school. As this was not the case Mr Clarke agreed to make further investigations.

D.989 Evening News - Newstimes. Ref Min. D.978 The Chairman spoke to Mrs Prescott and although she was interested in principle, she would like further details. It was agreed that the Clerk should send these to her.

D.990 Credenleigh. Ref Min. D.956 As there had been no response from the District Council it was agreed to place this item on next month's agenda.

D.991 Parish Pride. Ref Min. D.974 Members unanimously agreed that Ms Skinner, Mrs Carver, Christopher Lowder and Malcolm Scott should attend the Annual Parish Reception and Parish Pride Awards Presentation on Thursday 25th July.

D.992 H & W County Council - Speed Limit at Ridgeway Hill. Ref Min.D.970 Mr Clarke reported that since the 50 mph speed limit had been imposed another problem had been created whereby some motorists, driving behind a vehicle in the right hand lane wanting to turn right onto the B4220, either start flashing their lights, sounding their horn or overtaking on the inside lane exceeding the speed limit because they are very likely unaware of the approaching right hand turn and feel motorists in the right hand lane are driving too slowly. Members expressed considerable concern at the dangerous driving. On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the police advising them of the situation and to suggest police monitoring at Ridgeway Comer morning and evening. It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to the Highways Department requesting that a sign be erected further down the hill before the two lanes start, warning motorists of the right hand turn.

D.993 MHDC - Workshop at Birchtree Garage. Ref Min. D.965 As there had been no further information since the previous letter, Mr Allfrey asked the Clerk to write again for news of this.

D.994 H & W County Council - Children Warning Sign. Ref Min D.969 Mr Bullen reported that at a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee it was recommended the sign should be erected. On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Fairfax it was unanimously agreed to authorise the purchase of a goal posts set at a cost of 271.00 including VAT plus 35 carriage. A request had been received from Mr Tom Kelly to use the playing field for a barbecue on 30th June. This was agreed.

D.995 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th May when the following applications were considered:- MH96/0498 - 2 Brook Cottage. Storridge - Vehicular Access. No objection was raised in principle provided that the highways authority requirements are met and that existing services continue to be safeguarded. MH96/0586 - Brook Cottage. Cradley - Replacement of Flat Roof. No objection was raised to this application. MH96/0481 - Land adjacent to Orchard House - Proposed dwelling house and detached garage. Objection was raised on the following grounds, a) an increase of traffic on an already dangerously narrow road. b) over development within a conservation area. c) the inappropriate style and materials. MH96/0523/0524 - Aythens Cottage. Cradley - Alteration of and extension of existing house. Whilst the Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of over development in a conservation area, it might be prepared to consider a lesser extension more in keeping with the original listed building.

D.996 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.

- (a) Diocese of Hereford - Leasehold rental of Cradley Village Hall 52.00
- (b) R G Rees - Hedge Cutting at Chapel Lane Playing Field 116.00

(c) N.A.L.C.-Annual Subscription 275.57

(d) Clerk's Salary for Three Months 293.75

(e) Re-imburement of Clerk's travelling expenses for three months 52.56

D.997 PARSON'S NOSE - APPEAL A Notice of Appeal had been received advising of an inquiry on Wednesday 4th September 1996 at 10.00am at Priory Lodge Hall, Avenue Road, Malvern which the Parish Council had been invited to attend, when an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will determine the appeals. Furthermore if the Parish Council wished to express any views on the appeals they should be made in writing to The Planning Inspectorate, Department of the Environment, Room 1023, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ quoting reference APP/G1820/A/95/260118 not later than 28 days before the date of the enquiry.

Mrs Lim reported that she had attended the East Herefordshire Area Planning Sub Committee meeting on Monday 10th June and established that a site visit had been arranged for Monday 24th June at 9.30am prior to considering the application for the retention of a temporary residential wooden building at the forthcoming Area Planning Sub Committee meeting on 8th July. It had also been established that accounts had been submitted. Mrs Lim requested that as many members as possible attend the site meeting. It had been stated that the planning officer considered that it may be approved. In view of Mrs Fairfax's previous involvement with this case it was agreed that she should speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the site meeting. Mrs Fairfax agreed to acquaint herself on the matter prior to the meeting and to write a report of what should be said and distribute this to members.

D.998 SOUTH WYCHAVON MALVERN AND WORCS SITTER SERVICE - SITTERS A letter had been received asking for volunteers who could spare a few hours each week to give carers of the elderly a break. It was agreed that the Clerk should send the information leaflet to Cradley surgery and ask if it could be displayed. It was also agreed to send another leaflet to the newsletter for publication and ask that they re-direct it to the Post Office to display in their window.

D.999 ZURICH MUNICIPAL - CLAIM RE: MRS D CALE A letter had been received stating that bearing in mind the circumstances of the incident they did not see that the Parish Council had any legal liability in respect of Mrs Cale's injuries and had written to Mrs Cale explaining that they would not be in a position to consider a claim for compensation. Mrs Cale reported that she had spoken to her solicitor who advised that she should obtain a schedule from the insurance company with a view to a possible claim for personal injury. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the insurance company for an up to date schedule. Furthermore it was agreed that the Clerk should write to all the Parish Council's insurance companies to obtain up to date schedules.

E.001 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - WASTE REGULATION - ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Notification had been received that from 1st April this year, the County Council's Waste Regulation function had been taken over by the new Environment Agency which comprised of the former National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution and the Waste Regulation Authority. Matters concerning waste management licensing, the registration of waste carriers, the duty of care and illegal tipping of waste were now the responsibility of the Agency. This was noted. Mr Clarke reported that he had received a letter stating that the Environment Agency had taken over responsibility for septic tank licensing and if consent to discharge from a septic tank was to continue a form had to be completed otherwise the license previously issued by the NRA would lapse. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Environment Agency and ask for clarification of licensing requirements for persons who have existing septic tanks and once full details are known, to publish them in the newsletter.

E.002 BROMYARD & DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE Notification was received of a public meeting on Thursday 6th June. This was noted. E.003 NATIONAL LOTTERY SEMINAR Notification was received on a seminar for the National Lottery. It was agreed to pass the details to Mr Rogers and ask him if he wanted to attend.

E.004 H & W ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS Notification had been received of a meeting on Thursday 6th June 1996. As the Parish Council had not been represented at this meeting or at the March meeting it was agreed to send a representative to the next meeting.

E.005 MHDC - QUESTIONNAIRE A questionnaire had been received which was divided into three sections: general information, Agenda 21' and contaminated land. It was agreed that the Chairman would complete this.

E.006 MHDC - LISTED BUILDINGS Notification had been received that the review of procedures due to be held on 5th June 1996 was now scheduled to take place on 10th July 1996. This was noted. E.007 Notification had been received of the following Annual General Meetings (a) Victim Support Herefordshire - The Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford on Monday 24th June 1996 at 7.30pm. (b) Malvern Hills CAB - Abbey Hotel, Abbey Road, Malvern on Thursday 20th June 1996 at 7.30pm.

E.008 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - MALVERN HILLS JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Notification had been received stating that the meeting scheduled to take place on 14th June 1996 had been postponed until 4th October 1996. This was noted.

E.009 MHDC - CHOCKBURY LANE It was reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Kevin Abraham of the District Council stating that a member of the public had requested the Parish Council to consider the erection of two street signs either end of Chockbury Lane. After discussion, members unanimously agreed to object to this request as they felt they were an unnecessary addition to an already considerable amount of street signs in the village and considered it would become urbanised.

E.010 FINCHERS CORNER Mrs Hunt pointed out that an area of grass had not been cut. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the District Council and ask them to include this area in their regular cutting programme.

E.011 THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE Mrs Hunt reported that no work had been done at the property for about a year, although planning permission had been granted. Mr Hames stated that the owner was awaiting an insurance claim to complete the work and anticipated this would be between 9 and 12 months. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the District Council Planning Officer and ask for information on the current situation and to point out that the site needs tidying up and overhanging branches by the footpath should be cut.

E.012 GRITTLESEND Miss Pilling reported that despite the County Council having stated they would clear the tiles and other materials under the tarpaulin these had still not been removed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Highways Department and ask them when they intend to remove it.

E.013 VILLAGE HALLS - INSURANCE Mr Clarke suggested that someone with Health and Safety experience should look at both village halls to advise on safety precautions. It was also suggested that Clarke Roxburgh send a representative to inspect the halls and advise on an appropriate insurance policy. It was felt that the Village Hall Committee should have the hall ready for the meetings and it was agreed to investigate this further. It was further agreed that this matter should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm

Tuesday, 9th July at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Messrs M R Allfrey, 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 Hurlle (Chairman) Miss J Pilling, Ms G Y Skinner, Mr M J Rogers, Mr G R Spence with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies: Mr R S Bullen and Mrs S M Lim

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

D.982 Midlands Electricity Board Mrs Hunt pointed out the power cut on 7th-8th June should have stated 1996.

E.010 Finchers Comer Mrs Hunt pointed out that the uncut area of grass should also have included Pixiefields. With these amendments it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

E.014 Civic Service Ref. Min. D958 The Chairman reported that the Civic Service held at Storridge Church on June 30th went very well. The guest preacher was Anthony Weston.

E.015 Midlands Electricity Board - Ref. Min. D.982 A letter had been received from Miss Beverley Hodgkins, Network Customer Services, in response to the difficulties residents experienced in trying to contact the Electricity Board during the recent power failure. Miss Hodgkins stated that the emergency telephone answering service had now been centralised and a call taking centre established. It was stated that during a supply failure there were many hundreds or thousands of callers and any facility would have difficulty speaking individually to such a large number of customers. Furthermore it was felt that the build up of calls were dealt with a lot quicker on that occasion. Although members were not completely satisfied with the explanation it was agreed not to pursue the matter. Mrs Carver asked when the transformer and overhead cable would be removed from Brookside. The Midlands Electricity Board had proposed to remove and replace it with underground cable and a new transformer on the ground in the garden of Orchard House. Mr Rogers had met the Wayleave Officer 2 months ago who advised the work was in hand but was awaiting local planning permission for the 2-3 steps required for access to the garden. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Midlands Electricity Board and ask for an update on the situation.

E.016 Cowleigh Road - Ref. Min. D.983 Mr Allfrey had not yet had an opportunity to speak to Mr Heyes.

E.017 Skips in Parish - Ref. Min. D.986 After investigating hire charges of local skip hire companies it was found that Malvern Hills District Council were the cheapest at 65 plus VAT per week. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed to hire a skip from Friday 23rd August until Friday 30th August to incorporate the Bank Holiday week-end, and to have the skip situated at Buryfields. It was agreed to announce this in the August Newsletter.

E.018 Evening News - Newstime - Ref. Min. D.989 A telephone call had been received from Mrs Prescott stating that she would be pleased to take on the role of news correspondent for Newstime. It was agreed that the Clerk should write and thank her for doing so.

E.019 Credenleigh - Ref. Min. D.990 A letter had been received from Mr A Moorhouse, Area Housing Officer Ledbury Team, stating the roadway was transferred to Elgar Housing Association and that the road would be inspected with a view to remedying the poor surface. This was noted. Mrs Hunt asked if she could borrow the letter for the purpose of copying and distributing it to the residents of Credenleigh. It was agreed the Clerk would take copies of the letter and send them to Mrs Hunt.

E.020 Ridgeway Hill - Ref. Min. D.992 A telephone call had been received from Inspector Mayor stating that he had passed on the letter from the Parish Council to Traffic Management expert P.C. Martin Hallam of Hereford Police Station. A site visit and recommendations would be made and P.C. Hallam would contact the Parish Council in due course. A letter had been received from Mr D E Jew, Traffic Management, Hereford and Worcester County Council in response to members' concern at the speeds of vehicles and driver behaviour on the A4103. Mr Jew stated that following similar concern raised by the Police, particularly involving the B4220 Bromyard Road junction, a

meeting would be held on 1st July 1996. The meeting would involve P.C. M Hallam, Accident Prevention Officer and representatives from Traffic Regulation and Accident Studies sections. Following that meeting a report on the outcome would be sent to the Parish Council. As there had been no response since that meeting Mr Allfrey agreed to chase the matter up.

E.021 Workshop at Birchtree Garage - Ref. Min. D.993 A letter had been received from Mrs P Clarke, Senior Enforcement Officer of Malvern Hills District Council stating that despite the owner of the garage stating his intention to submit a planning application in respect of the workshop, none had been received. The District Council had now given the owner 28 days to submit an application and if the request was not complied with, the expediency of taking enforcement action would be considered. Mrs Carver stated that the owner would be removing the white covering and replacing it with green corrugated material. Furthermore the owner was in the process of submitting a planning application. Members felt it was an eyesore because of its prominent position. It was agreed to wait until the planning application was submitted when members would then have the opportunity to comment

E.022 Environment Agency - Ref. Min. E.001 A letter had been received from Mr T Howells, Senior Pollution Control Officer on behalf of Mr R I Harvey, Area Water Quality Manager enclosing a leaflet given out by the former National Rivers Authority which explained about sewage disposal where there is no mains drainage available and which was still applicable under the new Environment Agency. Mr Clarke reported that he had received a letter stating that as they had received so many enquiries they would make contact at a later date.

E.023 Pinchers Comer- Ref. Min. E010 A telephone call had been received from Mr Schuster of Malvern Hills Contract Services requesting confirmation that the area of uncut grass was at the crossroads of Finchers Comer. He stated that because the uncut grass was approximately 3ft high it would require a van to clear away the cuttings at a one-off cost of £30. Thereafter it would be included in the regular grass cutting programme at an added cost of £10 per cut. Mrs Hunt reported that the regular man who used to cut the grass had been away but was now back at work. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Schuster and request that things are left as they are for the present.

E.024 Grittlesend - Ref. Min. E012 A letter had been received from Mr J Romanis, Assistant Director Highways Management of Hereford and Worcester County Council stating that neither he or the divisional staff at Malvern knew of the tiles and other materials in the field, nor were they visible on inspection. This was noted. A letter had been received from Mr M J Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer of Hereford and Worcester County Council stating that as the tiles and other materials were in a field and not within the highway, their removal was the responsibility of the Environment Agency at Kidderminster who would advise the Parish Council of the current position. Because of the uncertainty of who was responsible, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Alwyn Nixon of the District Council who originally identified the rubble and took action, making reference to the green van which was previously on the field and was removed at the District Council's expense.

E.025 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on 2 meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11th and 24th June when the following applications were considered:- MH96/0614 Pullens Farm. Ridgeway Cross. Cradley Members felt unable to comment on the application for an extension to an existing building for a cold store/cooling room for soft fruit because they had no knowledge of any consent to the existing building. Further to a telephone call from the Planning Services Department it was agreed a Planning Officer would make a site visit to inspect the buildings and report back to Mr Clarke. MH96/0702 Baxhill Farm. Vinesend Lane. Cradley No objection was raised to the application for the re-location of an existing Dutch barn and steel frame barn. MH96/0719 Bethelstone. Chockburv Lane. Cradley No objection was raised to the application for a single storey kitchen extension and blocking up of the existing door and window to the existing bungalow. FORESTRY APPLICATION Storridge Farm. Storridge Notification had been received for the thinning of 15.4 ha broadleaves and coppicing 0.4 ha hazel. Mrs Fairfax asked if the Planning Committee could have details of planning applications in advance of a planning meeting. It was agreed the Clerk would do this when arranging meetings. E.026 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Ms Skinner asked if 2 invoices could be added to the payment of accounts. On the proposal of Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, this was agreed and that the following accounts should be passed for payment.

(a) Cradley Village Hall - Hire of Hall for 4 months and Parish Pride Competition 40.00

(b) Stephanie Denley - Transcribing Tapes for Cradley Oral History 50.00

(c) Christopher Lowder - Materials for Parish Pride Project 23.24

E.027 **INSURANCE** It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would peruse the policies and schedules to consider the cover and report their findings at the next meeting.

E.028 **SPORTS FIELD AND RECREATION SCHEME** QUESTION TIME A parishioner stated that there had been anxiety amongst the community due to the lack of information being given. He also asked whether the Parish Council was aware of pressure to arrange a meeting between the Village Hall Management Committees, the Sub-Committee, and the Parish Council so that they could work together. Mr Rogers explained that there is liaison between these bodies and that allocated funds had been divided between the three schemes. The principal scheme was the proposed sports hall. The remaining part of the funds had been allocated to upgrade the two village halls allowing approximately £30-40,000 for each village hall. Both Village Hall Management Committees liaise with the Sub-Committee and each committee should be aware of the main scheme. Each Village Hall Management Committee was responsible for identifying its needs within its budget reporting back to the Sub-Committee. When considering refurbishment the Village Hall Management Committees should ensure that buildings unique in their historic connections would be sympathetically treated.

Mr John Hewitt asked if the Parish Council would support a Joint Working Party to address the revenue aspects of both capital developments. Mr Clarke replied that if Mr Hewitt was prepared to be co-opted it would be welcomed. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling this was unanimously agreed. Mrs Fairfax stated that she was also keen to be co-opted onto the committee. On a proposal by Ms Skinner, seconded by Mr Hames this was agreed.

In reply to a question as to professional fees accruing at the pre-planning stage of the complex, Mr Rogers made dear that all members of the Sub-Committee were volunteering their time and no professional charges had so far been incurred.

A parishioner asked if the Parish Council had a constitution and how members were elected. Mr Clarke replied that there are fifteen members representing Cradley and Storridge. There is an opportunity for election every four years, the last one being in May 1995. The Parish Council is a statutory body set up in 1894.

A parishioner asked whether the Recreation and Halls Committee had submitted a detailed report. Mrs Hurle replied there had been no final report but a detailed report was given to the Parish Council in January.

In reply to a question as to whether it had been ascertained how many people play badminton and football and if the demand would be there, Mr Rogers stated that at the open meeting on 10th October 1995 there had been an overwhelming desire for sports facilities. Furthermore the Parish Council have a duty to represent all members of the two villages to explore the possibility of providing sports facilities. Mrs Carver stated that a feasibility study had been done in the area which found that the need was there. Mr Rogers further stated that the sports hall would not only serve the two villages but a far wider catchment area such as Malvern and the surrounding areas as the sports facilities were not sufficient.

A parishioner asked if the proposed sports hall would attract more traffic and if so would the roads need to be widened to cater for it and if the Parish Council had considered the impact on the environment. Mr Rogers replied that the Parish Council was conscious of the need to safeguard the area of natural beauty. Any application for planning consent would have to satisfy the Highways Authority.

A parishioner asked why the proposed site could not be in the centre of the village with access to the main road. The Chairman replied that it was due to the availability of land. In reply to a question as to whether the Sub-Committee was working to a figure, the Chairman replied the Malvern Millions had offered 75% of the total cost up to a maximum of £263,000. Additional funds could be allocated from for example, the Lottery or the Sports Council.

A parishioner asked if the scheme would incorporate a children's play area and car parking. Mr Rogers replied that a play area did not appear on the report but had been under discussion. Regarding car parking, it was thought that it might be possible to incorporate additional parking for school use which would have a beneficial effect. Approximately 18 members of the public attended the meeting and in response to a question, Mr Rogers reported that an open meeting would be arranged at an appropriate time when full details were known to discuss the proposals. Three sizes of schemes had been considered. Initially the largest of the three was favoured as it was felt it would be easier to reduce the size at a subsequent date than to enlarge it. However, the Sub-Committee now prefer the middle scheme which is measured in the size of three badminton courts. A questionnaire which had been prepared but not yet finalised, would be distributed in due course to obtain the views of all members of the community. The Sub-Committee had met on a number of occasions and three possible sites had been identified. The most favoured had been in the Kingsbridge area of the village and comprised of part of the field owned by Brian Hamson which was on the left hand side leaving Cradley, and part of the adjoining field which was owned by Geoffrey Vos of Netherley. However, there were still discussions needed to try to obtain agreement, in principle, from the land owners concerned, and it was by no means dear that these would be successful. The next stage would be to instruct architects. Three firms had been identified. One firm would be selected to take the matter to the District Council for outline planning approval. If the scheme is to be successful, contracts must be exchanged by March 1998.

E.029 MATTERS PENDING Mr Allfrey stated that he had previously asked that a list of matters requiring replies be kept which could be reviewed each month. It was agreed to append a list of matters pending to the minutes.

E.030 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY A letter had been received enclosing a copy of the Annual Report of the policing of the area for 1995/96 together with a video. Mr Spence agreed to take the report and the video home for perusal. Mr Rogers stated that Mr Fraser had spoken to him informing him that he had received a telephone call from Inspector Mayor on 9th July stating that the appointment of Parish Wardens had to be discussed with a higher authority. Although Mr Fraser and Mr Williams were acting as Parish Wardens it was felt that in order to fulfil the job properly they need to be officially appointed by letter. This was noted.

E.031 H & W ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS A circular had been received enclosing various information leaflets. The Chairman agreed to read through these and report back to members.

E.032 MHDC - OUTREACH INITIATIVE A letter had been received stating that the District Council along with Elgar Housing Association intend to promote the service throughout the summer months and requesting suggestions as to where the promotional stands could be placed in Cradley. As the letter was not very clear it was agreed that the Clerk would write asking for more details and information.

E.033 MHDC - COUNCIL PAGE BOOK NUMBERING Notification had been received that a new page numbering system would be introduced in order to streamline the Council Book preparation process and reduce costs. For meetings in the 1996/97 civic year page numbers would be preceded with a code denoting that it is a Council meeting or a particular Committee or Sub-Committee meeting. The pages of Council minutes and each Committee, Sub-Committee report etc will then be numbered consecutively throughout the civic year. This was noted.

E.034 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - BRIDLEWAY No 84 (PART) CRADLEY A letter had been received stating that as there had been no outstanding objections to the proposal, the Order had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment for consideration. This was noted.

E.035 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - TREE WARDEN SCHEME A letter had been received asking if the Parish Council would be interested in establishing a Tree Warden for the Parish and enclosing a leaflet outlining the scheme. It was agreed to place the article in the Newsletter and invite anyone interested to come forward.

E.036 H & W CALC - LOCAL CHARTER A copy of the Herefordshire Local Charter had been received for consideration and comment. This was noted.

E.037 CPRE-AGM Notification had been received of a meeting on the 19th July 1996 at 7.00pm at Great Hall, Bishop's Palace, Hereford. It was agreed that Mr Hames would attend.

E.038 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - CHEMICALS IN WATER SUPPLY The Chairman read out a newspaper article concerning traces of pesticide found in the water supply affecting Storridge and some surrounding areas. The chemicals had been detected intermittently by Welsh Water over the last 2 years during checks at its WhitboLime water treatment works. However the company stated that the water is 'perfectly safe' to drink and it was not necessary to boil it. Chemical concentrations of around 0.1 microgrammes per litre were believed to have got into supplies from the River Teme from which the company draws water for the surrounding areas. The company had been in consultation with a number of farms in the area with a view to assisting farmers in the safe management and storage of pesticides after minute traces were found in the water.

E.039 PARISH MAGAZINE - VENUE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS Mrs Hunt pointed out that the parish magazine had published the wrong venue for the meeting in September 1996. It should have read Storridge and not Cradley. It was agreed the Clerk would inform Mr Shayler and give him a list of the venues and the relevant dates.

E.040 FRUIT AND VEG STALL Mrs Carver pointed out that the stall on the grass verge near the butcher's shop was thought to be buying in produce for resale and asked if it was legal and if the traders should be paying rates. Mr Hames stated that a notice had appeared on the stall announcing it would cease trading on the 12th July.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.43pm

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

Tuesday, 13th August 1996 at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mr F A C Beard, Mr 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 (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Ms G Y Skinner, Mr M J Rogers, Mr G R Spence with the Clerk in attendance. 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 9th July 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

E.041 Midlands Electricity Board - Ref. Min. E.015 A telephone call had been received from Mr Mace, Estates and Wayleave Officer, advising that the work for the mini sub station which is to be situated in the garden of Orchard House is ready to start once they are in receipt of the signed Wayleave Agreement from the occupier of Orchard House. When this is received it is anticipated that the work will commence at the end of September 1996. The MEB will be writing to all the residents of Brookside informing them of the forthcoming work. A plan had been sent to the District Council and there had been no comment from them. This was noted. The Chairman reported she telephoned the MEB on the morning of Sunday, 11th August 1996 advising them of a power failure in the area. She was informed she was the first person to notify them and was then asked if her property was private or council owned and told that if the fault lay with her equipment a call out charge would be incurred for which she would be responsible. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of complaint concerning their attitude to the public when reporting faults and ask the relevance of property being council or privately owned. It was also agreed to send a copy of the letter to OFFER. Mr Allfrey stated that the connecting link between Malvern and Cradley had still not been made. Work had been due to commence at the end of July 1996. It was agreed the Clerk would write asking for an update of the situation.

E.042 Cowleigh Road - Ref. Min. E.016 A letter had been received from Mr D E Jew, Traffic Management Officer of Hereford and Worcester County Council stating that the erection of an 'unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles' sign at Cowleigh Bank would not help remedy the problems experienced. It was felt large commercial vehicles, upon seeing such a sign, would be reluctant to turn around and would have difficulty doing so at that point. Concern had been raised regarding the series of narrow bends near Cowleigh Bridge/Cowleigh Park area and in response the warning signs, lines and verge marker posts were reviewed. A wider hazard warning centre line had been laid to draw motorists' attention to the various bends and narrow sections. There were no plans to de-classify the road. Mr Allfrey agreed to raise the matter with Dr Martin Heyes.

E.043 Skips in Parish - Ref. Min. E.017 A letter had been received from Mr D Billings, Administration Officer of MHDC confirming that a skip had been booked for the parish on Friday 23rd August for 1 week. The skip would be situated at Buryfields at a cost of 65.00 plus VAT. It was agreed to return the signed form stating the Parish Council would not be responsible for the contents of the skip.

E.044 Credenleigh - Ref. Min. E.019 Mrs Hunt reported that work on the potholes had been earned out and it was agreed the Clerk would write to Elgar Housing Association thanking them on behalf of the residents of Credenleigh and mention that when they are able to budget their funds it would be desirable to complete the job.

E.045 Ridgeway Hill - Ref. Min. 020 A letter had been received from Mr D E Jew, Traffic Management Officer of Hereford and Worcester County Council stating that the site meeting involving Accident Studies section had taken place and the Parish Council's suggestion of an additional warning sign was supported. The erection of a junction warning sign and distance plate on yellow backing board had been arranged and would be sited on the off side of the road opposite the property known as 'The Highlands'. A letter had been received from PC Martin Hallam, Traffic Management Officer, West Mercia Constabulary concerning the site meeting with representatives of Hereford and Worcester County Council with a view to improving advance signing on the B4220. It was stated that the A4103 was regularly policed by both Divisional traffic patrols and

Headquarters patrol motorcyclists with some success. On occasions a plain video car had been used but unfortunately the video car was a much sought after resource throughout the counties of Hereford and Worcester. The Chairman reported that she had had a visit from Mr Brigden who raised concern over drivers' speed. He made 2 suggestions: 1. Installation of police cameras. 2. To have rumble strips laid alerting drivers to a hazardous section. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling it was unanimously agreed to seek implementation of cameras and rumble strips.

E.046 Grittlesend - Ref. Min. E.024 Notification had been received from Mrs P Clarke, Senior Enforcement Officer of Malvern Hills District Council that an Enforcement Notice requiring the removal of the builders material from the land had been issued on 11th April 1996 and had come into effect on 23rd May 1996. The materials should have been removed by the 23rd June 1996 but this had not been done. An enforcement procedure to prosecute the owners of the land for non-compliance with the Notice would be the next step, however as the owners of the land had been out of the country for the past 6 years the Council would have to consider the expediency of taking default action by removing the materials and placing a charge for the costs upon the land. The Council's solicitor had been in contact with the owner's son in an effort to resolve the matter. This was noted.

E.047 Sports Hall and Recreation Scheme - Ref. Min. E.028 Since the last meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman, Mr Rogers and the Clerk had received letters from members of the parish expressing concern over the proposed sports hall. 6 letters in all had been received which were read out by the Chairman. Approximately 10 members of the public attended the meeting.

QUESTION TIME In reply to a question, Mr Rogers said that any scheme put forward would be subject to planning permission and that it may not even be given. Mrs Wynnell Hunt asked if the Sub-committee had consulted any other authority who had a similar scheme to ascertain their maintenance costs and whether maintenance costs had been considered for this scheme. Mr Rogers replied that a feasibility study had been done and information had been gleaned from all quarters including the Sports Council who had considerable experience.

Mr Rogers advised there was little to report since the last meeting of the Parish Council and a site is still being sought. A meeting of the Sub-committee is scheduled for 30th August 1996 and it is anticipated that a questionnaire can be distributed as speedily as possible to every household in the 2 villages to obtain individual opinion before continuing with the scheme. The questionnaire would be phrased to take into consideration the views of all members of the household. Responses will be analysed before a public open meeting is arranged. Mrs Carver expressed her concern that the parish may lose the money and felt that the village should at least have a football pitch or some sports facilities. The Chairman agreed and stated that the Parish Council should not lose sight of the responsibility it had to the young people in the village. Mrs Fairfax emphasised the importance of the Sub-committee to continue looking for suitable land even while the questionnaire is being prepared as time is ticking by. The Chairman agreed and paid tribute to how hard the Sub-committee had worked on this project. It was agreed to publish the latest information in the September newsletter.

E.048 Outreach Initiative - Ref. Min. E.032 Notification had been received from Miss R Newbury, Housing Officer at Malvern Hills District Council of a promotion taking place throughout Herefordshire during the next few months. Their aim is to offer advice or assistance to elderly or vulnerable persons living in the parish and asked if the Parish Council would advertise the service generally. It was agreed the Clerk would send the posters and literature to the surgery, the post office and the churches in the village and ask if they would display them.

E.049 Tree Warden Scheme - Ref. Min. E.035 A telephone call had been received from Mr Guy Jenkins of 4 Oaklands, Cradley offering his services as a tree warden. He had spoken to Mr James Bissett, Parish Projects Officer, of Hereford & Worcester County Council who informed him it was necessary to have Parish Council approval before his name could be placed on the waiting list. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mrs Carver, members unanimously agreed to grant their approval and it was further agreed the Clerk would write and thank Mr Jenkins for taking on the role. It was further agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Bissett confirming the approval of the Parish Council.

E.050 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on 2 meetings held on the 15th July and the 5th August when the following applications were considered:- MH96/0523 and MH96/0524

Aythens Cottage. Cradley No objection was raised to this application for the alteration of and extension to existing house. MH96/0831 Winthill. Grittlesend. Suckley No objection was raised to this application for the erection of a new stable yard and barn. MH96/0797 and MH96/0798 Lower Churchfields. Cradley Objection was raised to this application for the renovations and extension to the cottage on the grounds that the proposed development will detract from the character of this listed building which is possibly the last building of its type in the area which is at present essentially as it was built. The proposed extension was felt to be out of keeping with the character and the dormer window proposal would substantially alter the character. MH96/0878 The Old Post Office. Ridgeway Cross. Cradley No objection was raised to this application for the erection of a conservatory to the front elevation replacing the old verandah/conservatory.

MH96/0938 Birchtree Garage. Stoney Cross. Cradley Objection was raised to this application for a garage workshop extension on the grounds that: 1. The applicant should have applied for planning permission for the existing building. There was a smaller lean-to building on the site but it is believed that the 'existing building' occupies a much larger area. 2. Members are concerned over the road safety aspect. The proposed large new workshop appears to be double the working area which could lead to a much increased vehicular use of the site, creating hazardous conditions on an already dangerous stretch of road.

E.051 WEST MERCIA POLICE - ANNUAL POLICING PLAN A letter had been received from Divisional Commander S E Adams, Hereford Division, enclosing the Hereford Division Annual Policing Plan for the period 1st April 1996 to 31st March 1997 together with a schedule setting out which geographic command areas of the Division each Parish Council is within and which Inspector the Council should deal with to cover policing issues. Any queries the Council have regarding Policing Plan they should be directed to Inspector Owen at Hereford Police Station (Ext. 4709). To assist with the initial drafting of the Plan for next year, a questionnaire was enclosed requesting completion. On a proposal by Mr Hames, seconded by Mr Allfrey it was agreed the Clerk would photocopy the questionnaire and send a copy to all members for completion with the next minutes. The completed questionnaires would then be returned at the next meeting for analysis before being sent back to Inspector Owen. It was further agreed to send a copy of the questionnaire to Mr Fraser and ask him to complete it. Mr Spence reported that the video he took home to peruse was not very inspiring and showed there had been no change in road safety and speeding. Amongst other things he felt the Police had failed in responding promptly to 999 calls. Mr Spence also stated that in respect of Parish Wardens, there were 8 such schemes in operation in West Mercia but this did not include Cradley.

E.052 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - MILESTONES STATEMENT A letter had been received from Mr Andy Turner, Public Rights of Way Manager, enclosing a copy of Hereford and Worcester County Council's Milestone Statement which will guide rights of way management up to the year 2000. On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Cale it was agreed that Mr Hames would pass this Statement to the Chairman of the Footpaths Committee.

E.053 MHDC - DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY A letter had been received enclosing a housing strategy document concerning a Housing Needs Survey which had been conducted and circulated to nearly 12,500 households, the results of which will be analysed over the coming months. Mrs Fairfax agreed to peruse the document. E.054 MHDC - ANNUAL MEETING WITH TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Thursday 10th October 1996 at Priory Lodge Hall, Malvern at 7.00pm.

E.055 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - PARISH PRIDE COMPETITION Ms Skinner reported that Cradley had come second in the competition and were awarded a plaque together with a cheque for 300. Members thanked and congratulated Ms Skinner and the whole team involved in this achievement. It was agreed to display the plaque in the village shop and on a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers it was unanimously agreed that the prize money should be earmarked for future use on the village records project. A copy of the video of this year's competition was available and could be hired for a maximum of 14 days from the Parish Projects Officer Mr James Bissett at the County Council. It was agreed that an article concerning the presentation should be placed in the September newsletter.

E.056 CLARKE ROXBURGH - INSURANCE A letter had been received from Mr C Bannister giving further details of cover relating to insurance for the village halls. Members agreed the letter was indeterminate and it was further agreed the Clerk would write to him again asking for clear and precise definition of cover and asking that specific questions raised be answered.

E.057 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - WAY OUT NEWSLETTER A letter had been received from K R Oliver enclosing copies of the Way Out Newsletter requesting distribution among members.

E.058 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - AREA COMMITTEE MEETING Notification had been received of a meeting of the Malvern Hills Area Committee on Thursday 5th September 1996 at

7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council. E.059 MHDC - MALVERN THEATRE PLAYERS A letter had been received from C J Bassett requesting assistance in identifying accommodation to house their extensive wardrobe. This was noted.

E.060 CHARITY COMMISSION - NEW ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS A report on the new leaflet Charity Accounts - (Charities under the 10,000 Threshold) had been received and the contents noted.

E.061 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - SURVEY OF LOCAL FUNDING NEEDS A letter had been received from Miss Sarah Tulk, European Information Officer enclosing a questionnaire to determine funding requirements. It was agreed the Clerk would pass this to Mr Rogers for completion.

E.062 MHDC - FORESTRY COMMISSION Notification had been received that the Forestry Commission had been instructed by the Government to amend their consultation procedures. This was noted.

E.063 ZURICH MUNICIPAL - HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION A letter had been received enclosing leaflets on the Health and Safety Review. This was noted.

E.064 MHDC - HOUSING SCHEMES A letter had been received from Mr G King Housing Services Manager requesting assistance either directly or through publicity in identifying potential sites for further schemes. This was noted.

E.065 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - HEREFORDSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Monday the 16th September 1996 at a venue to be arranged.

E.066 TRACK LEADING TO CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL Mrs Carver expressed concern at the state of the track and the amount of cars using it for access to the village hall.

E.067 ST. KATHERINES Mrs Fairfax stated that the side of St. Katherines was very overgrown. Mr Hames reported that rubbish had appeared and that it needed digging out as the middle part is prone to flooding. Mr Allfrey agreed to follow this up.

E.068 RUBBISH IN CHOCKBURY LANE Mrs Hunt had been requested by Mrs Anne Barber to inform the Council that rubbish had appeared in Chockbury Lane. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Brian Page at the District Council to inform him.

E.069 OVERGROWN TREE AT FINCHERS CORNER Mrs Hunt further enquired as to who was responsible for trimming the tree behind the telephone box at Finchers Comer. Mrs Hunt stated the occupier of the house near the tree used to trim it but since his death late last year it had remained untrimmed. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the District Council to ascertain who is responsible.

E.070 MR ALWYN NIXON Mrs Lim reported that Mr Nixon would be leaving the District Council. It is not yet known who will replace him.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm.

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

10th September 1996 at 7.30 p.m.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th August 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.071 Midlands Electricity Board - Ref. Min. E.041 A letter had been received from Miss Beverley Hodgkins, Network Customer Services stating that it had been necessary to ask specific questions to establish whether a fault was external or internal as a charge would be made on an internal fault. It had also been necessary to establish whether the property was council or private. If the property was council owned the customer would be advised to contact the council emergency number and therefore would not incur any charges. This was noted. Confirmation had been received that the interconnector had been established. Some further cable laying had to be done and the Engineer responsible for the scheme had confirmed that all work will be completed by the end of October 1996. It was agreed to monitor the situation. A letter had been received from OFFER acknowledging receipt of the copy letter sent to MEB to which they will reply in due course. This was noted.

E.072 Sports Hall and Recreation Scheme - Ref. Min. E.047 A letter had been received from Mrs M Forsyth expressing her concern at the proposed sports hall and the effect it would have on the village. It was agreed the Clerk would write informing her that her comments had been noted. Mr Rogers reported that following a meeting of the Sub-committee held recently, arrangements had been made to prepare and distribute the questionnaire. Preparation to have the questionnaire printed was now in progress and it had been debated whether to post them to the 600 households in the villages or to deliver them personally. After discussion it was agreed to deliver them personally. Members of the 2 village hall committees together with members of the Sub-committee would deliver them and make arrangements to collect the completed questionnaires after 7-10 days to ensure as a high percentage of return as possible. It was anticipated they would be distributed in September and once collected and analysed, the views and opinions should be determined by mid-October. A suitable site had still not been identified and Mr Rogers reiterated that any site would be subject to approval and planning permission.

E.073 Overgrown Tree at Pinchers Comer - Ref. Min. E.069 A letter had been received from Mr M Schuster, Operations Manager of MHDC stating that the tree was the responsibility of the owner of the land it stands upon. It was further stated that if the land concerned was highway verge it was possibly the responsibility of Hereford and Worcester County Council. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the County Council to ascertain if they were responsible

E.074 Clarke Roxburgh - Ref. Min. E.056 A letter had been received from Mr C Bannister stating that it was difficult to define what public liability covers as each case was individual and depended on the circumstances. It was suggested that a list of specific questions are sent to him which he will reply to individually. It was confirmed that Storridge Village Hall was covered by the Cornhill Insurance only. Members agreed that the letter was still indeterminate and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Community Council and also to Mr Ian Clements of CALC and ask them for advice and information concerning village hall insurance. It was also suggested that the Parish Council might employ someone who is familiar with village hall insurance such as the Ecclesiastical. A letter had been received from Mr B C Kent, Secretary of Storridge Village Hall Management Committee expressing concern with regard to a point in the insurance schedule under exclusions relating to destruction or damage, and requested clarification on this matter. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Cornhill Insurance and ask them for clarification.

E.075 A4103 Ridgeway Hill - Ref. Min. E.045 In response to the request for consideration of cameras and/or rumble strips, a letter had been received from Mr J R Colyer, Team Leader - Special Projects at Hereford and Worcester County Council. It stated that national guidance on rumble strips is that they should not be used near dwellings due to noise nuisance which can be a problem up to several hundred metres away and therefore inappropriate at Ridgeway Hill. Furthermore 8 sites had already been identified for the use of detection cameras and until these sites had been operational for a while it was felt premature to consider additional sites for cameras This was noted. Mr Allfrey stated that he did not feel the report he had been sent recorded all the accidents that had occurred and hoped to gather as much information as possible of all known accidents, dates, times etc. to enable him to compile a dossier to take back to the police. It was agreed to ask for this information in the Newsletter. It had been established that the police analysed the speed of 100 cars to reach an average speed figure.

E.076 West Mercia Police - Ref. Min. E.051 Members returned their completed questionnaires for analysis and during the discussion it was recognised that there were many different views on the aspects of crime in the area. It was agreed to take an average figure and send the completed questionnaire together with the comments of the Parish Council to Inspector Owen at Hereford Police Station. Mr Fraser had expressed concern that the role of Neighbourhood Watch did not have the right profile. Members unanimously agreed to invite him to come and give a talk at the next A.G.M.

E.077 Herefordshire Area Committee Meeting - Ref. Min. E.065 Confirmation had been received that the venue of the meeting on Monday 16th September 1996 at 6.30 pm would be at the Shirehall.

E.078 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment.

(a) Clerk's salary for 3 Months 293.75

(b) Re-imbursment of Clerk's travelling expenses for 3 months 52.56

(c) Postage, photo-copying, stationery etc. for 6 months 57.91

E.079 REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S SALARY On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, It was unanimously agreed to arrange a meeting of the Chairman and ex-Chairmen to discuss this item.

QUESTION TIME The Chairman welcomed 3 members of the public. Mr Paul Hunt asked how the Planning Committee of the Parish Council reached their decisions on planning applications. Mr Clarke replied that the Planning Committee applied consistent criteria to planning applications, but District Council decisions sometimes over-ride Parish Council views. Mr John Rowe asked if the questionnaire for the proposed sports hall would be sent to all members of the household. Mr Rogers replied there would be 1 questionnaire to each household but the views of all members of the household were sought.

E.080 TRAVEL CONCESSIONS A telephone call had been received by the Clerk from Mrs Joyce Emmerson requesting information on travel concessions and asked if they were available in Cradley. The Chairman had telephoned MHDC and had ascertained that Malvern had travel concessions for men and women over 65 years in receipt of income support, housing benefit etc. The Parish Council had investigated this on a previous occasion when it had been costed out at £1200 per annum. Following a discussion and suggestions of investing in a dial-a-ride scheme, it was unanimously agreed to place this item on the Agenda next month for further discussion.

E.081 THE CROWN INN A copy letter had been received from Mr S Withers, Planning Enforcement Officer addressed to Mr D J Woodward as the last known owner of the Crown Inn and associated land. A recent site visit had determined that grass had become badly overgrown and building materials and equipment remained stored on the land. It had been requested that overgrown grass and weeds be cleared and the tidy storage of the remaining equipment. A period of 28 days had been given to complete the necessary work. This was noted.

E.082 DRY STONE WALL, NEW INN A letter had been received from Mr Peter Morgan expressing concern that the wall adjoining the west edge of his field, now defunct and on the public pathway leading from Westfields Lane, was in a state of dismantlement and requesting clarification as to whether the wall will be rebuilt as a dry stone wall. Following a discussion and on a proposal

by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mr Beard, members agreed to refer Mr Morgan's letter to the Planning Officer at MHDC and ask him to investigate the matter. Furthermore it was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Morgan confirming a copy of his letter had been passed to the Planning Officer.

E.083 CREDIT UNIONS IN RURAL AREAS Notification had been received of a seminar to be held on Friday 27th September 1996 at Wychavon Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs from 9.30am - 4.00pm.

E.084 MHDC - CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME MHDC - FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES It was agreed to pass the letters received concerning the Capital Grants Scheme and Funding Opportunities to Mr Rogers for perusal.

E.085 HEREFORDSHIRE HOME CHECK A letter had been received from Mr T Martin enclosing posters and newsletters outlining the services on the project with a request to pass the information to the elderly in the community. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Doctor's surgery and ask if they would display the literature. It was further agreed to place the information in the Newsletter.

E.086 STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL A letter had been received following a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee advising of the need for the exterior of the village hall to be redecorated. 3 quotations were requested and 2 were tendered. The committee had asked if the Parish Council would place the order to avoid VAT and also if the Parish Council would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost. On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers it was unanimously agreed to make a contribution of £400. It was further agreed the Clerk should place tile order for the work to be carried out and that Mr Beard would inform the Village Hall Management Committee of the decision.

E.087 MALVERN HILLS A 0 N B The Chairman had received an invitation to the official launch of a new Management Plan, a new logo and a new officer for the Malvern Hills A 0 N B. This would take place at 10.00 am on Tuesday 1st October 1996 in the library at Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury. It was anticipated that the Chairman would attend for part of the day.

E.088 WORKSHOP AT BIRCHTREE GARAGE Mr Clarke had been invited to have a look at the back of the property and the building work in progress. It was felt that it was a fairly substantial conservatory/garden room which was obscured by a pergola and which had reached wall plate level with the windows already installed but had no roof as yet. Members were concerned that there had been no planning application. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Planning Officer at MHDC and ask him to check his records and request he inspect the property.

E.089 STORRIDGE CHURCH WINDOW DECORATION Mr Beard asked on behalf of his wife if there were any volunteers to decorate a window in Storrige Church for the Harvest Festival.

E.090 MILESTONES IN CRADLEY Mr Allfrey reported that 1 of the 3 milestones in Cradley had been demolished and replaced or repaired by the County Council. This has left the other 2 looking shabby in comparison and he asked if the Parish Council could invite the County Council to look after these listed articles and paint them when necessary. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rogers it was agreed the Clerk would write to the County Council with this request.

E.091 INSTALLATION OF GATE AT END OF SHEPHERDS HEY LANE The Chairman reported that Mr Ian Thomas had contacted the County Council with regard to the installation of a kissing gate at the end of Shepherds Hey Lane. Owing to the poor health of his wife, she was unable to negotiate the stile which was in place. The County Council were prepared to provide the gate if the Parish Council would arrange for the installation. Permission would have to be sought from the owner of the land, and after discussion members agreed to place this item on the Agenda of the next footpaths meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.21pm.

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

Tuesday, 8th October 1996 at 7.30p.m.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.092 H & W County Council - Overgrown Tree at Finchers Comer - Ref. Min. E.073 A letter had been received from Mr M J Davies, Assistant Divisional Engineer stating that arrangements had been made to inspect the tree in order to identify ownership and once this had been established, further arrangements would be made for the tree to be pruned or request that the owner carries out the necessary work. This was noted. E.093 Malvern Hill District Council - The Crown Inn - Ref. Min. E.081 A telephone call had been received by the Clerk from Mr S Withers stating that the District Council had written to the owner of the property giving him a further 14 days from the 18th September 1996 to tidy the land. If he failed to comply with this request, the District Council would take action under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act. Mrs Hunt reported that the hedge had been cut and work to tidy the land had commenced.

E.094 Malvern Hills District Council - Birchtree Garage - Ref. Min. E.088 A letter had been received from Mr S Withers, Planning Enforcement Officer, stating that the conservatory which is in the process of being built at the rear of the property, required planning permission. The owner had been supplied with a set of application forms and would make his retrospective submission in due course. This was noted. E.095 H & W County Council - Milestones - Ref. Min.

E.090 A letter had been received from Mr N Wilkes on behalf of Mr Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer, stating that the County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Milestones, but such maintenance as to necessary take a low priority when the highway maintenance is extremely restricted. It had been suggested by the County Council that the Parish Council arrange to carry out the necessary repainting. Mr Beard kindly volunteered to carry out the repainting and members expressed their thanks for his offer. It was agreed the cost of the paint would be met by the Parish Council.

E.096 Proposed Sports Hall - Ref. Min. E.072 Mr Rogers reported that the Questionnaire was now ready for circulation. Members agreed that the completed Questionnaires should be collected personally after 10-14 days. If the volunteers were unable to collect them, a note would be left requesting the completed Questionnaires are left at specified points in the village. The Chairman reported that she had received a telephone call with an offer of land. Mr Rogers had spoken to the land owner and ascertained that the field in question was approximately 4.6 acres and adjoins the bottom end of Buryfields. The land was fairly level but the main problem would be access and therefore may not be viable.

E.097 A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref. Min. E.075 Mr Allfrey informed members that he was disappointed there had been no response from the Newsletter item asking for information on any accidents which had occurred on this stretch of road. It was agreed the Clerk would make another appeal in the Newsletter for information and ask that every future accident is reported to him. Miss Pilling reported that the 50 mph was missing from the sign at the bottom of Ridgeway Hill. It was agreed the Clerk would write to H & W County Council informing them and ask for it to be replaced.

E.098 PLANNING MATTERS The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 20th September when the following application was considered:- MH96/1090 Grove Court, Greenhill, Cradlev. Strong objection was raised to the conversion and extension of existing mobile dwelling to form a permanent dwelling.

E.099 PRECEPT FOR 1997/98. After considerable discussion and on a vote of 7 votes to 4 it was proposed by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, that the precept for 1997/98 should be £11,500.

E.100 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mrs Lim, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment.

(a) George Gregory (Steels) - Goal Posts set 294.93

E.101 FOOTPATHS A letter had been received from Mr Ian Thomas requesting the provision of a kissing gate in place of the stile at the end of Shepherd's Hey Lane. It had been confirmed that the County Council would supply the gate in kit form. Due to the bad state of repair of the present stile, members agreed to its removal and to have it replaced with a kissing gate which would benefit all parishioners. It was also agreed the Clerk would obtain 2 estimates for this work to be carried out, before the next meeting. It was further agreed the Clerk would advise Mr Thomas of the Parish Council's decision. Mr Allfrey suggested, as a cautionary measure, written authorisation should be obtained from the owner of the field before this work is carried out. At a recent footpath's meeting, Mr Hames expressed concern about the role of the Footpath Committee and asked if the Parish Council wanted to spend money clearing footpaths of rubbish. It was agreed to place this item on the Agenda at next month's meeting.

E.102 TRAVEL CONCESSIONS After considerable discussion members agreed it would not be viable to introduce travel concessions in the village. Mrs Fairfax suggested that members of the community should perhaps think about sharing lifts by offering to take friends when they go shopping. It was agreed to place this suggestion in the Newsletter.

E.103 MHDC - REPRESENTATION APPOINTMENT Information had been received from Colette Milner for the District Secretary that Mrs D Cale had been appointed to serve as the M H D C representative on Ancient Parish of Cradley Charity of Richard Hill and Others from May 1996 to May 2000. This was noted. E.104 MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL An invitation had been received from the Mayor's Office for the Mayor's Charity Ball at the Winter Gardens on Friday, 11th October 1996 at 7.30 pm.

E.105 Notification had been received of the following Meetings (a) Malvern Hills Joint Advisory Committee - The Council House, Avenue Road Malvern on Friday, 4th October 1996 at 10.00 am.

(b) H & W Community Council AGM - Bishop's Palace, Hartlebury, Worcs on Thursday 7th November 1996 at 6.30 pm.

E.106 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU A letter, together with a copy of the 1995/1996 Annual Report and Audited Accounts, had been received from Liz Pusey requesting a grant towards the cost of operating the Bureau during the current year. On a proposal by Ms Skinner, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, it was agreed to make a donation of 60.00.

E.107 WEST MERCIA POLICE CONSTABULARY A letter had been received from Mr Ian Payne enclosing a copy of an Association of Police Chief Officers Factsheet on policing. The intention of the Factsheet was to inform and stimulate public awareness about the challenges and changes in policing. This was noted.

E.108 VILLAGE HALLS At a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee, Ms Skinner had been asked if refurbishment of the Village Halls would still go ahead if plans for the proposed Sports Hall failed. Mr Rogers stated that as far as the Village Halls were concerned, plans were in progress and he had spoken to Richard East who confirmed expenditure was still allowable for the Village Halls. E.109 INSURANCE The Chairman reported that she had spoken to Mr Colin Bannister at Clarke Roxburgh who agreed to go through the policies with her or the Clerk when they come up for renewal in November to ascertain the exact cover required. He reiterated that it was very difficult to make clear exactly what is covered and any claim for negligence against the Parish Council would have to be proven.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.19pm

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

Tuesday 12th November 1996 at 7.30 p.m.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 1996 should be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.110 H & W County Council - A4103 Ridgeway Hill - Ref. Min. E.097 A letter had been received from Mr D E Jew, Traffic Manager, stating the request for repair and replacement of the missing 50 mph speed limit sign from the bottom of Ridgeway Hill had been passed to the Divisional Engineer's office at Malvern. This was noted.

E.111 Ian Thomas - Kissing Gate - Ref. Min. E.101 A letter had been received from Mr Thomas conveying his appreciation to the Council in response to his request for a kissing gate in place of the present stile at the end of Shepherd's Hey Lane, which was in a bad state of repair. He had requested the Council consider the installation of a second kissing gate further along the lane. and although members were sympathetic to his request, the Council were not in a position to grant the request for a second gate and pointed out that the Parish Council had to meet the cost of installation. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Thomas informing him of the Council's decision. Two estimates had been received to remove the stile and install the kissing gate, and after consideration members unanimously agreed to accept the estimate of Mr M Hayes at a cost of 40.00. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Perkins of Milt Farm for authorisation to carry out the work, and once this had been received the work would commence.

E.112 Clarke Roxburgh - Insurance - Ref. Min. E.109 Notification had been received from Colin Bannister that the insurance policies had been due for renewal on the 1st November 1996. He had obtained a quotation from the General Accident Insurance Company to combine the 3 policies together at an annual cost of £1044.00. After discussion members agreed to accept this quotation. Furthermore it was agreed consideration should be given to forming a sub-committee to investigate and look into the cover required.

E.113 Proposed Sports Hall - Ref. Min. E.096 Members expressed their thanks to Mr Rogers for all his work in the planning and preparation of the questionnaire, most of which had now been distributed. Mr Rogers had been approached with regard to land that may be suitable. The fairly level site was approximately 8 acres and situated on the outskirts of the village, adjoining the village boundary. Miss Pilling asked if it had an agricultural condition attached to it and it was agreed that this should be investigated.

Mr Rogers had received a letter from the Chairman of the Storridge Village Hall Management Committee stating that following a recent Management Committee meeting a list had been drawn up for projected improvements and updating work to the hall. Following a discussion, members agreed that architects need to be brought in to bring the plans up to a working standard and estimates should be obtained for the improvement and updating work. The Chairman had also asked if the Parish Council would meet the architects reasonable fees. It was agreed 3 architects should be approached and estimates obtained from them. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mrs Carver it was further agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and ex-Chairmen should meet to decide on a budget figure. Mrs Fairfax stated that she felt a letter should be written to the Chairman of the Capital Expenses Working Party at the District Council informing him that meetings were still taking place, suitable land was still being sought and the Council were awaiting the response to the questionnaires. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Chairman, and also inform him of the Storridge Village Hall proposals. It was agreed Mr Bullen would arrange a meeting with the Playing Fields Committee to draw up a contingency plan.

E.114 PLANNING MATTERS The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 11th October 1996 when the following applications were considered:- MH96/1220/1221 Lower Churchfields, Cradley. Strong objection was raised to the application for an extension and alterations to this listed building. MH96/1164/1165 Bank Cottage, Crumoton Hill, Stomdae. The Parish Council had great misgivings to the application for a new conservatory to replace the existing porch/conservatory.

E. 115 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that the following accounts should be passed for payment.

(a) Clarke Roxburgh - Village Halls Insurance 1044.00

(b) Zurich Municipal - Parish Council Insurance 153.75

(c) MHDC - Reprographic Charges 35.67

(d) Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau - Donation 60.00

E.116 FOOTPATHS Mr Hames reported that the County Council were trying to involve the Parish Council more in accepting responsibility for checking and maintaining footpaths. It had not been envisaged that the Footpaths Officers would be required to undertake a hands on role and in any event this was impractical on a day to day basis. Mr Hames asked for clarification as regards to maintenance, and if the Parish Council were prepared to meet the cost. The Chairman stated that the Footpaths Officers should liaise with the County Council concerning maintenance and upkeep. It was agreed that the Footpaths Committee would hold regular meetings throughout the year and asked to be made aware of any problems by land owners and walkers. It was further agreed to place this request in the Newsletter.

E.117 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING Members agreed the date of the Annual Open evening should be Tuesday, 22nd April 1997. The Chairman asked members for ideas for a speaker which would be discussed at the January meeting.

E.118 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH In view of the enormous amount of time Mr Fraser had given to the cause, it had been unanimously agreed to re-imburse him for mileage and telephone calls. Thanks were expressed by members for all his efforts.

E.119 MHDC - DRY STONE WALL A letter had been received from Mr Paul Jones, Conservation Officer, stating that the District Council will contact Mr Morgan direct to discuss the issue raised in his letter. This was noted.

E.120 ENERGY ADVICE CENTRE A press release had been received with details of the launch of a new Energy Advice Service available to residents and businesses. Their aim had been to offer advice to reduce fuel bills and save energy. This was noted.

E.121 HEREFORD AND WORCESTER CALC Notification had been received of a meeting of the Malvern Hills Area Committee on Thursday, 5th December 1996 at 7.30 pm to be held in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council. The Chairman felt the Parish Council should be represented and it was anticipated that she would attend together with Mr Allfrey and the Clerk. The Chairman drew members attention to an item in the Minutes of a meeting of the Malvern Hills Area Committee held on the 5th September 1996 which stated that Mr Mollison, the present representative of the A.O.N.B. had been elected in 1991 after all parishes in A.O.N.B had been invited to a meeting to appoint a representative. The Chairman had telephoned Mr David Hancock expressing her concern and was informed that if the Parish Council were not satisfied, they should write to him requesting information on how Mr Mollison came to be appointed and he would raise it at their next meeting. A letter had been received from Mr Hancock enclosing a copy of a letter sent to all Parish Councils in 1991 with notification of Mr Mollison's election and stating that at present there did not appear to be any formal written procedure for electing Parish Council representative, or for reviewing the position. Following a discussion, members agreed that an election for this representative had been long overdue and that Parish Councils need to have proper notification and an opportunity for voting. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Hancock expressing the Council's views.

E.122 PARSONS NOSE SIGN Mrs Carver reported that a sign for the Parsons Nose had appeared near the path leading to the dwelling. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Planning Officers of the County Council and the District Council to inform them.

E.123 WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY A letter had been received from Inspector Owen following the circulation of a copy of the Hereford Division Policing Plan 1996/97. For 1997/98, it

was felt appropriate to inform local Councils of the planning agenda for the next few months. Local Authorities had been surveyed for an indication of some of the priorities that need to be addressed and the results would be analysed in the Autumn. It had been anticipated that an early draft of the plan would be circulated during January 1997, subject to approval. This was noted. Mr Beard reported that he had noted police monitoring the speed of motorists along the Hereford to Worcester road.

E.124 VALERIE WHITTAKER The Chairman advised that a letter of thanks had been received from Valerie for the flowers presented to her on her 50th birthday. This was noted.

E.125 MILESTONES Members expressed their thanks to Mr Beard who generously donated the paint and his time to paint the milestones, and commented how nice they looked.

E.126 PARKING ON GRASS VERGE, BOSBURY ROAD The Chairman reported that she had received a visit from Mr Brigden who expressed concern that motorists were parking on the grass verge opposite the entrance to Hill View, Bosbury Road which resulted in cars projecting onto the road. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Highways department and ask if kerbstones could be installed at the site. Mr Allfrey asked if the terrier could be ascertained from the County Council as the boundary seemed to be moving.

E.127 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY BOARD Mr Hames asked what the plans were for replacing overhead cables. Mr Rogers replied that the Midlands Electricity Board had informed him they were reluctant to put in underground cables at the present time. Mr Allfrey expressed concern that a response had not yet been received from OFFER which they had promised following liaison with the MEB. It was agreed the Clerk would write to OFFER expressing the Parish Council's displeasure and requesting a prompt reply.

E.128 FIRST AID COURSE Mrs Lim reported that she had attended an excellent first aid course in Hereford. The free 1 day course, with certificate on completion, had been open to anyone over the age of 16 years. The organisers were willing to hold the course in the village, providing at least 12 people enrol. It was agreed to place this item in the Newsletter and ask if anyone was interested they should contact Mrs Lim. E.129 THE LEYS Mr Bullen had received an enquiry from a resident of the Leys asking if seats could be provided by the Parish Council on the area of grass at the Leys. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed the Clerk would write to Elgar Housing Association and ask if this would be possible.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

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

Tuesday, 14th January 1997 at 7.30p.m.

Present:- Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A Carver, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurie (Chairman), Mrs S M Urn, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G R Spence with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mr M R Allfrey, Mr R S Bullen, Mr M A E Clarke, and Mrs P A Fairfax.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

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

MATTERS ARISING E.129 Ian Thomas - Kissing Gate - Ref.Min.E.111 A letter had been received from Mr Thomas conveying his appreciation to the Council for their decision to install a kissing gate at Shepherd's Hey Lane but expressed disappointment that the Council could not grant his request for a second kissing gate to be installed a few metres further along the field.

E.130 Proposed Sports Hall - Ref. Min. E.113 Mr Rogers expressed his thanks to members and both Village Hall Management Committees for the sterling work carried out in distributing and collecting the questionnaires and stated that it had been a very successful operation. Ms Skinner reported that following several meetings of the Cradley Village Hall Management Committee they had now approached an architect, Mr Rod Robinson, who offered his advice for improvements to the hall and stated that because of the nature of the building the restoration work should be quite extensive. Mr Robinson had written to the District Council and proposed to give an update at the next Village Hall Management Committee on the 21st January 1997. Since the lease of Cradley Village Hall runs out in 2006, The Parish Council thought a new lease should be re-negotiated or the freehold purchased to ensure funding from the Malvern Millions. The order for the feasibility study will go through the Parish Council so V.A.T. will be recoverable. It was further agreed the Chairman would arrange a meeting of the ex-Chairmen to determine a budget figure. An update of the situation would be issued by Mr Robinson in the Newsletter. A letter had been received from Mr K Douglas, District Secretary, advising that the Parish Council's letter updating the Chairman of the Capital Expenses Working Party had been passed onto the Chief Officer, Technical Services who would be reporting to the Capital Expenditure Sub-Committee on the progress of Capital Grant Schemes in early February.

E.131 Annual Open Parish Meeting - Ref. Min. E.117 Several suggestions were made for a guest speaker at the meeting on Tuesday, 22nd April 1997 and it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Inspector Mayor of West Mercia Constabulary in the first instance.

E.132 Malvern Hills A.O.N.B. - Ref. Min. E.121 The Chairman reported that Mr Allfrey had attended a meeting on the 13th January 1997 and was awaiting feedback from him regarding Parish representation.

E.133 H & W County Council - Bosbury Road - Ref. Min. E.126 A letter had been received from Mr Davis, Divisional Engineer, together with a plan requesting the Parish Council indicate the precise location which had caused concern, to enable the matter to be investigated. It was agreed the Chairman would ask Mr Brigden to indicate the location on the plan.

E.134 First Aid Course - Ref. Min. E.128 Mrs Lim reported that she had had a good response from the Newsletter and thought she had now achieved a full class for the course which would be held at Home End Farm on Friday, 7th February 1997 from 8.30 am until 5.30 pm. Mrs Lim kindly offered to provide lunch in return for a donation to the Village Hall fund.

E.135 Elgar Housing Association - The Leys - Ref. Min. E.129 A letter had been received from Mr J Greenwood, Area Housing Officer requesting the name of the person who had asked for the seats so that they could be appropriately placed. Mr Rogers agreed to speak to the residents to obtain this information.

E.136 Midlands Electricity Board - Ref. Min. E.127 A letter had been received from Sonia Facey, Investigations Officer clarifying the procedure of the MEB when responding to telephone calls in the event of a power failure. OFFER had in the past received complaints from customers who had not been advised by MEB that a call out charge could be incurred and OFFER expected MEB to

advise customers of this liability and therefore some basic questions had been necessary. They did however expect such enquiries to be carried out by MEB in a polite and professional manner. This was noted.

E.137 H & W County Council - Parsons Nose Sign - Ref. Min. E.122 Notification had been received from Mr Davis stating that he had referred the matter to the Planning Officer, Mr S Withers, at Malvem Hills District Council. This was noted. A letter had been received from Mr Withers of Malvem Hills District Council advising that the matter would be investigated and he would notify the Council in due course. This was noted.

E.138 Neighbourhood Watch - Ref. Min. E.118 In recognition of the hard work and time Major Fraser had contributed as co-ordinator, it was agreed to review his expenses. On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed to send him a cheque for 60.00 for his expenses and those he had incurred previously, and express the Council's gratitude and appreciation for the splendid job he carries out. It was further agreed to ask Major Fraser to record all future expenses which would be reviewed annually.

E.139 PLANNING MATTERS The Chairman reported on 2 meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 15th November and the 16th December 1996 when the following applications were considered:- MH96/1530 Stonehouse Cottage. Ridgeway Cross. Cradley No objection was raised to the application for the construction of a steel framed portal building for use as a tractor/implement shed. MH96/96/1522 Orange Transmitter Site. Hill Farm. Rough Hill Wood. Storridge No objection was raised to the application for the erection of a VHP Radio Mast and Base Station. MH96/1333 Land adjacent to Orchard House. Cradley No objection was raised to the application for the erection of a new dwelling.

MH96/1334 Millbank Garage. Cradley No objection was raised to the application for a first floor extension to the existing commercial garage and change of use, with alterations to provide a car showroom. MH96/0797/98 Lower Churchfields. Cradley The Parish Council have requested accurate plans before it is prepared to consider the application.

E.140 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed the following accounts be passed for payment:

- (a) Major Fraser - Neighbourhood Watch Expenses 60.00
- (b) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee 16.00 - Hire of Hall -Parish Pride display
- (c) H & W CALC - Publications 23.00
- (d) MHDC - Hire of Extra Skip 76.38
- (e) Clerk's Salary for 3 months 350.00
- (f) Clerk's Travelling Expenses for 3 months 77.08
- (g) CALC - Audit and Accounts Course for Clerk 5.00
- (h) Mr Merrick-Grass Cutting at War Memorial 1995/96 27.00
- (i) Mr Hayes - Installation of kissing gate 40.00
- (j) G Pugh Builder - Re-painting Storridge Village Hall £998.75 (paid December 1996)

E.141 EXTENSION OF SPEED LIMIT - A4103 Due to the absence of Mr Clarke, it was agreed to place this item on next month's Agenda.

E.142 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING All but one of the matters outstanding had now been responded to.

QUESTION TIME The Chairman welcomed 2 members of the public. Mr P Hunt asked for clarification concerning the architects fees. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council would meet the cost of the Feasibility Study, however if the same architect was appointed to carry out the work, then the Feasibility Study costs would be rolled into the main fee. Mr J Rowe asked if a lay-by could be installed beside the telephone box on the Bosbury Road. The Chairman agreed to show him a plan of the Bosbury Road after the meeting to ascertain the precise location.

E.143 MHDC - MATERIALS AT WINTHILL A letter had been received from Mr S Withers, Planning Enforcement Officer advising that the District Council had asked a number of skip hire companies for estimates relating to the removal of the building materials on the land and was awaiting responses. This was noted.

E.144 MHDC - CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME A letter had been received from Mr R East, Quantity Surveyor stating that it would be acceptable to the District Council for the Parish Council to spend

the Capital Grant on works to update the existing playing fields if needed as a fallback position. Mr East requested that a development programme be provided showing a contractual commitment by 31st March 1998, before the end of January 1997. It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to Mr Bullen and Mrs Fairfax and ask them to follow it through.

E.145 STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE A letter had been received from Mr Hugh Bond on behalf of the Committee expressing their thanks to the Parish Council for the contribution of £400.00 towards the cost of re-painting the village hall. This was noted.

E.146 MHDC - HOUSING NEEDS STUDY A letter had been received from Mr G King, Housing Services Manager enclosing a copy of the summary of a recently completed Housing Needs Study for the Malvern Hills district. This was noted.

E.147 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - COMMUNITY CARE CHARTER It was agreed to pass this letter and form to Ms Skinner for completion.

E.148 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY A letter had been received from Mr P Robinson, Regional Engineer advising that the Midlands Region of the Environmental Agency had been in the process of updating the flooding survey for the Severn and Trent drainage catchments which had been last updated in 1990. The Environment Agency had asked that details be submitted of any watercourse flooding problems within the parish. Mr Hames stated that there had been the damming of the stream adjacent to Cradley Post Office but after discussion members felt it was not a serious problem and agreed not to pursue it.

E.149 MHDC - ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY A Draft Environmental Policy had been received from Mr F Seabright, Environmental Health Manager, and asked for the Council's comments. This was noted.

E.150 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY Notification had been received of a meeting in Hereford on Saturday, 18th January 1997. The Chairman agreed to ask Major Fraser if he would like to attend. A letter had been received from Mr I Payne, Clerk to the Authority, enclosing a Draft Policing Plan for 1997/98. It was agreed to copy and send the plan to Major Fraser for his perusal.

E.151 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION Notification had been received from Mrs J Harper, Manager of Waste Management, advising that the County Council is in the process of evaluating a range of options for the long term management of waste in the county and asked for the Parish Council's views or comments. This was noted.

E.152 HEREFORD 7 WORCESTER FIRE BRIGADE A letter had been received from Mr J Round. Sub Officer, together with a leaflet on Fire Safety and requesting that an article offering fire safety advice be placed in the Parish Magazine. This was noted.

E.153 CLARKE ROXBURGH A letter had been received from Mr C Bannister together with the New Business Combined Policy and Certificate of Employer's Liability from General Accident. It was agreed the sub-committee should have a meeting to discuss the policy.

E.154 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - PARISH PRIDE An update on the future of the Parish Pride Competition had been received from Mr J Bissett, Parish Projects Officer. The deadline for receipt of entries for the 1996/97 competition was Monday, 14th April 1997. Members agreed there was little time to organise a project for this competition and agreed to aim for the 1997/98 competition which will be launched in the Autumn 1997. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the letter to Mr Bullen.

E.155 Notification had been received of the following meetings: (a) H & W County Council - County Council Budget 1997/98, Thursday, 16th January 1997 and Thursday, 23rd January 1997 at County Hall, Worcester and Wednesday, 29th January 1997 at Shire Hall, Hereford. All meetings to start at 7.30 pm. (b) Ashtav - Traffic Calming, 18th January 1997, Upton-on-Severn. Exact time and location to be advised. (c) Ashtav - Challenge of the High Street, 22nd March 1997, Newent. Exact time and location to be advised. (d) Malvern Hills Joint Advisory Committee, 13th January 1997, 13th June 1997 and 7th November 1997 at The Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern. All meetings to start at 10 am. (e) MHDC - Deposit Guarantee Scheme Launch, Wednesday, 29th January 1997 at Priory Hall, Avenue Road, Malvern at 2.30 pm. (f) H & W County Council - Area Committee meeting on 3rd February 1997 at 6.30 pm. The venue to be arranged.

E.156 GRASS CUTTING AT WAR MEMORIAL A telephone call was received by the Clerk from Mr Merrick advising that the charge for cutting the grass would rise from 1.00 per cut to 1.30 per cut from April 1997. This was noted.

E.157 FORESTRY COMMISSION Notification had been received from M W Heslegrave, Conservator for Severn Wye and Avon of changes in the consultation procedure from 1st August 1997. Any new schemes other than those that contain thinning, will appear on a public register which can be inspected at the Forestry Authority office as well as at the County and District or Borough offices. This was noted.

E.158 GRASS VERGE AND POTHOLES The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from Mr Hugh Bond informing the Parish Council that the grass verge on the north side of the main A4103 at the junction with the B4219 to Malvern on either side of the entrance to 'Emberton' had been severely cut up due to the inside overtaking of vehicles which had resulted in a large number of potholes. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Highways Authority and ask them to inspect the verge and carry out the necessary repairs.

E.159 HEREFORDSHIRE & WORCESTER CALC A Circular had been received together with literature on Training for Local Council Clerks, CIPFA Order Form, Village Design Statement and Local Grants Programme. This was noted.

E.160 THE MILLENNIUM Mrs Carver asked if the Parish Council had any plans for the Millennium and if the item could be placed on next month's Agenda. This was agreed.

E.161 CIVIC SERVICE The Civic Service would be held on Sunday 11th May 1997. A preacher had yet to be decided.

E.162 ACCESS TRACK ACROSS LAND AT THE REAR OF THE FARLEYS The Chairman advised that she had received a letter from Mr S Ireland of The Farleys who asked for the Parish Council's help to ascertain information and evidence concerning the track in the field at the rear of The Parleys. He had enclosed a copy of a letter from the District Council advising that it was working towards an Enforcement Inquiry on 27th May 1997. After considerable discussion it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer at the District Council drawing attention to his earlier correspondence in respect of this matter and advise him that the Parish Council wish to be represented at the Inquiry. The Parish Council had earlier expressed concern over the apparent change of use, and to the Council's satisfaction an Enforcement Order had been made but had not appeared to have been followed through. It was further agreed the Clerk would look back through the old Minutes around 1971 for any relative information. Mrs Cale reported that the paving stones outside numbers 6 and 7 The Parleys had been damaged and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Highways Department and ask if they could be repaired. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

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

Tuesday 11th February 1997 at 7.00p.m.

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

Apologies: Mrs S M Lim. Before the commencement of the meeting, Mr Bond asked if a tape recorder could be used during the presentation of the Village Hall Improvements for reference purposes only. On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, this was agreed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Mr Rogers pointed out that V.A.T. on the feasibility study in item E.130 would be applicable but recoverable by the Parish Council. Mr Allfrey advised that the Area Meeting in item E.155 (f) was on the 24th February 1997. A cheque for 450.00 had been enclosed with the letter of thanks in item E145 from Storridge Village Hall, being their share of the re-painting work. Subject to these amendments it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 1997 should be confirmed and signed.

VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS Mr Hewitt, Architect for Storridge Village Hall gave a brief resume regarding the present problems of the hall including lack of insulation and storage space together with inadequate toilet and kitchen facilities. It was proposed to build a new extension to incorporate male, female and disabled toilets and to provide an extra function room. The entrance hall would be reorganised with a new lobby and the kitchen would be extended off the lobby. A small stair case would be built for access to a loft room in the roof space which, although not fully fitted, would be adequate for storage. The land at the back of the car park would be opened up as a courtyard garden for the use of events or for playgroups, and the car park would be properly marked out with spaces for up to 20 cars including a disabled car parking space. The cost of the project inclusive of professional fees and building works would total £80,000 excluding V.A.T. with a breakdown of £55,000 from the Malvern Millions, £14,000 from the Development Commission, £7,000 from a local charitable trust and a possible landscaping grant of £3,000 from the County Council. The balance would be found by the Village Hall Management Committee. If the project goes ahead it is anticipated the work could be completed by the end of November 1997.

Mr Robinson, Architect for Cradley Village Hall presented a feasibility study to upgrade the building and facilities to the hall. In his initial report a number of problems were encountered with the main problem being very little space. There was some concern over the stability of the wall and he felt a thorough investigation of the building should be carried out initially which would reveal the extent of any problems and would cost £6-7,000. He believed there were 2 options open, the first being to improve the kitchen, toilets, lighting and heating facilities with certain repairs being inevitable. The cost for alteration and refurbishment would total £78,000 including V.A.T. £50,000 of this figure was expected to come from the Malvern Millions, and various sources of grant aid might be tapped. The second option was to look at the whole hall to include improvements and conservation which would put the hall out of action for some considerable time but would last up to 100 years provided it was maintained. The building and conservation work would total £231,000 including V.A.T. Mr Robinson pointed out that as the lease would run out in 2006 it was imperative to either negotiate a longer lease or consider buying the freehold to ensure funding from the Malvern Millions.

QUESTION TIME Mr Draper advised members that Storridge Village Hall Management Committee were working to schedule and asked for their £55,000 share of the grant. The Chairman informed him that the grant is given by the District Council and the Parish Council could not advance this sum. However the Parish Council agreed to give its support for it. Mr Allfrey asked Mr Draper if there was any possibility of acquiring extra land as an overflow car park. Mr Draper replied that there was a possibility of obtaining extra ground but felt the new markings would be satisfactory for the immediate future. Mr Hewitt and Mr Robinson then answered questions from

members and parishioners present, and were thanked by the Chairman for their attendance and for presenting the projects so comprehensively.

After considerable discussion Mr Clarke expressed concern over 2 points:

1) When the plans were put forward, the District Council would see a considerable change from the initial plans for major sports facilities and that more had been spent on the 2 village halls and less on the sports facilities.

2) Cradley Village Hall wanted to spend 6-£7,000 on a feasibility study to investigate the extent of the work to be carried out. Mr Clarke pointed out that if the scheme did not go ahead the Parish Council would be left to foot the bill.

Mr Clarke reminded members that some time ago enquiries were made with regard to buying the freehold of the village hall and the Diocese had been willing to discuss in principle the sale at a price of £60,000. Mr Clarke suggested the Parish Council negotiates a new 99 year lease or an extension of the current lease by 70 years and stated he had formally written to the Diocese in this respect. The Chairman thanked him for his expertise on behalf of the Parish Council. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Allfrey, it was agreed Mr Clarke would arrange a meeting with the Diocese and 2 representatives from both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee. After discussion it was also agreed the Chairman and Mr Clarke would represent the Parish Council and Ms Skinner would arrange representation of 2 members for the Village Hall Management Committee.

Mr P Hunt asked how Mr Robinson could proceed in the light of the decision made and expressed concern that any delay could jeopardise the project. The Chairman replied that she had sympathy for Cradley Village Hall Committee but was mindful of the Parish Council's financial commitment. Mr Rogers reported that following a meeting of the Halls and Playing Field Committee it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the Parish Council look at a more modest scheme with acquisition of land for a football pitch/cricket pitch and a new pavilion which could be extended in the future if required. With an eligible grant of 75% the overall allocation amounted to £225,000 leaving a balance of £120,000 for the playing field scheme. Mr Rogers advised that the District Council would require positive information at their next meeting on February 19th 1997.

Mrs W Hunt asked if the Planning Permission granted for the work which was in progress at Orchard House included uprooting the hedgerow from the land and which had continued down to the post office. It was agreed the Clerk would inform the Tree Officer at the District Council.

MATTERS ARISING

E.162 Annual Open Parish Meeting - Ref.Min.E.131 The Clerk had received a telephone call from Sgt M Mullinger advising that Inspector Mayor was unable to address the meeting and local beat officer P.C. Alan Dixon would attend instead. Members were unhappy with this and it was agreed the Clerk should contact West Mercia Police Authority to advise them that the Parish Council want either Inspector Mayor or a senior officer to address the meeting and were willing to change the date of the meeting to accommodate the authority. Mr Allfrey agreed to make enquiries at the County Council regarding the recent meetings of the authority.

E.163 Malvern Hills A.O.N.B. Ref.Min.E.132 A letter had been received from Mr David Hancock advising that following a recent meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee it was agreed that all Parish Councils within the AONB should be contacted with respect to their representation on that committee and an awareness meeting of all Parish Councils was in the process of being arranged. All Parish Councils in the AONB had been invited to a meeting on the 9th April 1991 in order to facilitate the election of a representative onto the JAC. Mr Allfrey pointed out that he was not aware that a meeting had been called in his chairmanship.

E.164 H & W County Council - A4103 opposite Bosbury Road - Ref.Min.E.133 A letter had been received from Mr Davis, Divisional Engineer, advising that the area causing concern would be inspected to determine what measures were appropriate to deter any dangerous parking. The Chairman reported that she had spoken to the workmen inspecting the road and had raised the matter of the grass verge near the telephone kiosk. They agreed to inspect this area as well.

E.165 MHDC - Parson's Nose Sign - Ref.Min.E.137 A copy of a letter sent to Mr Dobson had been received informing him that the advertisement displayed at the entrance to the property requires consent and advised him to complete the necessary application forms. This was noted.

E.166 Neighbourhood Watch - Ref.Min.E.138 A letter of thanks had been received from Major A Fraser for the cheque sent to him by the Parish Council for expenses incurred during his work as Co-ordinator. Members agreed that Neighbourhood Watch expenses should be considered every 6 months.

E.167 MHDC - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.144 Mr Bullen had received a letter from Mr R East, Quantity Surveyor, asking for confirmation that the proposed upgrade to the existing playing field is intended to be treated as a fall back position should the main project not proceed, or whether it had been intended to proceed on this scheme as well, or instead of, the original proposal. Confirmation had also been required that the 25% match funding was in place for the project and whether fencing around the basket ball court was required. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Ms Skinner, it was agreed to allocate £50,000 to Storridge Village Hall. It was also agreed to pursue the modest scheme recommended by the Halls and Playing Field Sub-Committee and to have improvements of the existing playing field as a fall back position.

E.168 Access Track Across Land At The Farleys - Ref.Min.E.162 2 letters had been received from Mr S Withers, Planning Enforcement Officer at Malvern Hills District Council, the first requesting information in connection with the track and whether the Parish Council would be prepared for the information to be made into a Statutory Declaration which would have to be signed and witnessed by a solicitor for use at the forthcoming Inquiry. The second letter was in response to the Council's request for information of action taken in respect of the Planning Contravention Notice served on the owner in March 1996. The owner had appealed against this Notice and an Inquiry is scheduled for 17th June 1997 at the Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern. The Chairman informed members that a document dated 14th November 1974 had been discovered. It was agreed the Clerk would photocopy the document and send it to the Enforcement Officer. It was further agreed the Clerk would sign the Statutory Declaration. Mrs Hunt pointed out that a barn was built in 1987/88 and asked if the Clerk would look back to the old Minutes. This was agreed.

Notification had been received from Mr Davis, Divisional Engineer at H & W County Council that the footway outside 6 and 7 The Parleys would be inspected and any necessary repairs would be undertaken. This was noted.

E.169 The Leys - Ref.Min.E.135 Mr Rogers had spoken to Mrs Minovi about the location of the seats requested in the Leys but she had no knowledge of the request. It was therefore decided to leave things as they are for the present time.

E.170 Parish Pride - Ref.Min.154 Mrs Carver suggested opening up the stream by the Post Office for the Parish entry in the autumn.

E.171 Materials on Land at Winthill - Ref.Min.E.143 Miss Pilling asked if the Clerk would inform her as soon as there is any news concerning the removal of the materials at Winthill. This was agreed.

E.172 H & W County Council - Grass Verge and Potholes - Ref.Min.E.158 A letter had been received from Mr Davis, Divisional Engineer in response to the Council's concern at the condition of the verge and carriageway at the junction of the A4103 and the B4219 at Storridge. The area had been inspected and it had been considered that the most effective long term solution to the problem would be to install approximately 40 metres of kerbing which would be undertaken as soon as funds allow. In the meantime the potholes would be repaired and the area made safe. This was noted.

E.173 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Clarke reported on 2 meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 27th January and the 7th February 1997 when the following applications were considered. MH97/0012 Naumai. Malvern Road. Storridge It was unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the application for a workshop/storeroom for private use. MH96/0797 Lower Churchfields. Cradley The plans were returned to the District Council with a covering letter stating that the Parish Council were not satisfied that all the amendments listed had been shown on the plan and asked for complete and accurate plans. MH96/0938 Birchtree Garage. Stoney Cross A copy of a letter sent to Mr Bennett had been received reminding him of Conditions 3,4,5 and 6 of the Planning Permission approved on the 22nd October 1996. Mrs Fairfax reported that 2 applications before the East Herefordshire

Planning Committee on the 10th February 1997 for the extension and renovations to Lower Churchfields had been deferred.

E.174 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment.

(a) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee (Hire of Exhibition Boards) 10.00

(b) MHDC - Grass Cutting 493.50

(c) Audit Commission 78.96

E.175 THE MILLENNIUM Due to the lack of time it was agreed to place this item on next month's Agenda.

E.176 THE CROWN INN A letter had been received from Mr Withers, Enforcement Officer at MHDC advising that it appeared the work was continuing to implement the extant planning permission. He did not propose to take any further action and asked that the Parish Council contact him if the work should cease or the site remains untidy. This was noted.

E.177 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - CHANGES IN DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES Notification had been received from Gareth Randall, Divisional Engineer, that as of the 1st April 1997 Divisional boundaries will change so that Western Division based at Bath Street, Hereford will service all of the maintenance needs on the roads within the Herefordshire County. A meeting would be held before March 1997 to introduce the engineers responsible for the area. This was noted.

E.178 STONEPOUND BOOKS On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Allfrey, it was agreed to purchase 1 copy of the book 'How to Stop and Influence Planning Permission' at a cost of 10.50.

E.179 H&WCALC A letter had been received from Cerys Jones enclosing a copy letter from Hereford City Council asking the Parish Council to support the move to parish the City and pass a resolution. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Beard it was agreed to support the creation of a parish council for Hereford City.

E.180 GREENHILL The Chairman reported that Major Fraser had informed her that a group of men with lurcher dogs had been seen in the Greenhill area. When approached they claimed to be rabbiting but it was feared that they may have been digging out badgers. The police and the RSPCA had been informed.

E.181 THENUPEND Miss Pilling reported that the road side verge from the Nupend towards the main A4103 was overgrown with brambles making it extremely hazardous for motorists to see clearly. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Highways Authority and request they are cut back.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.47pm.

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

Tuesday, 11th March 1997 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Amendment: Min.E.167 - Capital Grants Scheme - The allocation to Storridge Village Hall should state £55,000 and not £50,000 and that it was agreed that Cradley Village Hall should be allocated the same amount. Subject to this amendment it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th February 1997 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.182 Village Hall Improvements A letter had been received from Hook Mason, Architects and Surveyors together with their invoice, a copy of which had been sent to Mr Richard East for the allocation of a code number. Mr East subsequently telephoned the Clerk and asked if the Parish Council wished him to pay 75% of the invoice now. In the ensuing discussion, this was agreed. A letter had been received from Mr Peter Draper stating that the Management Committee proposed approaching various charities and organisation for additional funding and asked if the Parish Council would write a letter stating that improvements to the hall would be beneficial. This was agreed. Mr Clarke reported that he had spoken to Mr Tom Jordan, Diocese Registrar, David Watkins, Valuer, Mr East of Malvem Hills District Council and the Rev. Michael Smith, Diocesan Schools Officer in respect of purchasing the freehold or extending the current lease. He had ascertained that the Parish Hall was in the control of the Rector and the Church Wardens of Cradley, known as the Trustees until 1953 when it was transferred from the Trustees to the Diocese who then leased it to the Parish Council. The Rev. Smith advised that when the property was vested in the Diocese absolutely it was placed into the schools portfolio sector and any rent received, or capital if sold, goes into the schools fund and is used for schools in the diocese. When the current lease expires in 2006 a new lease would be at a full market rent. When approached 3 years ago, the Diocese estimated the value of the property at £60,000 and their expressed interest in selling it has become stronger, but no recent valuation has been made. Mr Clarke pointed out that the Parish Council had spent a lot of money on the hall over the years and felt this might be taken into consideration when assessing a new valuation with a possibility of achieving a 25% discount. He felt that the purchase money might be obtainable from the Malvem Millions and in this respect spoke to Mr East and asked if there was any way the current funding could be increased if the Parish Council decided to buy the property. Mr East suggested either increasing the bid, stating that there had been an unforeseen problem, or money allocated for the playing field project could be transferred into the halls project. In any event the grant could not be obtained until the lease had been extended or the freehold purchased and Mr Clarke felt there was no point in pursuing an extension to the lease at a much higher rent. The first course of action should be to make an approach for more money from the Malvem Millions and it was agreed that Mr Rogers would approach the District Council in this respect. Mr Clarke also asked the Clerk for an account of the monies paid out to the Management Committee over the past 5 years.

Mrs Carver, on behalf of the Management Committee expressed heartfelt thanks to Mr Clarke for the enormous amount of time and professional expertise he had spent on establishing the facts and on the negotiations which were still taking place.

Mr Rogers expressed concern at diverting monies set aside for the development of the playing field to the village halls project. After the grant of £55,000 had been given to each village hall there would be only £115,000 left to purchase land, infrastructure etc. It had been suggested by Mr Sheringham that a separate grant should be sought to purchase the Village Hall which would be preferable to diverting money away from the playing field scheme. He also suggested an approach be made to the lottery fund. Mr Rogers advised that a piece of land had now been identified and he would have more news concerning this at the next meeting.

The Chairman drew members attention to the fact that Mr Richard East had been contacted by various people with regard to the projects and stated that there should be a firm policy that only Mr Rogers communicate with him. This was agreed.

In the ensuing discussion and on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed in principle that buying the freehold would be more practical and although there were 4 abstentions the majority were in favour. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mrs Cale, it was further agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and ex-Chairmen should meet to decide on an independent valuer to represent the Parish Council and this was carried by 6 votes with 2 abstentions.

E.183 H & W County Council - Land adjacent to Orchard House - Question Time A letter had been received from Mr Davies, Highways Department advising that the District Council would respond as soon as they were able. This was noted.

E.184 Annual Open Parish Meeting - Ref.Min.E.162 Confirmation had been received from Inspector Mayor to address the meeting on the 1st April 1997.

E.185 MHDC - Primrose Cottage - Ref.Min.E.168 A letter had been received from Mrs Elizabeth Jones, Planning Enforcement Officer, advising that the Inquiry into the Enforcement Appeal scheduled for 17th June 1997, had been postponed. The Parish Council would be informed of the revised date when known. This was noted. The barn, queried by Mrs E Hunt, had been located 30ft lower down the Orchard than had been shown on the plans. The Northern Area Planning Committee felt that the case did not justify the service of an Enforcement Officer.

E.186 Winthill - Materials on Land - Ref.Min.E.171 Notification had been received from Mrs Elizabeth Jones, Planning Enforcement Officer, stating that only one of the tenders put out had been received. The quote of 1700 would be considered at the main meeting. This was noted.

E.187 H & W County Council - Boundary Changes - Ref.Min.E.177 An invitation had been received from Mr Romanis to an "at home" meeting at Bath Street Offices, Hereford on Thursday, 6th March 1997 to introduce the officers responsible for highway maintenance matters. This was noted.

E.188 H & W County Council - The Nupend - Ref.Min.E.181 Notification had been received from Mr Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer, that the verges would be inspected and any necessary work carried out. This was noted. Miss Pilling reported that the work had now been carried out.

E.189 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 28th February 1997 when the following applications were considered: MH96/0797/8 Lower Churchfields, Cradley It was agreed to raise no objection to the application for alterations and extension to the property. The application for the extension to the side elevation had now been withdrawn. MH96/1164 Bank Cottage, Crumpton Hill, Storrige It was unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the application for a conservatory. MH97/0203 Millbank Garage, Cradley It was unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the application for a business sign. MH97/0205 Seven Stars Inn, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley It was unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the application for a first floor extension to provide domestic kitchen to living quarters.

E.190 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment.

(a)CPRE - Subscription	17.50
(b)MHDC - Reprographic Charges	36.92
(c)Clerk's Salary for 3 months	350.00
(d)Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months	54.75
(e)Administration Expenses for 6 months	47.52

E.191 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING - VOTE OF THANKS Two names were mentioned, Major Sandy Fraser and Captain John Rowe. Members agreed to approach Captain Rowe to resolve the matter of giving the vote of thanks.

E.192 CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE On behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Miss Pilling presented a report of a meeting held on the 28th February 1997 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

As no maintenance had been carried out on the clock since 1992 it was agreed that 3 estimates should be obtained by Cradley PCC who were recommended to submit to the Churchyard Committee a request for a contribution to the cost in future years. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Clarke it was unanimously agreed to accept the Committee's recommendations.

E.193 THE MILLENNIUM It was agreed to defer this item until a later date.

E.194 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTERNATIVE BUDGET A report of the Alternative Budget had been received from C G Holt, Conservative Group Spokesman of the Conservative Party. This was noted.

E.195 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - DOG FOULING A letter had been received from D F Leech, Environmental Health Manager, advising that the District Council were considering introducing Poop Scoop controls on land open to the air in which the public have access. This was noted.

E.196 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - ROAD SWEEPING SURVEY A questionnaire had been received from Robert Slater, Contract Manager, in respect of a survey to be carried out. It was agreed the Clerk would send the questionnaire to Mr and Mrs Shayler and ask them if they would kindly complete it.

E.197 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - CUSTOMER CHARTER A letter had been received from E D Gallagher, Chief Executive, together with a Customer Charter booklet which sets out the key operating principles and identifies the level of service expected to be achieved. This was noted.

E.198 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - BRIDLEWAY Notification had been received from J Jordan, Committee Services, advising that on the 30th January 1997 the Secretary of State for the Environment confirmed the Order with modifications. The Notice and Order were passed to Mr Hames.

E.199 AGE CONCERN - SITTER SERVICE A letter had been received from Elaine Brun, Assistant Organiser, advising that Volunteer Sitters were urgently needed in the area. It was agreed Miss Pilling would ask the Doctors Surgery and the Post Office to display the posters and it was further agreed the Clerk would announce the request in the Newsletter.

E.200 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 1997 Notification had been received from Terry Baker, Recycling and Special Projects Officer, that the Tidy Britain Group's Annual National Spring Clean will take place from the 18th to 27th April 1997. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Tidy Britain Group requesting the free dean-up kit and further information.

E.201 VOLUNTARY ACTION - CARER SUPPORT SCHEME A letter had been received from Noel Morgan, Carer Support Scheme Organiser, raising the awareness to the support scheme offered to carers of the ill and disabled at home. The group offered to provide a speaker or publicity material to interested organisations. This was noted.

E.202 ASHTAV - REGIONAL MEETING Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Saturday, 22nd March 1997 at the Memorial Hall, Newent commencing at 10 am. This was noted.

E.203 H & W CALC - MALVERN HILLS AREA COMMITTEE MEETING Notification had been received of a meeting of the Malvern Hills Area Committee on Thursday, 6th March at the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council at 7.30 pm. The Clerk attended and noted that 1) JAC would shortly be advising Parish Councils of the AONB Representation. 2) There was now only 1 Enforcement Officer for the district, following the departure of Simon Withers.

E.204 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - CIRCULAR

A Circular had been received with enclosures relating to Rural Services Survey, Rural England 1996, Millennium Greens Leaflet and Director's Circular 208 - Chairman's Allowances. This was noted.

E.205 DONATION REQUESTS Requests for donations towards their work had been received from: a) Herefordshire Dial b) Winged Fellowship c) Crimestoppers d) Relate Following a

discussion it was agreed the Clerk would ascertain the expenditure allocated for donations in 1996/97 and to place this item on next month's Agenda for consideration.

E.206 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAY BOUNDARY A letter had been received from Mr M Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer, with a plan outlining the boundaries at Stoney Cross. It was agreed to pass the letter to Mr Allfrey to deal with.

E.207 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - CHOCKBURY LANE The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Kevin Abrahams stating that he had received a request from Mrs Chester for the erection of a street sign in Chockbury Lane. In the ensuing debate it was agreed the Clerk would write to Mrs Chester and suggest she consults the other residents of the lane to establish the demand for a sign.

E.208 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY - DRAFT POLICING PLAN 1997/8 A letter and Draft Policing Plan for 1997/8 had been received from S E Adams, Divisional Commander, Hereford Division. Copies of the plan were circulated to members who agreed to consider it prior to Inspector Mayor's talk at the Annual Open Meeting next month.

E.209 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - SKIPS IN PARISH A letter had been received from David Billings, Administration Officer, advising that the District Council would provide a free skip for 1 week in the year. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Billings and request the skip for the last week in May.

E.210 PONTIC - CONCRETE IN ROAD Mr Rogers expressed concern that there were several lumps of hardened concrete at Pontic near its junction with the A4103 opposite Millbank Garage which could create a danger to motorists, especially when braking in wet weather. It was agreed the Clerk would notify the Highways Department.

E.211 SMITH'S CORNER Miss Pilling reported that a large pothole had appeared in the road by Smith's Comer at the junction of Hates End Road and Grittlesend. Mr Allfrey agreed to report the matter to the Highways Department.

E.212 BOSBURYROAD Miss Pilling expressed concern that the access from the bungalow adjacent to Mr Preston's property had not materialised despite this being a condition when the plans had been passed. It was agreed the Clerk would notify the Planning Enforcement Officer at the District Council.

E.213 WALL BUILDING NEAR FOOTPATH Mr Clarke reported that after the recent collapse of the wall by Mr Parry's property, re-building had taken place making it difficult to use the footpath. Mr Hames agreed to inspect the site.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.43pm.

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

Tuesday, 8th April 1997 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr M A E Clarke, Mrs P Fairfax, Mrs S Lim, Mr G Spence.

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 March 1997 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.214 MHDC - Land Adjacent to Orchard House - Ref.Min.E.183 A letter had been received from Mrs E Jones, Planning Enforcement Officer confirming that the removal of the hedgerow did not contravene planning regulations and therefore no action would be taken. This was noted.

E.215 Tidy Britain Group - Free Clean Up Kit - Ref.Min.E.200 The dean up kit and literature had been received and the contents noted.

E.216 H & W County Council - Highway Boundary A4103/C1140 Junction - Ref.Min.E.206 A letter had been received from Mr M Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer, stating that there appeared to be an encroachment onto the highway at the location and the landowner, Mr Bennett, had agreed to move his fence back so that it did not encroach on the highway. Furthermore Mr Bennett agreed to notify the County Council when the work had been carried out to enable an inspection to be made. This was noted.

E.217 MHDC - Skips in the Parish - Ref.Min.E.209 A letter had been received from Mr David Billings confirming that a skip would be provided on Monday, 2nd June 1997 for one week and would be situated at Buryfields. As in previous years it was agreed not to complete the Duty of Care Certificate. It was further agreed to announce the details in the Newsletter.

E.218 H & W County Council - Pontic -Ref.Min.E.210 Notification had been received from Mr M Davis, Assistant Divisional Engineer, that arrangements had been made to inspect the site and the hardened concrete removed if necessary. Mr Rogers pointed out that the concrete had not been removed and that a pothole had also appeared on the corner. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the County Council again and also request that the pothole be filled in.

E.219 MHDC - Bungalow Adjacent to Mr Preston's Property - Ref.Min.E.212 A letter had been received from Mrs E Jones, Planning Enforcement Officer advising that due to the high level of case load, correspondence involving a site visit may take longer than normal and that a further reply would be sent in due course. This was noted.

E.220 Wall Building Near Footpath - Ref.Min.E.213 Mr Hames reported that the County Council Footpaths Officer had inspected the site and would investigate the matter.

Mr Hames had reported to the Clerk that the hinges on the kissing gate recently installed at Shepherds Hey Lane had been placed in the wrong position. The Clerk subsequently contacted Mr Hayes who agreed to re-position them and report back when he had carried out the work.

E.221 PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 17th March 1997 when the following application was considered:

MH97/0276 The Stable, Kingsbridge Road, Cradley Objection was raised to an application for alterations and extension as it was felt there would be an over-development of the site and it was suggested that the application be referred to the Highways Department in view of the dangerous access.

E.222 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

(a) Hook Mason - Feasibility Study	1163.25
(b) MHDC - Reprographic Charges	32.49
(c) H & W Community Council - Membership	15.00
(d) MHDC - Planning Application Fee	360.00
(e) Rod Robinson Associates - Feasibility Study	1410.00

Following a discussion and on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed to pay the accounts of the MHDC Reprographic Charges and the H & W Community Council Membership Fee.

On a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Mr Bullen, it was unanimously agreed to pay the accounts of Hook Mason and Rod Robinson Associates on receipt of a copy of their respective feasibility studies.

On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that before payment was made the Clerk would contact Hook Mason to ascertain if the Planning Application fee induced the 50% reduction which applies to all Parish Councils.

E.223 VILLAGE HALLS FUNDING The Chairman informed members that there seemed to be a lack of clarity regarding the payment of the feasibility study and architects fees. It had previously been agreed that the Parish Council would initially stand the architects reasonable fees on the understanding that the fees would form part of the grants allocated, or would help with the fees if the projects did not materialise. It was proposed by Mr Beard that the feasibility study and architects fees for the projects should be met from the grants allocated and not come from precept funds. Mr Beard's proposal was then seconded by Miss Pilling and carried by 7 votes with 2 abstentions. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to both Village Hall Management Committees clarifying the position of the payment of fees and any future guidelines. In the ensuing discussion it was unanimously agreed that a separate bank account should be established for the projects with the usual 3 signatories of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk to sign cheques and to prime the account with the sum of £5,000.00 to facilitate the invoices. This sum would be transferred from the current account and be repaid at a later date. It was further agreed that a copy of all invoices submitted should be sent to Richard East of Malvem Hills District Council so that 75% of the cost, excluding VAT, can be claimed back and that cheques for payment of all invoices connected with the projects be drawn from the new bank account. The VAT would also be claimed back. Mr Rogers reported that Mr Jonathan Chilton, Valuer instructed by the Parish Council, had inspected Cradley Village Hall and outlined the details but had given no valuation as yet. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mr Hames, it was agreed that the Parish Council should formally instruct Mr Chilton to meet the Valuer for the Diocese Mr David Watkins with a view to enter into negotiations with regard to the purchase of the hall. In response to a question from Ms Skinner, Mr Rogers stated that as it was a repairing lease it was unclear if an allowance would be made for the ramp and other money spent on the hall over the years when considering the valuation. It was suggested a full structural survey be carried out prior to purchase; the Chairman advised members that the cost would have to be met by the Parish Council and no action was taken on this suggestion.

As Mr Robinson was unable to go much further with a more detailed feasibility study until structural investigations had been carried out on the building, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to seek the opinion of archaeologists. Mr Rogers agreed to approach Mr Malcolm Atkins of the County Council Archaeologist Department and Mr Richard Morris, from Hereford Archaeologist's Office to ascertain how much structural work needed to be carried out. There would be a fee charged by Mr Morris which would be agreed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council thanked Mr Rogers for all his efforts.

Mr Rogers reported that negotiations for the purchase of land for the sports field were still taking place, and in response to a query from Mr Hames agreed to look into the background of the property on the site. Mr Rogers advised members that he had been approached by the Chairman of Cradley Village Hall Management Committee who asked if a telephone could be installed at the hall and if the Parish Council would bear the costs. Members agreed it was an amenity which would benefit the community and unanimously agreed to pay the line installation cost only of 100.00 plus VAT.

QUESTION TIME In a response for ideas for the Millennium, Captain John Rowe suggested permanent floodlighting for both churches in the parish. This was noted.

E.224 DONATION REQUESTS A proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Miss Pilling, to donate 10.00 to Crimestoppers was passed and then rescinded to enable the Chairman to acquire more information on donations to charities for discussion next month.

- E.225 THE MILLENNIUM It was agreed to place this item on next month's Agenda.
- E.226 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS AND NURSERY VOUCHERS A letter and posters had been received from Dr E Oram, Assistant County Education Officer, advising that the Council had altered the arrangements for children starting school and that there was now only one date, 14th April 1997, which parents had to apply for school places in the school year that starts in September 1997. It was agreed to ask the Doctor's Surgery and the shop to display the posters.
- E.227 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL - MARTIN JONES' RETIREMENT Notification had been received announcing the intended retirement within the next 12 months of Chief Executive Martin Jones. This was noted.
- E.228 MALVERN HILLS AONB - AWARENESS MEETING Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15th April 1997 at Bronsil House, Eastnor at 7.30 pm. The Chairman, Mr Allfrey and Mr Hames agreed to attend.
- E.229 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY - RE-ORGANISATION A letter had been received from Inspector G Mayor outlining some of the changes that had taken place over the last year to form a Herefordshire Division of the West Mercia Constabulary. An enclosed map identified individual officers responsible for particular areas. This was noted.
- E.230 ELGAR HOUSING ASSOCIATION - HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY 1997 A letter had been received from Mr E R King, Research and Initiatives Manager, together with copies of 2 letters which would be sent to 400 households in East Herefordshire (Bromyard and Ledbury Areas) advising that a survey would be carried out on selected homes. It was agreed to inform parishioners of the impending letters in the Newsletter.
- E.231 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - 1997/98 COMMUNITY CARE CHARTER Leaflets had been received with a request to distribute them among the general public to help people access community care services. The leaflets were passed to Ms Skinner who offered to ask the Doctor's surgery and the shop to display them.
- E.232 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - BUDGET 1997/98 A letter together with a leaflet had been received from Chief Executive John Turnbull, which outlined the budget settlement and the dose of the consultation and information process for the year. This was noted.
- E.233 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - 1997 SURVEY OF RURAL SERVICES A letter had been received from Ian Clements enclosing a questionnaire from the Rural Development Commission. It was agreed the Clerk would complete and return the forms.
- E.234 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT Notification had been received of training days. It was agreed to pass the leaflet and details to Mr Clarke.
- E.235 H & W COUNTY COUNCIL - VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS A letter had been received from Mr Chamberlain, Administrative Officer advising that on 30th September 1997 all Minor Local Authority Representatives in Voluntary Aided and Special Agreement schools would end their term of office. On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Clarke, the current nominee, should be re- appointed.
- E.236 LIST OF COUNCILLORS Mr Hames suggested that a list of the names and addresses of the Councillors should be displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. This was agreed.
- E.237 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Mr Beard reported that a parishioner had enquired if the Neighbourhood Watch Report could be published in the Newsletter. Following a discussion it was felt the article written and submitted by Major Eraser was sufficient.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting dosed at 9.58 pm.