

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

Tuesday, 12th May 1998 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 Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Miss J Pilling with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mrs S M Lim, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (a) Chairman On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Puling, Mrs Hurle was unanimously re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. (b) Vice Chairman On a proposal by Mrs Cale, seconded by Mrs Hunt, Miss Pilling was unanimously re-elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. (c) Members to sign cheques On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mrs Cale, it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr Beard and the Clerk should be given the 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) Footpaths 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) Churchyards 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 Committee It was agreed that the following members should serve on the committee for the ensuing year: Mr Bullen, Mrs Fairfax, Mrs Lim, Ms Skinner, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (h) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, Ms Skinner was unanimously re-elected to represent the Council on this committee for the ensuing year. (i) Storrridge Village Hall Management Committee On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling, Mr Beard was unanimously re-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 re-election on a rotational basis and this year it was Mr Beard. This was noted and on a proposal by Mrs Cale, seconded by Miss Pilling, Mr Beard was unanimously re-elected for a further four year term.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th April 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.486 - War Memorial - Ref.Min.E.465 A letter had been received from Major Fraser confirming that the order for the plaque had been placed and that he had received a cheque for £200.00 from the Maclean family to cover the cost. A leaflet would be printed outlining the history of the memorial and members agreed, in principal, to meet these costs and the cost of the stonemason.

E.487 - Winthill - Ref.Min.E.466 Miss Puling reported that the materials had still not been cleared and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer to ascertain when the work would be carried out.

E.488 - Village Hall Improvements - Ref.Min.E.467 Confirmation had been received from Hook Mason that the cost of the structural survey would not exceed 600.00 plus VAT. Mrs Carver reported that the structural survey had now been carried out and the report would follow shortly.

E.489 - CALC - Ref.Min.E.478 A letter had been received from Denise Mason stating that if proposed legislation is passed by Central Government, minor local authorities would no longer have an automatic right to a seat on primary school governing bodies. This was noted and it was agreed

that the Clerk should write to Mr Peter Temple-Morris expressing the Council's displeasure at the new proposals.

E.490 - Herefordshire Council - Ref.Min.E.483 A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis of the Highways Department advising that the milestone would be inspected but because of a limited budget its re-painting would not be very high on its priority list. This was noted.

E.491 PLANNING MATTERS Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 12th May 1998 when the following applications were considered: - N98/0071/N As this was the Parish Council's own application for change of use from agricultural to play area at Buryfields, members felt they could not really comment but hoped that the new Council would look favourably on the application. N98/003 8/N Strong opposition was raised to the application for extension and alterations at Stick Cottage, Birchwood, Storrige. The Clerk was asked to write a covering letter expressing the Council's concern at the number of small cottages being extended in the area.

E.492 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Beard, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:

- (a) Storrige Village Hall Management Committee 42.50 (over-payment on invoice)
- (b) MHDC - Grass Cutting Chapel Lane 509.95

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from Mr Bond, Treasurer of Storrige Village Hall Management Committee indicating that an interim certificate for £27,079.10 would be submitted by Hook Mason shortly in respect of the first stage payment for the building works. Before a discussion took place, Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Storrige Village Hall. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Puling members agreed that the invoice should be paid subject to 75% of the total cost having first been received from Herefordshire Council. Mr Bond had also asked if members wished for grant monies received by the Management Committee to be forwarded to the Parish Council. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Beard, this was agreed and that the Clerk should write to Mr Bond accordingly.

E.493 PLAYING FIELDS PROJECT-FUNDING Mr Bullen reported that Mr John Stoddard had considered the estimates received and concluded that the estimate from Hereford and Worcester Contracting should be accepted. The costs for the groundwork had amounted to £21,000 and the costs for the equipment had amounted to £39,000 - both inclusive of VAT. The committee had raised £2,265 but a further £11,000 was required to meet the match funding. Following a discussion and on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Clarke, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should provide a short term loan for the short-fall to enable the scheme to progress. It was further agreed that the estimate for the ground work only should be accepted at this time and the works for the equipment would be discussed once additional funds became available.

The Clerk would write to Hereford and Worcester Contracting to place the order and to John Stoddard appointing him Clerk of Works.

The Chairman advised members that she had attended a meeting with Mr Langridge from the Countryside Commission in respect of a Site Preparation Grant for the Buryfields scheme. The appropriate forms had been forwarded to Mr Robinson. The Chairman agreed to contact Mr Langridge to ascertain if the funds available could also be used for the Chapel Lane scheme.

E.494 THE CHARTER GROUP A letter from the Clerk of Colwall Parish Council had been circulated to members prior to the discussion in respect of the Charter Group which had been set up to represent Herefordshire Parishes although many parishes were unaware of the group. A meeting had been arranged at Colwall Village Hall on Thursday, 14th May 1998 to discuss the issue and it was agreed the Clerk would attend.

E.495 CIVIC SERVICE Mr Allfrey advised members that the Civic Service would be held at Storrige Church on Sunday, 21st June 1998 at 10.30 am.

QUESTION TIME Concern had been expressed by a parishioner regarding heavy lorries breaking down on the A4103 and the inability of oncoming traffic to see them due to overhanging trees. It was agreed that the Clerk would notify the Highways Department and ask them to cut the trees back.

A member felt that many of the lorries were overloaded and that the law was not being implemented. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Police Authority and draw their attention to the problem.

E.496 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - FLOODING A letter had been received from Mr R Lee requesting a list of properties that suffered from actual internal flooding in April 1998. It was agreed to ask for the required information through the Newsletter.

E.497 NATIONAL VILLAGE OF THE YEAR An entry form had been received for the Village of the Year Competition. It was agreed to ask, through the Newsletter, if anyone was interested in completing the form.

E.498 JUNE ARMSTRONG The Chairman reported that Mrs Armstrong had asked if members knew of any venues available, preferable free of charge, where she could hold her monthly surgery. It was suggested that she should write to the 2 public houses in the village and the Chapel.

E.499 STREET SIGNS AND TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER A letter had been received from a parishioner asking if a street sign pointing to the church could be provided and expressing concern at the 'no parking' sign at the Glebe Land. It had also been suggested that the Council should reconsider its opposition to the telecommunication tower. Members agreed that the Clerk should write and inform the parishioner that the Council were not in favour of signs in the village and had no wish to see another telecommunication tower on the landscape.

E.500 OVERGROWN BRAMBLES Mrs Hunt reported that the brambles towards the Red Lion public house required cutting back and it was agreed that the Clerk should write and obtain an estimate from Mr Home for the work to be carried out in the Autumn.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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

Tuesday, 9th June 1998 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies:- Mr R S Bullen, Mrs D Cale, Mrs S Urn, Mr M J Rogers

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Storridge Village Hall.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Election of Officers and Committees for the Ensuing Year.

Ms Skinner advised members that she did not wish to be re-elected as the Parish Council representative on the Cradley Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed to defer the election of a new representative until the next meeting and Mrs Carver agreed to represent the Parish Council on this committee in the interim. Subject to this amendment it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th May 1998 be confirmed and signed.

Following a statement from Ms Skinner, Mr Clarke, through the Vice-chairman, proposed that a vote of confidence in the Chairman be taken. The proposal was seconded by Miss Pilling and carried by 7 votes with 2 abstentions. MATTERS ARISING

E.501 - Winthill - Ref.Min.E.487 Miss Pilling reported that the materials had now been cleared and the Clerk had written to the Enforcement Officer expressing the Council's appreciation and to ascertain the future plans for the field.

E.502 - Village Hall Improvements - Ref.Min.E.488 A letter had been received from Mr Paul Hunt together with a report of the structural survey recently carried out by Hook Mason at Cradley Village Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk should forward a copy of the report to Mr Rogers.

A letter had been received from Mr Bond, Treasurer of Storridge Village Hall Management Committee together with a cheque for 5,961.51 in respect of its 25% portion of the net total invoices from Hook Mason and Flanagans Contractors. A further letter had been received from Mr Bond together with a cheque for 4,135.11 in respect of the 25% portion of the net total of a further invoice from Flanagans Contractors. Mr Bond stated that following a recent meeting of the management committee it had been decided to maintain the present arrangement of meeting its 25% portion of invoices when submitted rather than transfer the grants received, to the Parish Council's Project Account. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the proposal made last month be reversed and arrangements altered to comply with the management committee's decision. Mr Allfrey and Mr Beard had declared an interest and did not vote. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mr Bond for clarification of the amount of time permitted for payment to the contractors. Confirmation had been received from Hereford and Worcester Contracting that the groundwork at Chapel Lane playing field would commence within 2 months and that the works agent was Mr Andrew Middlecote. This was noted.

A letter had been received from Mr John Stoddard confirming that he would act as Clerk of Works on the Playing Fields Project at Chapel Lane and that he would liaise with Mr Middlecote and Mr Bullen at all stages. In the ensuing discussion regarding Mr Stoddard fees, it was agreed that the payment should be a total figure of £500.00 gross, including work already done, or 2 ½ % of the final payment to the contractor (excluding play equipment) whichever was the lesser amount. A cheque for £2,260.00 had been received from Mr Bullen on behalf of the Playing Fields Committee to be placed into the Parish Council's Project Account towards the committee's match funding. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council expressed her appreciation to Mr Bullen for his personal efforts in raising the funds.

E.503 - The Charter Group - Ref.Min.E.494 The Chairman reported that she had attended a CALC meeting and had proposed that the spokesperson for Parish Councils in Herefordshire should continue to be CALC and not the Joint Charter Group. This proposal had been carried and CALC agreed to meet again to discuss the issue. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Armstrong and Mr Milne and urge them to support CALC in this matter.

E.504 - Councillor's Surgery - Ref.Min.E.498 A letter had been received from Mrs Armstrong together with a poster to advertise her surgery on Saturday, 27th June at Cradley Chapel. Mrs Fairfax agreed to ask the post office to display the poster. Mrs Armstrong also enclosed a copy letter she had written to Mr Bocock, Chief Executive at Malvern Hills District Council which requested that parking concessions be reinstated for people living in Herefordshire wards adjacent to Malvern. It was agreed that the Clerk should also write to Mr Bocock reiterating the points in Mrs Armstrong's letter.

E.505 - Church House. Cradley A letter had been received from Alan Hammerton, Senior Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the ancillary use of any structure within the curtilage of a dwelling can, under certain circumstances, be permitted development not requiring involvement of the Planning Department. This was noted.

E.506 PLANNING MATTERS

N98/0116/N Mr Clarke reported that a planning application had been received for the erection of a 1.2m satellite dish on a coal bunker at Crossways, Chockbury Lane, Cradley. Following a discussion with the planning committee, it was agreed to raise no objection to the application.

Mr Clarke further reported that the track at the rear of the Farleys had not been removed as ordered by the Planning Inspectorate and in this respect he had written to the Enforcement Department of Herefordshire Council. Mrs Carver asked if there were plans to build 35 houses in the village and if land would be given to the school if planning permission was granted. The Clerk had telephoned the Planning Department at Herefordshire Council who confirmed that no planning application had been received and if an application was received it would be extremely unlikely that it would be passed.

QUESTION TIME

In reply to a question as to why land may be given to the school, the Chairman stated that no approach had been made to the school regarding the provision of houses. Members agreed that when the local plan was produced it should be looked at carefully.

E.507 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:

- (a) Clerk's Salary for 3 months 544.50
- (b) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months 56.19
- (c) Clerk's Telephone Allowance for 3 months 25.00
- (d) Administration Costs for 3 months 39.24
- (e) Diocese of Hereford - Leasehold Rental Cradley V.Hall 52.00
- (f) Hook Mason - Structural Survey Cradley V.Hall 411.25
- (g) MHDC - Reprographic Charges for May 6.37
- (h) Hook Mason - Interim Fees 1175.00
- (i) Flanagans Contractors 19435.03
- (j) CVS Resource Centre - Photocopying 9.87

E.508 BURYFIELDS PROJECT

Mr Clarke reported that although preliminary enquiries were in hand, he could not proceed with the purchase of the land as planning consent had not yet been granted.

E.509 RURAL BUS SERVICES
A letter had been received from J Davies, Public Transport Officer of Herefordshire Council advising that a sum of 530,000.00 had been allocated to Herefordshire for the provision of local bus services. The letter was passed to Mrs Fairfax for perusal.

E.510 URBAN AMENITY GRASS CUTTING

A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor of Herefordshire Council stating that it was practice to offer a small financial contribution to Town and Parish Councils to assist them to carry out amenity works on the highway verges such as grass cutting or spot weed spraying and asked for expressions of interest. The allocation would be 200.00 and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Lewis to confirm the Council's interest.

E.511 EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE

Notification had been received from Michelle Davies, Legal Executive at Herefordshire Council, that the C1140 in Cradley would be closed to facilitate filming works near the highway by Whitehall Films Ltd. This was noted.

E.512 CONTROL OF DOGS

A letter had been received from Mr J Crippen, Environmental Health Manager at Herefordshire Council requesting information of areas of open land used by the public which are not controlled under the Fouling of Land Act. It was agreed that the Clerk should write and advise of the areas in question.

E.513 HEREFORD HOSPITALS

A short-term plan had been received from J Millar, Chief Executive of Hereford Hospitals outlining the intention to improve acute services for the residents of Herefordshire and surrounding areas. There would be a formal opportunity to question its Annual Report at the Annual Public Meeting at 2.00 pm on Monday, 21st September 1998 at the County Hospital. This was noted.

E.514 TREES

A letter had been received from Susan Cooper advising that she had not had a reply from the Tree Officer regarding tree lopping in Cradley. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a further letter to the officer.

E.515 MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL FUND

Details of the fund had been received from Natalia Silver, Cultural Services Manager at Herefordshire Council inviting applicants to apply for funding for projects to celebrate the year 2000. Copies of the letter were passed to Mrs Fairfax and Mrs Carver for their perusal.

E.516 FLY-TIPPING

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from a parishioner stating that rubbish had been tipped in the lay-by in Birchwood Lane, Storrige. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Highways Department.

E.517 CAR PARKING AT STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

It had been reported that a car had been parked across the footpath adjacent to the hall preventing the path from being used. It was thought that the car might belong to one of the workmen and therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Flanagans Contractors and ask if cars could be parked away from the footpath.

E.518 OAKLANDS, CRADLEY

Mrs Hunt reported that a blue plastic awning had been erected at the site of a proposed extension at a property at Oaklands, Cradley. As the Parish Council had recently opposed this application, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Officer and ask him to inspect the site.

E.519 OVERGROWN TREES

Miss Pilling reported that motorists turning onto the A4103 from Suckley were unable to see vehicles coming down the hill towards Birchtree Garage due to overgrown trees. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the Highways Department.

E.520 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL MEETING

Notification had been received of a joint meeting between Parish Councils and the Unitary Authority Members and Officers throughout Herefordshire on Wednesday, 24th June 1998 at The Shirehall, Hereford at 7.30 pm.

E.521 OVERGROWN HEDGE

Mrs Hunt asked if the Clerk would write to the occupier at 'Longford' and ask if the overgrown hedge could be trimmed back. This was agreed.

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

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

Tuesday, 14th July 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies:- Mr M R Allfrey

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no Declarations of Interest

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Min.E.519 Miss Pilling advised that the correct name is Suckley Road and not Bosbury Road.

Election of Officers Ms Skinner stated that the minute had given no indication of what she had said at the meeting and that she had asked the Clerk to minute a short statement which had not been done. For this item the Chairman vacated the chair to the Vice-Chairman and gave members copies other AGM report and of Ms Skinner's statement. In the ensuing discussion it was proposed by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Beard, that the minute should be left as the Clerk had written it and this was carried. Subject to these amendments the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th June 1998 were confirmed and signed by the Vice-chairman.

MATTERS ARISING E.522 –

Village Hall Improvements - Ref.Min.E.502 The Chairman reported that 2 cheques had been received from Mr Bond, Treasurer of Storridge Village Hall; 250.00 in respect of the 25% contribution of an invoice from Hook Mason, and 6344.34 in respect of the 25% contribution of an Interim Certificate from Flanagans Contractors Ltd.

Mr Bullen reported that the groundwork had now commenced at Chapel Lane Playing Field and asked if the Clerk would write to Mr Adrian Day to thank him for cutting the hedge around the field. This was agreed.

E.523 - Car Parking Permits. Malvern - Ref.Min.E.504

A letter had been received from Mr Brian Page, Director of Trading Service at MHDC stating that the concessionary parking scheme was specifically for residents of the new Malvern Hills District Council and that he could not accede to the request to extend the scheme to residents outside the district. This was noted.

E.524 - Church House. Cradley - Ref.Min.E.505

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Alan Hammerton, Senior Enforcement Officer at the Herefordshire Council to clarify whether planning permission would be required for a separate family to occupy an outside building of the property.

E.525 - Rural Bus Services - Ref.Min.E.509

Following a discussion about the service, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Tesco, Ledbury and Waitrose, Malvern to ask if they would consider running a return bus service from Cradley to their respective stores.

E.526 - Urban Grass Cutting - Ref.Min.E 510

A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that payment for verge maintenance works would shortly be processed. This was noted.

E.527 - Fly-tipping - Ref.MinE 516 The Clerk had received a telephone call from the Waste Management Department at Herefordshire Council confirming that the rubbish had now been cleared. This was noted.

E.528 - Oaklands - Ref.Min.E. 518 A letter had been received from Mrs P Campbell, Technical Assistant at Herefordshire Council stating that planning permission had been recommended subject to various conditions This was noted.

E.529 - Overgrown Trees - Ref.Min.E.519 It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Lewis at the Highways Department to confirm that the overgrown trees were obstructing the visibility of motorists leaving Suckley Road, and not Bosbury Road as previously stated.

E.530 - Overgrown Hedge - Longford - Ref.Min E 521 A letter had been received from Mr John Handley advising that he would give the matter his attention. Mrs Carver reported that the hedge had now been trimmed and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Handley to thank him for taking prompt action.

E.531 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Clarke reported that a letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Merrick who had expressed concern that approval had been given to demolish The Stable, Kingsbridge Road Cradley. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr and Mrs Merrick to advise of the planning criteria of the Parish Council and of the known unsafe condition of the property.

E.532 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:

(a) Cradley Village Mngt Ctee-Hire of Hall 44.00

(b) Flanagans Contractors – 3rd Interim Certificate £29,818.39

E.533 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION - CVH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised members that the Clerk had offered to represent the Parish Council on this committee and on a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, this was unanimously agreed. Mrs Carver reported that a sub-committee of 5 people would be set up to take the project forward and a meeting was due to be held on Wednesday 15th July.

E.534 BURYFIELDS PROJECT Mr Rogers reported that he had spoken to Kevin Bishop at Herefordshire Council and had ascertained that the Planning Application had still not been considered and may be dealt with under delegated powers. It was agreed that Mr Rogers would inform the Clerk when he had further information.

E.535 FUTURE STRUCTURE OF CALC

A letter had been received from Denise Mason, Parish Councils Officer at CALC together with a questionnaire asking members to consider the 3 options of how the Association should be structured. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to choose option B as follows: - One Association for the two counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire with an Executive Committee for each county; the Association would be governed by one joint Executive Committee and would have a financial implication of +5%. A meeting had been arranged for 28th July 1998 to establish a third Area Committee for ex-Malvern Hills District parishes at a venue to be arranged. Mr Spence and Mrs Fairfax expressed an interest in attending and it was agreed that the Clerk would inform them of further details when known.

E.536 HEREFORDSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A Project report had been received from Mr I M Slater, Head of Planning Services at Herefordshire Council setting out the legislative parameters for the plan and framework for the direction and control of development for the period 1996-2011. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Slater to ask why Cradley had been omitted from the map.

E.537 THE SLOWER SPEEDS INITIATIVE

A letter had been received from Paige Mitchell, Transport Campaigner for Herefordshire Friends of the Earth together with an invitation to endorse the campaign by way of a questionnaire. It was agreed to pass the questionnaire to Mr Hames for completion. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to P C Martin Hallam and remind him that he had agreed to attend a parish meeting and answer questions relating to speed of traffic in the area.

E.538 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The Chairman advised members that Wynnell Hunt had written an excellent summary of Cradley for the competition on behalf of the Parish Council and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to her and express the members' appreciation.

E 539 DETR

A letter had been received from Samantha Hargreaves together with a copy of the Good Practice Guide on managing the use of common land and providing possible practical solutions to problems to those who use it. A poster had also been received in respect of the Campaign Against the Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife. It was agreed that the poster should be displayed on the notice board.

E.540 MALVERN HILLS HOPPER

A letter had been received from David Hancock, A.O.N.B. Officer, advising of a new midi-bus service which would run on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 28th June until 31st August 1998 linking Malvern, British Camp, Ledbury and Eastnor. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Hancock to ask what provision had been made for residents in Cradley.

E541 TELEPHONE BOX - STORRIDGE

The Chairman reported that the telephone box at Storridge had been vandalised and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to British Telecom to ask for the equipment to be repaired and replaced.

E.542 FOOTPATHS

Mr Hames advised members that the County Council had a policy to signpost all footpaths in Cradley and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chief Footpath Officer and ask him to forestall any proposal to mark the footpath adjacent to the post office for security purposes.

E.543 THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

It was reported that the building work had not been completed by the Spring 1998 as indicated and was still in an untidy condition. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council and ask him to pursue enforcement action.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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

Tuesday, 11th August 1998at7.30p.m.

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

Apologies:- Mr R S Bullen, Mrs D Cale, Mr W Hames, Ms G Skinner and Mr M R Allfrey for late arrival.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no Declarations of Interest Before the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr Knight, representative of the North Cradley Residents' Association and Mrs Meg Rendle, Manager of Ledbury Age Concern. Mrs Rendle had kindly offered to give a brief talk regarding the services provided by the organisation which had now been extended to the Cradley area. Its aim was to help individuals and groups in rural areas where there was a lack of transport and a need for benefit and advice. Mrs Rendle explained that home visits could be arranged to discuss all aspects of care and members were asked if they felt there was a need for a day club in the village where people could meet socially for a meal and outings. Members welcomed the idea and it was agreed that the services provided by Age Concern should be published in the newsletter and Miss Pilling agreed to take leaflets and handbooks to the doctor's surgery. On behalf of members, the Chairman thanked Mrs Rendle for her attendance

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th July 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.544 - Village Hall Improvements - Ref.Min.E.522 The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from Mr Draper, Chairman of Storrige Village Hall Management Committee stating that the committee were unable to meet the necessary funding from its current resources to upgrade the existing car park as set out in the original tender and he had asked if the VAT recovered by the Council in relation to the Storrige Village Hall project could be used for this purpose.

In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain clarification from the VAT office before a decision could be made.

A cheque for £5040.20 had been received from Storrige Village Hall Management Committee for its 25% contribution in respect of the 4th Interim Certificate from Flanagan's Contractors Ltd.

E545 - Parish Council Representation - Ref.Min.E.533 The Chairman reported that the Clerk had attended the Cradley Village Hall Committee meeting on the 4th August 1998 but no arrangements had yet been made for a meeting of the sub- committee to take the project forward. The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Hames who advised that he had been approached by a parishioner who had suggested that the Parish Council arrange a meeting between the Diocese and the Cradley Village Hall Management Committee to discuss the purchase or lease of the village hall. Members agreed that any meetings should be arranged by the Village Hall's Sub-committee.

E.546 - Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan - Ref.Min.E.536 A letter had been received from R G Woodhead, Principal Strategic Planning Officer advising that the map was only intended to generally indicate the area of the plan and Cradley had not been deliberately excluded. This was noted.

E.547 - The Slower Speeds Initiative - Ref.Min.E.537 The Clerk had received a telephone call from P C Martin Hallam who agreed to address the September Parish Meeting and suggested that a member of the Traffic Management Department of the Herefordshire Council was also invited to attend. The Clerk reported that she had written to Andrew Lee-Jones in this respect and was awaiting his reply.

E.548 - Malvern Hills Hopper - Ref.Min.E.540 A letter had been received from David Hancock, Malvern Hills AONB Officer stating that the Hills Hopper could not usefully be extended to cover the Cradley area as the distances between Cradley, Malvern and Ledbury would probably not attract enough passengers. This was noted.

E.549 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Clarke reported on meetings held on the 14th July and the 11th August 1998 when the following applications were considered:

N98/0268/L No objection was raised to the proposed extension and replacement of flat roof with roof tiles at Traveller's Joy, Crumpton Hill, Storrige, N98/0267/N No objection was raised to the application for a proposed canopy and replacement windows at The Seven Stars, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley. N98/0225/N No objection was raised to the proposed first floor extension to provide ensuite facility at Goldfields, Tanhouse Lane, Cradley. N98/0228/N No objection was raised to the proposed extension to rear of property to provide dining area, additional bedroom and access to upper garden from 1st floor, and conversion of double garage space to laundry utility at Old Vinesend Farm, Vinesend Lane, Cradley. N98/03 5 6/N No objection was raised to the application to form a new laundry at Haywain Cottage, Whitewells Farm Cottages, Ridgeway Cross. N98/0764 Subject to confirmation from the Highways Department that it meets highways requirements, members agreed to raise no objection to the construction of a farm track and alterations to existing access at Acton Mill Lane, Suckley. N98/003 8/N Members carefully considered the amended plans for extensions and alterations to Stick Cottage, Birchwood but felt there was still an over development of the site and reiterated the original comments made on the 12th May 1998. N98/0310/N Strong objection was made to the application for an extension to form a Granny Annex at Riley Hill Farm, Greenhill.

E 550 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:

- (a) CALC - Subscription 185.42
- (b) Flanagans Contractors – 4th Interim Certificate 23,735.94

E.551 BURYFIELDS PROJECT

Mr Clarke reported that he had had a meeting with a representative of Elgar Housing Association who had agreed to recommend that an easement for safe access at the field is granted. The formal Planning Approval Notice had still not been received to enable the conveyancing to proceed and it was agreed the Clerk would telephone the Planning Department requesting the Notice as a matter of urgency and on receipt of the document to fax it to Mr Clarke. If the contracts were ready for signature before the next Parish Council meeting, members agreed to delegate the authority to the Chairman and Vice-chairman to sign the document on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mr Rogers, Mrs Fairfax and Mrs Lim would represent the Parish Council on the Management Committee of the North Cradley Residents' Association. The Chairman reported that she had been asked by Karen Humphries of the Community Council to sign a form on behalf of the Parish Council to agree, in principal, to transfer the land to the Millennium Green Trust in order to apply for a site preparation grant. Members discussed the attached conditions on which a grant was dependent, which also included a fresh valuation of the land by the Trust's valuer and disabled access requirements. Following a discussion members unanimously agreed not to pursue the possibility of the grant and that the Parish Council would retain ownership of the land as agreed.

QUESTION TIME

In a reply to a question from Mr Bond, Mr Allfrey confirmed that as a Trustee of Storrige Village Hall he declared a non-pecuniary interest in Storrige Village Hall before the commencement of the Parish Council meetings. Mr Beard confirmed that he did not declare an interest as his first priority was as Parish Councillor not as Village Hall Representative.

E552 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - PUBLIC UTILITIES

A letter had been received from S P Gent, Head of Client and Property Services requesting details of the availability of public utilities in Herefordshire. As it was not known how many properties were supplied with the information required, it was agreed that the questionnaire could not be completed.

E.553 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

A video of the Annual Report 1997/98 had been received from Ian Payne, Clerk to the Authority and members agreed that it should be passed to Major Fraser for his perusal.

E.554 MRECC

A letter had been received from R F O'Brien, Chairman of the Midlands Electricity Consumers' Committee (MRECC) advising that it had been set up as an independent body to represent the interests of consumers in the Midlands area. This was noted.

E 555 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - TRANSPORT POLICIES

A letter had been received from R J Ball, Lead Planner for Transportation together with the final version of the Herefordshire Transport Policies and Programme, and Hereford Package Bid 1999/2000 documents. This was noted.

E.556 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Notification had been received that Mrs D Cale had been nominated to represent the Charity of Richard Hill and Others. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr T Brown, Committee Manager (Personal) and inform him that the representation was for West Malvern catchment area and therefore should not involve Herefordshire Council.

E.557 JAMES MILNE

The Chairman reported that Mr Milne had delegated his duties to June Armstrong and Peter Harling during his lengthy absence abroad. As it was not known when Mr Milne would return, the Clerk was asked to write to Neil Pringle, Chief Executive of the Council expressing the members' displeasure and to send copies of the letter to James Milne, June Armstrong and Peter Harling. E.558

TELEPHONE BOX AT STORRIDGE

It was reported that the telephone had not yet been replaced and the Clerk was asked to write to British Telecom again stressing the urgency of the equipment.

E.559 HEREFORDSHIRE PLANNING

Miss Pilling asked if the Clerk could write an accompanying letter with controversial planning applications as it was felt that the Planning Department was not giving careful consideration to applications due to the excessive workload and members felt that there had been an increased use of delegated powers. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Officer requesting that only non-contentious applications be dealt with under delegated powers and that Local Councillors should be given a list of planning applications in their area that are likely to be given delegated powers. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to June Armstrong in this respect.

E.560 CHAPEL LANE

It was reported that water had been coming up through the road near the steps leading to Penshurst and the Clerk was instructed to write to Welsh Water advising them of this.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

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

Tuesday, 8th September 1998 at 7.30p.m.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Storridge Village Hall.

Before the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed P C Martin Hallam, Traffic Management Officer of West Mercia Police Authority and Mr Andrew Lee-Jones, Lead Engineer (Operations) of the Transportation Unit at Herefordshire Council who listened to the concerns of Councillors and parishioners regarding traffic problems in the parish. P C Hallam explained that the police were looking at ways to enforce the speed limit on the A4103 and the Bosbury Road and it was anticipated that a video car would soon be available for use in the area. Mr Lee-Jones said the Council would consider painting roundels on the surface of the Bosbury Road to highlight the speed limit to remind drivers to reduce their speed. P C Hallam made a note of parishioners' concerns and agreed to liaise with Mr Lee-Jones to try to come up with some solutions. The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council thanked P C Hallam and Mr Andrew Lee- Jones for their attendance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th August 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.561 - Representation on Outside Bodies - Richard Hill and Others - Ref.Min.E.556 A letter had been received from T Brown (Committee Manager) at Herefordshire Council requesting further information about the Charity. It was agreed that the Clerk would photocopy the Council's previous reply and return it to Mr Brown. E.562 - James Milne - Ref.Min.E.557 A letter had been received from Neil Pringle, Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council stating that specific rules governed the attendance of Members at meetings and which provide disqualification if a member failed to attend over a 6 month period. As Cllr. Mime had attended meetings in May and July this rule could not be applied. This was noted. . EJ63 - Telephone Box - Storridge - Ref.Min.E.558 ^t was reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call from British Telecom asking for the precise ocation of the booth and stated that the works would be added to their list.

E.564 PLANNING MATTERS

Due to the absence of Mr Clarke it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

E.565 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following -counts be passed for payment:

- (a) Clerk's Salary for 3 months 544.50
- (b) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months 29.70
- (c) Clerk's Telephone Allowance for 3 months 25.00
- (d) Administration Costs for 3 months 31.12
- (e) Ian Guest and Associates - Insurance Survey - SVH 75.00
- (f) Major A Fraser-Reimbursement of installation costs for memorial plaque 65.80

E.566 CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEMES

Mr Rogers reported that Planning Consent had now been received for the Buryfields project to enable Mr Clarke to proceed with the purchase of the land subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Formal consent from Elgar Housing Association for the Parish Council to retain the Right of Way.
- (b) An 8 foot high fence instead of the proposed 6 foot fence to be erected between the land to be purchased and the vendors' retained land.

(c) Clarification of access arrangements for the contractors to level the land prior to fencing.

Mr Bullen reported that the groundwork had been completed on the Chapel Lane Playing Field project. The invoice had not yet been received from the Contractors but on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers, members unanimously agreed to pay the invoice of 419.82 to Mr John Stoddard and to thank him for overseeing the work.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Bartle of Customs and Excise who had asked for an account of all monies paid out and received for the project to enable him to advise on the distribution of the VAT which had been claimed in relation to the works at Storridge Village Hall. Mr Allfrey thanked the Storridge Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work and involvement in the refurbishment of the hall, however, due to the committee's lack of funds the work on the car park could not be undertaken.

Members were reminded that VAT relating to the project had been claimed by the Parish Council and on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was unanimously agreed that a grant of £5,000 be given towards the cost of the car park subject to confirmation from Customs and Excise that the Parish Council can use the surplus monies as desired. Mr Beard paid special thanks to Mr Hugh Bond and Mr Peter Draper who had worked tirelessly to steer the project to completion, and Mr Draper on behalf of the Management Committee thanked the Parish Council for its support throughout.

E.567 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - CHURCH HOUSE

A letter had been received from Russell Price, Enforcement Officer advising that planning permission had not been approved for either the pavilion or its residential occupation, but as the building had been in place for in excess of 4 years, it was immune from enforcement action. However, the owners had been invited to submit a planning application for the residential use of the building. This was noted.

E.568 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - THE CROWN INN

A letter had been received from Russell Price, Enforcement Officer stating that following an inspection of the site he did not consider that any immediate enforcement action was necessary but had asked the owner to indicate when the works would be completed. This was noted.

E.569 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL-FOOTPATH SIGNPOST ADJACENT TO POST OFFICE

Notification had been received from Miss T Wildermoth, Area Rights of Way Officer, that a signpost was necessary as the public would not be aware of the footpath at that site. Members agreed to discuss the matter further when the signpost had been erected and further agreed that the Clerk should inform Cllr. Armstrong of the situation.

E.570 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - QUARTERLY BULLETIN

A letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Community Development Assistant together with an information bulletin which provided brief summaries of Committee decisions as well as information relating to ongoing and forthcoming items of interest. This was noted.

E.571 WAITROSE - BUS SERVICE

A letter had been received from P I C Robinson, Senior Development Manager (New Branches) advising that the company would investigate the possibility of a return bus service from Cradley to the proposed store in Malvern. This was noted.

E.572 MEB - QUALITY OF SUPPLY REPORT 1997/98

A report had been received from Gareth Holliday, Network Customer Services Manager, outlining the improvements the company had made during 1997/98. This was noted.

E.573 OFFER - COMPETITION IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

A letter had been received from Karen Wallace, Deputy Regional Manager advising that OFFER had produced some booklets which covered the choice of electricity suppliers. It was agreed that a set of booklets should be obtained and to inform parishioners, through the newsletter, that they would be available on loan from the Parish Council.

E.574 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL-STREET WORKS

A list of proposed street works for the County had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Community Development Assistant for information purposes. This was noted.

E.575 WYNNELL HUNT - ARCHIVES Members unanimously agreed to a request from Mrs Hunt to display items from the Parish Council's archives for an exhibition she was organising.

E.576 CALC - CIRCULAR The Chairman informed members that the CALC Circular contained important information and asked whether they would like their own copies instead of the Local Council Review. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed to order extra copies at a cost of 60p each per annum.

E.577 JUNE ARMSTRONG Cllr. Armstrong reminded members that she planned to hold a surgery at Cradley Chapel on Saturday, 26th September 1998 from 10.00 until 12.00 noon and she hoped to display any planning applications.

E.578 EILEEN VOCKINS The Chairman circulated a report to members from Mrs Vockins who had asked Members of the Council to support the work carried out by the Cradley, Mathon and Storrige Support Group. This was agreed.

E.579 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

A draft Equal Opportunities Policy had been received from Hilary Preedy, Policy Officer at Herefordshire Council, advising that she anticipated a series of focus groups/workshops would be run later in the year. This was noted.

E.580 WORCESTERSHIRE WAY

Notification had been received that from 1st April 1998 the responsibility of maintaining the Worcestershire Way through Cradley has been passed to Tim Green, Countryside Ranger, Herefordshire Council.

E.581 Notification had been received of the following meetings: a) Hereford Hospital - Annual Public Meeting on 21st September 1998 at 2.30 pm in the Lecture Room, Post Graduate Medical Centre, County Hospital, Hereford. b) East Herefordshire Area Committee - 14th September 1998 at 7.30 pm at the Market House, Ledbury.

E.582 BLOCKED GULLY The Chairman reported that the gully outside Storrige Church was blocked and it was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Highways department of the Council.

E.583 POTHOLES

It was reported that there were potholes in Chockbury Lane and in the road alongside Pixiefields. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Highways department of the Council.

E.5 84 HEREFORD - WORCESTER ROAD SIGN - A4103

The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways department again to ascertain when the missing sign would be replaced.

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

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

Tuesday, 13th October 1998 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 Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence with the Clerk in attendance. Mr W M J Hames arrived late and left the meeting early.

Apologies: Mr M J Rogers

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no Declarations of Interest

Before the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr Mike Eastwood, Footpaths Manager and Mr Jon White, Footpaths Warden from the Herefordshire Council. Mr White outlined the Parish Paths Partnership scheme which would give local people, through local councils, the resources and skills to enable them to improve the condition of their rights of way and keep them open and in use. Mr Eastwood explained that a parish grant of 50 per kilometre would be paid, up to a maximum of 1200 per annum to carry out the work, and the parish would be responsible for insurance cover. The scheme would run from one to three years, with the contract being renewed annually. Members raised several concerns regarding the scheme and it was agreed to place the item on next month's agenda for further discussion. The Chairman on behalf of members, thanked Mr Eastwood and Mr White for their attendance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th September 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.585 - Telephone Box at Storridge - Ref.Min.E.563 The Chairman informed members that the apparatus had now been replaced

E.586 - Gully/Potholes - Ref.Mm.E.582/E.583 A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor Herefordshire Council advising that the gully and potholes would be inspected. However, members pointed out that no works had been undertaken and the Clerk was asked to write a further letter to the Highways department

E.587 - Missing Sign A4103 - Ref.Min.E.584 Notification had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor Herefordshire Council that a replacement sign would be added to the department's list of works. This was noted.

E.588 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Committee held on the 8th September 1998 and 13th October 1998 when the following applications were considered:

N98/0503/N Members strongly opposed the application for the erection of a new farmworkers dwelling at Pitlock Farm, Cradley. N98/0499/N No objection was raised for a PVCu conservatory at the rear of Kings Orchard, Cradley. N98/0465/N Members reiterated their comments of the 30th March 1998 and opposed the formation of access road on the A4103 at Hope House Farm, Cradley.

N98/0476/N No objection was raised to the application for an all-weather riding surface for personal use at Mallins Croft, Storridge. N98/0567/N No objection was raised to the application for repair work to living room firegrate and northern gable wall at Lower Vinesend Farmhouse, Cradley.

N98/063 7/N No objection was raised to the application for a conversion and extension of outbuilding to form living accommodation as annexe to Bank Cottage, Coombe Lane, Cradley but members asked that the building be permanently tied to the existing house on the same site for use and ownership. Mrs Fairfax declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application and did not vote.

Members agreed that Cllr. June Armstrong should be provided with a copy of the Parish Council's comments before applications are considered at the East Herefordshire planning meetings. Cllr.

Armstrong agreed to investigate the grounds on which the application for a conversion at Ridgeway House, Cradley was approved.

E.589 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the following accounts be passed for payment:

- (a) Hook Mason - Professional Fees 3172.50
- (b) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee - Hire of Hall 3 months 36.00
- (c) Clarke Roxburgh Additional Premium SVH 56.64
- (d) Major A Fraser - Disbursements re War Memorial 11.15
- (e) Herefordshire Council - re Works at Chapel Lane £20,226.33
- (f) R D Carver - Photocopying 1 20

It was further agreed that the invoice for Herefordshire Council should be paid when the 75% contribution from Herefordshire Council had been received and that the invoice from R D Carver should be met from petty cash.

E.590 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chairman passed copies of the Annual Accounts to members for their approval before signing the accounts for audit purposes.

E.591 PRECEPT The Clerk distributed copies of the estimated expenditure for the year 1999/2000 for discussion next month.

E.592 CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME

Buryfields Mr Clarke reported that confirmation had been received from the vendors' solicitor that the contractors would be afforded access across their land. Final clarification was still awaited from Elgar Housing Association regarding the right of way.

Storrige Village Hall A cheque for 675.00 had been received from the Management Committee in respect of its 25% contribution of an invoice from Hook Mason A letter had been received from Mr A J Bartle advising that incorrect advice had been given regarding recovery of VAT and in recognition of this. Customs and Excise were prepared to allow full VAT recovery on invoices already claimed, however, all future invoices should be dealt with in accordance with Customs and Excise guidance. Once the Council had received a VAT refund, it became the Parish Council's own funds to use as they wish and as agreed last month a grant of 5,000 would be given towards the work on the car park. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Bartle and thank Customs and Excise for allowing this concession.

Chapel Lane Mr Bullen reported that the play equipment works had still to be started and would bring firm proposals to the next meeting to enable funding to be discussed. The Chairman read a letter from Mr John Stoddard who had offered to prepare a Play Equipment Contract and act as Clerk of Works. This was noted.

E.593 REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S SALARY

It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of the present and past Chairmen of the Council should meet to review the Clerk's salary and report to the next meeting.

E.594 TREES OPPOSITE STONEY VILLA

A letter had been received from Mr Forsyth regarding the trees opposite Stoney Villa which had been cut back. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Forsyth pointing out that the Council had a duty to ensure that hedges did not encroach onto the highway and any dispute between neighbours was not a matter that the Council could become involved in.

E.595 CONCESSIONARY FARES

Notification had been received from R J Ball, Lead Planner Herefordshire Council advising that a draft specification for a Countrywide Concessionary Fares Scheme had been approved. This was noted.

E.596 SIGN AT FINCHERS CORNES

The Chairman read a letter from a parishioner who had asked if a sign could be placed at Finchers Comer indicating the direction to the church. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Highways department enquiring if a rural-type sign could be erected at this site.

E.597 SIGN AT CHURCHFIELDS

A letter had been received from a parishioner asking if planning permission had been granted for the sign erected at the entrance of Churchfields Members agreed that the Council had no powers over the

matter as the sign had been erected on a private road and the Clerk was asked to inform the parishioner accordingly.

E.598 TRAFFIC FLOW REVERSAL - HEREFORD CITY CENTRE

A letter had been received from J R Colyer, Transportation Manager Herefordshire Council asking for members comments on the proposal to reinstate the traffic flows in the City centre Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Colyer expressing the Council's support for the proposal.

E.599 LOCALITY FORA

A letter had been received from Helen Byme, Locality Fora Coordinator outlining details of a project to decide what services needed to be provided in communities throughout Herefordshire. This was noted.

E.600 INFORMATION FOR PARISH COUNCILS

Notification had been received from Natalia Silver, Cultural Services Manager, Herefordshire Council of the following forums relating to Millennium funding which would take place at the Courtyard Centre for Arts, Hereford: 1) Wednesday, 21st October 1998 at 2.00-4.30pm 2) Thursday, 12th November 1998 at 7.00pm

E.601 MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION Information relating to Street Lighting, West Midlands Planning Aid and Community Projects Business Directory had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Community Development Assistant Herefordshire Council. This was noted.

E.602 Notification had been received of the following Annual General Meetings: (a) Hereford Hospital - Monday, 21st September 1998 at 2.30 at the Lecture Theatre, Post Graduate Medical Centre, Union Walk, Hereford. (b) Community Council - Thursday, 5th November 1998 at 5.00pm at the Hundred House Hotel, Great Witley, Worcestershire.

E.603 A notice for Street Trading had been received from G Richards, Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council. This was noted.

E.604 Mr and Mrs P Hunt attended the Village of the Year Presentations at Hereford Town Hall on Monday, 5th October 1998 on behalf of the Parish Council. The parish was awarded a large bag of bulbs which members agreed should be planted around the War Memorial.

The Chairman reported that Mrs Jo Rose had addressed a recent village meeting at Colwall and spoke about the production of a Village Design Statement. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Rose and invite her to address the Parish Council meeting in January 1999. Mrs Cale reported that she had been asked what the prize money, which had been won in last year's competition, would be used for. Members agreed that it should be spent on parish archives.

E.605 It was agreed that the Clerk should follow up the following matters on the pending list:

- a) E.126 - Terrier query
- b) E.414 - War Memorial/Curry's van
- c) E.501 - Future of field at Grittlesend
- d) E.437 - Litter Bins
- e) E.560 - Welsh Water

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.01 pm.

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

Tuesday 10th November 1998 at 7.30 p.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 Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs D Cale

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Storridge Village Hall.
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th October 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.606 - Potholes/Road Sign A4103 - Ref.Min.E.586/E.587. A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis Divisional Surveyor, Herefordshire Council advising that the potholes would be repaired soon and the replacement sign had been ordered and would be erected in the near future.

E.607 - Chapel Lane Ref.Min.E.605 (e). Mrs Fairfax advised members that no works had been carried out by Welsh Water and the Clerk was asked to write to the company again and to inform the Highways Department that damage was being caused to the road surface.

E.608 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Clarke reported on a meeting of the Committee held prior to the main meeting when the following applications were considered: N98/0310/N Members raised no objection to the application for an extension to form a granny annexe at Riley Hill Farm, Greenhill, Cradley. N98/0742/N No objection was raised for the erection of a double garage at Summerhayes, Bosbury Road, Cradley. Members agreed that the Clerk should furnish details of recent contentious planning applications to Cllr. June Armstrong. Mr Hames arrived at this point.

E.609 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

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

- (a) Clarke Roxburgh - Village Halls' Insurance 1000.00
- (b) Zurich Municipal - Parish Council Insurance 156.00

E.610 CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Bond, Treasurer of Storridge Village Hall expressing the committee's appreciation to the Parish Council for the grant towards the work on the car park. Mr Bond also enclosed 2 cheques for 118.12 and 18.75 respectively in respect of VAT on the committee's contribution on an invoice from Hook Mason and 25% contribution for the insurance valuation on the hall. Mr Bullen reported that the contractors had agreed to hold the existing quotation for a further 3 weeks for the play equipment at Chapel Lane Playing Field. It was agreed that Mr Stoddard would liaise with the Clerk to raise the order for installation next spring, and that the cost should not exceed £35,000 excluding VAT.

E.611 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL.

It was reported that the committee were negotiating with the Diocese to secure a 35 year lease on the hall and had requested that the quinquennial inspection be removed from the conditions of the lease.

E.612 PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME.

On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Beard, it was agreed with three abstentions not to participate in the scheme as it was felt that the annual grant given by Herefordshire Council would not cover the cost of maintaining the many footpaths in the parish.

E.613 PRECEPT 1999/2000.

On a proposal by Mr Bullen, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, it was agreed with two abstentions that the precept for the year 1999/2000 should be £15,000. It was further agreed that a sum would be set aside for a Millennium project.

E.614 REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S SALARY.

It was agreed that the Clerk's salary should be increased by 3% to £2,300.40 p.a. from 1st April 1998. It was further agreed that an annual contribution be made towards computer costs.

E.615 PARISH ARCHIVES.

An inventory had been received from Mrs Wynnell Hunt documenting the history of the Parish Council's archives. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Hunt expressing the members' appreciation for the time and effort involved in collating the material. It was agreed that Mrs Hunt would share with the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk the responsibility of the selection of material to be photocopied and that the Parish Council would meet the costs incurred. It was further agreed that the Clerk should place any deeds among the documents in the bank for safe keeping.

E.616 BUS ROUTE.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Midland Red Bus Company to ascertain why the bus route had changed and to obtain an update on services in the parish.

E.617 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU.

A letter had been received from the Manager, Liz Puzey, requesting a donation towards the cost of operating the Bureau. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Ms Skinner, it was unanimously agreed to give a donation of 70.00.

E.618 CALC CIRCULAR.

A Circular had been received together with the following enclosures:- DETR - Modernising Local Government, West Midlands Planning Aid, National Tree Week and NALC - Discretionary Rate Relief. This was noted. Notification had been received that the CALC AGM would be held on Saturday, 5th December 1998 at 10.00am at the Council House, Burcott Lane, Bromsgrove.

E.619 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

A letter had been received from Mark Warren Community Liaison Manager, Herefordshire Council detailing a scheme for grant awards to voluntary organisations in 1999/2000. It was agreed that details of the scheme should be placed in the newsletter.

E 620 OBSTRUCTION ON BRIDLEPATH.

A letter had been received from a parishioner who had expressed concern that part of a bridlepath in the parish was obstructed by a vehicle. It was reported that the problem may have been resolved and members agreed to monitor the situation.

E.621 SEAT AT WAR MEMORIAL.

It was reported that the seat at the War Memorial needed renovating and Mr Beard agreed to make enquiries before the next meeting.

E.622 SLOWER SPEEDS INITIATIVE

Mr Hames reported that he would be attending a conference in Hereford on Wednesday, 2nd December 1998.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

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

Tuesday, 12th January 1999 at 7.30 p.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 Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs D Cale, Mrs S Lim.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Planning Application No.N98/0802/0.

The Chairman introduced Ms Julie Preston, Chief Development Control Officer at Hereford Council who had kindly agreed to speak to Councillors regarding planning matters in the parish.

Ms Preston spoke of the role of the Planning department which handles over 3,000 applications a year and said that decisions were made at three levels - the Planning Committee, the Area Committee and officer delegation. Ms Preston explained that 70% of applications were dealt with by officers in accordance with policies set by Central Government and the Planning Committee.

The Area Committee dealt with applications that fell outside officer delegation including those which required member decision, and the Planning Committee dealt with major projects and applications referred from the Area Committee, in reply to a question, Ms Preston said that officers looked at all sites before considering applications and confirmed that the Local Plan, which had now been adopted, was significant in planning decisions.

Furthermore she said that the Parish Council should give as much information as possible when opposing applications as it was more familiar with the area than the Planning Committee.

Considerable discussion then took place when Ms Preston answered Councillors' questions and she agreed to investigate an approved application at which members had expressed concern.

In conclusion, the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Ms Preston for her attendance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November 1998 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.623 - Road Sign A4103 - Ref.Min.E.606 A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis Divisional Surveyor, Herefordshire Council advising that the direction sign would be erected within the next few days. This was noted.

E.624 - Chapel Lane - Ref.Min.E.607 The Clerk had ascertained that a retaining wall would be erected in the near future to halt any further slippage of the bank recently caused by a broken water main in the lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to OFWAT expressing members' displeasure at the length of time it had taken Welsh Water to arrange for repairs to be carried out.

E.625 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.610 The Chairman reported that the following orders had been placed for Chapel Lane Playing Field:

- a) Wicksteed - To supply and install play equipment - fixed price 31,371.00 excl. VAT Completion by mid-March 1999.
- b) Mr R Home - Groundworks - at a cost of 200.00 excl. VAT Completion before the end of January 1999.

It was agreed that Mr John Stoddard should be paid 2 ½ % of the final net total of the contractors' invoices for overseeing the works.

A letter had been received from Clarke Roxburgh requesting further information to enable them to assess the risks before advising on cover required.

E.626 - Bus Route - Ref.Min.E.616 A letter had been received from Mr J Davies stating that the bus route had been changed to ensure that all buses travelling to Worcester operated in the same direction between Finchers Comer and Buryfields to eliminate confusion as to which side of the road passengers should wait. Mr Davies also stated that the fare from Cradley to Worcester was a commercial fare set by the bus company without reference to the Council and the fare to Ledbury had been set by the Council to encourage use of the new service. This was noted. Mrs Fairfax

reported that she had attended a site meeting with Mr Roy Steele of the Transportation Unit, Herefordshire Council and the Police to decide on a suitable site for the new bus stop. They agreed that it should be installed halfway along Finchers Comer. This was noted. Mr Hames asked if the Clerk could write to Midland Red and ask if they were prepared to consider running the 417 bus service to Ledbury with a 1 Vi hour turnaround once per week to enable people to do their shopping. This was agreed.

E.627 - Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau - Ref.Min.E.617 A letter of thanks had been received from the Manager, Liz Pusey for the donation of 70.00 towards the cost of running the bureau. This was noted.

E.628 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Clarke reported on two planning meetings held on the 26th November and 16th December 1998 when the following applications were considered: N98/0829/N Subject to the Highways Department being satisfied with the visibility splay, no objection was raised to the application to form a new vehicular access and parking area at Stick Cottage, Birchwood, Storrige. N98/0834/N No objection was raised to the proposed filling in of hole with builders rubble and top soil on land at Shepherd's Cottage, Storrige. N98/0840/N Members felt that the plans submitted to bring into use lower and ground floor of former granary to form residential use of whole building at Winthill Farm, Cradley were unclear and inaccurate, and were therefore unable to comment on the application. N98/0873/N Members strongly opposed the application for a replacement dwelling at Stone House, Grittlesend, Cradley. N98/0784/L No objection was raised to the application to replace an existing conservatory at The Old Norrest, Birchwood, Storrige. N98/0794/N No objection was raised to the application for the erection of a detached dwelling in the garden of Rivendell, Westfields, Cradley. N98/0802/0 Members vigorously opposed the application for the demolition of garage and cottage and the construction of 8, 3 bedroomed semi-detached cottages, and 4, 3 bedroomed terraced cottages at Millbank Garage, Storrige. N98/0808/N Members raised no objection to the application to close existing access with hedging and construct new vehicular and pedestrian access at Ridgeway House, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley but reiterated their previous comments on an earlier application dated 11th November 1997.

E.629 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

(a) MHDC - Photographic Charges July/Sept/Oct	17.62
(b) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months	44.24
(c) Administration Charges for 3 months - postage, Nov Minutes	33.55
(d) CALC - Training Course for Chairman and Clerk	30.00
(e) W Hunt - Reimbursement of p/copying charges and folders for Parish Archives	50.63

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Hunt expressing the members' gratitude for the work undertaken in recording and copying specific parish documents.

E.630 INVESTMENT OF STOCKS

The Clerk reported that the investment of £500.00 in respect of 12 ½ % Exchequer Stock 1998 had been repaid and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain the necessary forms for re-investment.

E.631 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

E 632 OBSTRUCTION OF BRIDLEPATH

It had been reported that a number of vehicles were being parked in front of a bridle path access gate at Storrige causing an obstruction to people using the track. It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain further details regarding the path from the Footpaths Officer and then write to the owners of the vehicles and ask that they park in a more considerate manner.

E.633 MRS W HUNT - MI? LENNIUM

A letter had been received from Mrs Hunt suggesting ideas to celebrate the Millennium. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should be passed to Mrs Fairfax or Mrs Carver who have agreed to collate suggestions.

E.634 WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL – JAC MEETING

Notification had been received from Simon Lewis that the meeting scheduled for Friday, 15th January 1999 had been postponed until Friday, 12th March 1999 at 10.00 am at Malvern Hills District Council office. This was noted.

E 635 H & W COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY - FAIRER FUNDING

A letter had been received from Pastor D Short Chairman, to ask if the Parish Council would lend its support to the Authority's campaign for fairer funding. This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Authority to confirm that the Council had passed a resolution in support of the campaign and to send a copy of the letter to the local M.P.

E.636 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY - DRAFT PLAN

A letter had been received from Ian Payne, Clerk to the Authority advising that the draft Policing Plan 1999/2000 would be published on 18th January 1999. This was noted and members asked for 2 additional copies.

E.637 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

A letter had been received from Alan Blundell, Head of Policy and Communication advising that a draft Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy was being developed. This was noted.

E.638 LOCALITY FORA

Four questionnaires had been received from Helen Byrne, Locality Fora Project Co-ordinator asking for information concerning housing and health issues. These were passed to some members for completion.

E 639 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Information and booklets had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Community Development Assistant with regard to the Control of Dogs, Sub-Committee areas. Street Lighting, Highway Maintenance Plan and a Code of Conduct on Planning Matters. This was noted.

E.640 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - TAXI LICENSING

Notification had been received from J Colyer, Transportation Manager seeking the Council's views on the future taxi licensing arrangements in Herefordshire. Following a discussion members agreed that there should be one zone throughout Herefordshire allowing Hackney Carriage vehicles to operate throughout the County and the Clerk was asked to notify Mr Colyer accordingly.

E.641 HEREFORD HOSPITAL - PROPOSED CHANGES

A letter had been received from Sue Clarke, Chief Officer of the Community Health Council advising that a formal consultation document outlining possible changes to patient services had been produced and would be available from the information caravan which would be situated at various venues throughout the County. This was noted.

E.642 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Notification had been received of a public meeting to be held at Herefordshire Leisure Centre on 28th January 1999 from 6pm until 8pm to discuss the Wye Area Leap Consultation Report. This was noted.

E.643 POTHOLES

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Elgar Housing Associated and ask them to repair the potholes at Credenleigh.

E.644 MALVERN HILLS A.O.N.B.

Notification had been received from David Hancock advising that from 4th January 1999 the new address for the A.O.N.B, Office would be Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3EY. This was noted.

E.645 MEB SUB STATION

It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Board of the erection of a fence around the sub station blocking its access.

E.646 DITCHES

Miss Pilling asked if the Clerk could write to the Highways Department informing them of water on the highway which had turned to ice during the cold spell and ask that the ditches be cleared at Grittleend to Suckley. This was agreed.

E.647 STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Mr Clarke drew members attention to the coldness of the hall during meetings and the lack of an overhead light in the car park. Mr Beard said that the matter of the light was in hand.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

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

Tuesday, 9th February 1999 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr R S Bullen, Mrs P Fairfax, Mrs E A Hunt, 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 12th January 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.648 - Road Sign A4103 - Ref.Min.E.623 The Chairman reported that the sign had now been erected. This was noted.

E.649 - Chapel Lane - Ref.Min.E.624 A letter had been received from Clive Steri, Regional Manager at OFWAT in response to the Council's complaint and stated that he had written to the Director General of Water Services recommending that companies which do not deliver an adequate service should incur financial penalties. This was noted. It was reported that there was another water leak in Chapel Lane and the Clerk was asked to inform Welsh Water and OFFER.

E.650 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.625 A letter had been received from Mr John Stoddard advising that the site clearance work at Chapel Lane Playing Field had now been completed and a site meeting had taken place with the Construction Manager of Wicksteed to discuss the positions for the equipment. This was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Stoddard to confirm his fees of 21/2% of the final net total of the contractors' invoices.

Mr Rogers reported on the Buryfields scheme and advised members that Karen Humphries of the Community Council had asked to be kept informed of its progress. Mr Clarke stated that Elgar Housing Association was only prepared to grant a temporary easement for pedestrian access at present and that Herefordshire Council would not confirm the title until a permanent easement was in place. Mr Clarke had ascertained that a previously used document could be adapted for this purpose and had sent a draft of the document to Herefordshire Council and Elgar Housing Association for approval. Mr Beard arrived during the discussion.

E.651 - Bus Route - Ref.Min.E.626 A letter had been received from Mr J Davies, Public Transport Officer at Herefordshire Council advising that the service between Cradley and Ledbury was governed by the timings of the Cradley to Worcester route and therefore it was not possible to alter the Ledbury times without changing the Worcester service. However, the matter would be taken into consideration when the contracts were due for renewal and it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Davies when this would be.

E.652 - Obstruction of Bridlepath - Ref.Min.E.632 It was reported that the owner of the vehicles which had been parked near the bridleway had complied with Public Rights of Way regulations.

E.653 - Millennium - Ref.Min.E.633 Mrs Carver reported that an open meeting would take place on Monday, 1st March 1999. It was agreed that the item should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

E.654 - West Mercia Police Authority - Ref.Min.E.636 The Chairman reported that Major Fraser had made various comments on the Draft Plan and it was agreed that the Clerk should forward these to David Brierley, Clerk to the Authority.

E.655 - Ditches - Ref.Mm.E.646 A letter had been received together with literature from Roger Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that ditches were the responsibility of adjacent land owners. This was noted. Miss Pilling stated that the Highways Authority had always cleared ditches in the past and members agreed that the Clerk should inform Mr Lewis accordingly.

E.656 - Storridge Village Hall - Ref.Min.E.647 An apology had been received from Peter Draper on behalf of the Management Committee for the lack of overhead lighting in the car park and the hall being extremely cold during a recent Parish meeting. This was noted. It was reported that the light

had now been fitted and thanks were expressed to Mrs Valerie Allfrey who had kindly offered to turn on the heating prior to the Parish Council meetings.

E.657 PLANNING MATTERS The Clerk was asked to write to the Enforcement Officer to ask him to visit a property in the parish which was causing concern to members. N98/0802/0 The application for the demolition of garage and cottage, and the construction of 8, 3 bedroomed semi-detached cottages and 4, 3 bedroomed terraced cottages at Millbank Garage had now been withdrawn.

N98/0896/0 Further information had been received from Michelle Gallego regarding the CLEUD application for Church House, Cradley with a request for details on the history of the site. It was agreed the Clerk would advise the Planning Department accordingly.

E.658 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Clarke, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

(a) MHDC - Grass Cutting re: Chapel Lane -11 cuts 413.60

(b) Local Council Review - Subscription 8.99

(c) Major Fraser - Neighbourhood Watch Expenses 54.50

E.659 LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman reported that she had attended a course with the Clerk at Mathon Village Hall on 23rd January 1999 and it had been recommended that Parish Councils should have an up to date edition of Charles Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration. It was unanimously agreed that a copy of the book should be purchased from CALC at a cost of 33.50 with the invoice to follow.

E.660 INVESTMENT OF STOCKS On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed to purchase Treasury Stock at the purchase price of 500.00 plus 12.50 commission.

E.661 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

It was agreed that the 1999 Annual Open Meeting of the Council should be held on Tuesday, 27th April at Storridge Village Hall at 7.30 pm. It was further agreed that Sue Hubbard of the Hereford Record Office should be invited to give an illustrated talk on her work.

E.662 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

The Chairman reported that 2 cheques totalling 35.00 had been received from Currys for the damage caused to the verge around the War Memorial. Correspondence had been received regarding other matters pending which the Clerk would record on the pending list. Mr Clarke declared an interest in the discussion about the Crown Inn, Cradley.

E.663 CALC - AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A letter had been received from Mrs D Mason asking if the Parish Council would have any objection to the creation of an East Herefordshire Area Committee that comprised of parishes formerly in the Malvern Hills area. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to raise no objection. A further letter had been received from Mrs D Mason asking if the Parish Council had any objections to the recommendation that the Herefordshire County Committee would consist of five nominated representatives from each of the three Area Committees plus one representative from each of the five market towns with the power to co-opt additional members where certain expertise was required. The recommendation would be put to the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for 20th February 1999. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed to raise no objections.

E.664 MRS JOYCE RIBBINGS

The Chairman announced with regret that Mrs Joyce Bibbings had decided to retire as Trustee for the Charity of Richard Hill and Others. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mrs Bibbings thanking her for her contribution and dedication to the work of the charity over the past 30 years. On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that Dr Sarah Herriot should be approached to take over as Trustee.

E.665 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 1999/2000

A copy of the draft Service Delivery Plan had been received from Mr N Pringle, Chief Executive at Herefordshire Council. Any comments should be received by 26th March 1999 to enable the Plan to be published by the end of April. This was noted.

E.666 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - CONCESSIONARY FARES

Notification had been received from Mr J Davies, Public Transport Officer that on 1s January 1999 the Council introduced a concessionary travel scheme for the elderly and certain disabled people which would take the form of a half fare pass valid on all bus services in Herefordshire and most cross-boundary routes. The cost of the pass would be 5.00, valid for 12 months. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain some posters to display in the village.

E.667 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

A letter had been received from the Manager of the bureau asking when in the financial year the Parish Council preferred an application for a grant. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Council had no preference and the Clerk would advise the bureau accordingly.

E.668 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - SPEED CAMPAIGN

Notification had been received of a Kill Your Speed Campaign launched in January 1999 together with posters to be displayed on the notice boards. This was noted.

E.669 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY BUILDINGS GRANT

A letter had been received from Annie Brookes, Community Development Officer together with eligibility criteria for the Council's newly created Community Buildings Grant Schemes. It was agreed that the information should be passed to the Cradley Village Hall Sub-Committee.

E.670 POTHoles

It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways Department of the large potholes in Cowleigh Road and the condition of the road at the entrance to Cradley off the

A4103. E.671 DAVID HARRISON

The Chairman read a letter addressed to Mr Clarke from Mr David Harrison who was acting for Cradley Village Hall Management Committee and who had requested information about the Malvern Millions grant set aside for Cradley Village Hall. It was agreed that Mr Clarke should reply to the letter.

E.672 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk reported that Jon White, Footpaths Warden had asked for details of land owners in the parish. It was reported that it was in the process of being compiled and would be available soon.

E.673 CALC - EAST HEREFORDSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Notification had been received of a meeting to be held at Storridge Village Hall on 25th February 1999 at 7.30pm.

E.674 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A letter had been received from Diane Rayner, Chairman of Worcestershire Cultural Services Committee asking for comments regarding proposed cuts to Record Office Services. As this Council is no longer part of Worcestershire it was agreed that members could respond as individuals if they so wished.

E.675 CHURCHYARD GRANTS

The Chairman reminded members that it would be necessary to have a meeting of the sub-committee to decide on what level of grant should be paid to the three churches towards the cost of maintaining the churchyards during the past year. It was agreed that the meeting should take place at Scotsraig House, Storridge on Friday, 26th February 1999 at 6.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.34pm.

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

Tuesday, 24th February 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mr F A C Beard, Mr R Bullen, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A Carver, Mr M A E Clarke, Mrs P Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs S M Lim
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Hames declared an interest as a newly elected member of the Diocesan Board of Education. Before the commencement of the business meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and it was unanimously agreed to allow an allotted time during the meeting for the public to ask questions.

CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman reminded members that they had all been circulated with copies of letters from the Diocese outlining its proposals to negotiate a new lease; from Karen Humphries of the Community Council; and a copy of a report from the Village Hall Committee indicating its desire to explore the possibility of being the lead group to take the project forward. Mr Rogers reported that following a discussion with Mr Richard East of the District Council, the requirement for eligibility to enter into the Legal Agreement which should be signed by 31st March 1998 was that the Parish Council should either own the freehold property or have re-negotiated a long lease for community use for at least 21 years. However, Mrs Humphries' letter had suggested that the Legal Extension Agreement can be signed without having the Diocesan Lease for the Hall in place. It was agreed that further clarification on this point should be sought. Mrs Humphries had indicated that she had met with Mr East and he had suggested that if the Parish Council wished to withdraw from the scheme, the District Council would consider an application to transfer the Grant to the Charitable Village Hall Committee, which would depend on the Parish Council either buying the Hall and making a 'gift' of it, together with the responsibilities for it, to the Charity, or allowing the Charity to take over the longer lease with the Diocese, or to purchase the Hall independently using transferred grant monies. In the ensuing discussion, clarification was requested of the relationship between the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Trustees mentioned in the Lease. Mr Clarke replied that there were no Charitable Trustees in existence at present and that the Lease was held by the Parish Council. In view of the possible delay in setting up a new Trust, Ms Skinner advised members that it would be possible to secure the promised funding if the Legal Agreement was entered into by the Parish Council, and the liability of the Agreement then transferred to the new Trust. It was agreed to seek confirmation on this point from Mr East. Members agreed that an appraisal of the building would not be sufficient to detect any serious defects and that a full structural survey should be carried out to quantify the cost of potential repairs. It was further agreed that the new Trust should authorise the structural survey after obtaining permission from the Diocese, and to assume responsibility for the cost
QUESTION TIME In reply to a question as to who would negotiate with the Diocese to either lease or to buy the freehold of the Hall, the Chairman replied that it would be the duty of the new Trust. A parishioner asked if money was available to purchase the hall, and in reply Ms Skinner advised that the purchase monies would be made up from the 55,000 grant allocation from the Malvern Millions and the balance would be sought from other grant bodies. In answer to a question as to why Cradley residents were not kept informed in respect of the proposed purchase of the Hall, Mr Beard replied that only discussions had taken place and there had been nothing positive to report. However, when a decision had been made, it would be published in the newsletter. The parishioner was also advised that the Minutes of the meetings were posted on both parish notice boards every month.

Following further discussion Mr Allfrey proposed that the Parish Council should sign the Legal Agreement to secure the Malvern Millions Grant and that the Village Hall Committee be the independent Trustees of the Hall and take full responsibility to either lease the Hall or buy the freehold. The proposal was seconded by Mr Beard and was unanimously agreed. It was further proposed by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling, and unanimously agreed that a Charitable Trust be set up for the control and running of the Hall. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr

Allfrey, it was unanimously agreed that the Village Hall Committee should investigate setting up its own Charitable Trust and that the Parish Council should relinquish all responsibility for the Hall. It was agreed that Ms Skinner would take the proposals to the Village Hall Committee and report back to the Parish Council at its next meeting with concrete proposals of its intentions. A member of the Council suggested that the Village Hall Committee should seek legal advice before proceeding with the scheme. It was further agreed that Mr Clarke, on behalf of the Parish Council, would write to: a) The Diocese advising of the proposals made and b) Mr East and ask him for the Draft Agreement. The Clerk would write to Karen Humphries to inform her of the outcome of the meeting. The Chairman reminded members that there was surplus monies from the overall funding which had not been taken up from the playing field projects. On a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Mrs Fairfax, it was unanimously agreed that all surplus monies should be claimed from the District Council. Mrs Hunt advised members that electrical work needed to be carried out in the hall as a matter of urgency. The Chairman suggested that immediate action be taken and the cost, which was said to be modest, met with Village Hall funds.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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

Tuesday, 9th March 1999 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr M A E Clarke, Mrs P Fairfax, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner

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 February 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.676 - Chapel Lane - Ref.Min.E.649 A letter had been received from Mrs A Jones, Customer Service Advisor at OFWAT stating that the Council's complaint had been forwarded to Welsh Water and that a formal investigation would be carried out to ascertain why the water company had not responded to a request regarding a further leak in the lane. This was noted. A letter had been received from Collette Watkins, Customer Services at Welsh Water advising that they had been unable to locate the position of the leak due to the extremely bad weather conditions but the leakage team would continue to visit the site until the leak was found. This was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform Welsh Water of the exact position of the leak.

E.677 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.650 Chapel Lane. A letter had been received from John Stoddard stating that the sub-contractors had failed to comply with agreed specifications to the works at the playing field. Following a discussion between Mr Stoddard and Mr B Baggley, Sales Director at Wicksteeds, the sub-contractors had now carried out the specified works which Mr Stoddard had recorded by photography. This was noted. Minutes of a Pre-Contract meeting together with a copy of Employers/Public Liability Insurance details had been received from Wicksteed Leisure. This was noted. A letter had been received from Colin Bannister at Clarke Roxburgh advising that a Surveyor from the Council's insurance company would make arrangements to inspect the new playground and advise on cover required. This was noted.

Buryfields Play Area. The Chairman reported that Mr Clarke had received a letter from Elgar Housing Association asking for confirmation that the Parish Council would underwrite the Association's solicitor's costs at £100.00 per hour plus V.A.T., Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed that Mr Clarke should be given the authority to agree to the Association's fees, not exceeding £300.00 plus V.A.T.

Storridge Village Hall. Notification had been received from Mr Bond that tenders for the car park had been put out and that one had been received to date. This was noted.

Cradley Village Hall. A letter had been received from Mr Paul Hunt asking if invoices for architects fees etc., could be directed through the Parish Council to enable the committee to draw on the Malvern Millions funds set aside for the hall until the new trust is set up. Following a discussion it was agreed that works carried out in relation to the hall could be directed through the Parish Council but legal advice would be sought with regard to reclaiming 75% of an invoice for solicitor's fees from the funds for work undertaken to set up the Trust. It was further agreed that Mr Hunt would furnish the Council with details of the appointed architect and solicitor .

E.678 - Halesend to Grittlesend - Ref.Min.E.655 A letter had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that the Council had the power, not a duty, to clear ditches and policies regarding the maintenance of ditches were subject to resources available. This was noted.

E.679 - Potholes - Ref.Min.E.670 A further letter had been received from Mr Lewis at Herefordshire Council advising that the potholes in Cowleigh Road and the entrance to Cradley village would be inspected. This was noted.

E.680 - Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.E.661 The Clerk reported that Sue Hubbard of the Hereford Record Office had agreed to address the meeting and would send written confirmation.

E.681 - Richard Hill and Others - Ref.Min.E.664 A letter had been received from Dr Sarah Herriot advising that she would be delighted to serve as Trustee on the charity. It was agreed that Mrs Cale would write to Dr Herriot and advise her of the charity's procedure.

E.682 - Concessionary Fares - Ref.Min.E.666 Further information and posters had been received from Mr R Steele, Public Transport Assistant at Herefordshire Council for display around the village. This was noted.

E.683 PLANNING MATTERS

Miss Pilling, on behalf of Mr Clarke, reported on two meetings held on the 9th February and 9th March 1999 when the following applications were considered:- N99/0086/N No objection was raised to the application for a UPVC conservatory at The Knoll, Upper Westfields, Cradley. N98/0742/N No objection was raised to the amended application for the proposed erection of a double garage at Summerhayes, Bosbury Road, Cradley. N99/0117/N No objection was raised to the application for a proposed conservatory and garage extension at Leaside, Credenleigh, Cradley. N99/0112/N No objection was raised to the application for conversion to dwelling to include conservatory and garage at old stock building at Barrow Farm, Suckley. A letter had been received from Russell Pryce, Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council advising of the following:- May Tree Cottage, Cradley Amended plans for replacement of existing garage had been submitted in September 1997. The construction appeared to be in accordance with the approved plans and therefore no action would be taken. This was noted. Queenswood, Cradley The existing access had been permanently closed off with a boarded fence and therefore did not breach condition 9 of the approval notice. The owner of the property had indicated that he proposed to extend the wall to replace the fence at a future date. This was noted. Blackhouse, Cradley A recent inspection of the site had revealed that the double garage was in the process of being converted into a residential unit. The owner of the property had been advised to submit a retrospective application before enforcement action was taken. This was noted. Cricket Pavilion, Rectory Lane, Cradley A letter had been received from Miss M Gallego, Assistant Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council confirming that all correspondence relating to the property had been passed to the Council's solicitor to assist in the determination of the CLEUD application. This was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the solicitor acting for Herefordshire Council reiterating members' comments on the use of the pavilion.

E.684 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Hames, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

- (a) Mr B Merrick - Grass Cutting at War Memorial 18.20
- (b) Clerk's Salary for 3 months 575.10
- (c) Clerk's Car Allowance 56.71
- (d) Clerk's Telephone Allowance for 3 months 25.00
- (e) IT/Computer Expenses 50.00
- (f) Admin Expenses for 3 months 27.42

E.685 CHURCHYARD GRANTS

Mr Spence reported on a meeting of the Committee held on 26th February 1999 when the following grants had been recommended for payment:- Cradley PCC 400.00 Cradley Chapel 51.00 Storridge PCC 250.00 On the proposal by Mr Spence, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the recommendations of the Committee be accepted. No claim was made for the maintenance of Cradley clock for 1998.

E.686 VOTE OF THANKS

Mrs Wynnell Hunt kindly agreed to give the Vote of Thanks to the speaker at the Annual Open Meeting on 27th April 1999.

E.687 ANNUAL AUDIT

The Clerk reported that the auditor had advised her that the Parish Council's Liability Insurance, Part P - Fidelity Guarantee, was too low. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the insurance

company and ask for their recommendations. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to the Audit Commission informing them of the poor service received from the auditor at the recent audit.

E.688 MILLENNIUM

Mrs Carver reported on a meeting that had taken place on Monday, 1st March 1999 and advised that a sub-committee would be set up to apply for funding and to collate ideas which included setting up a library of historic and archive material for public access. A questionnaire would be published in the newsletter asking parishioners to indicate their preference from a choice of ideas.

E.689 PARISH ARCHIVES

The Chairman reported that Mrs Wynnell Hunt had ascertained that the cost to transfer the Parish Council's slides into print form would be 142.56. Following a discussion it was agreed to hold the matter in abeyance until the questionnaire regarding ideas for the Millennium had been received.

E.690 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - LITTER BINS

A letter had been received from Mr J Francis, Contract Monitoring Assistant asking for information regarding the four litter bins in the parish. This was noted.

E.691 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Notification had been received from Jenny Williams, Libraries and Services Information Officer that the agreement between Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council to provide mobile library services on each other's behalf in the areas adjacent to the county borders would cease on 31st March 1999 and that each county would cover routes within its own borders. This was noted.

E.692 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MOBILE MUSEUM

A letter had been received from Claudia Hart, Community Heritage Access Officer advising that a mobile museum was in the process of being developed which would visit rural areas. It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain if the school had been notified and to obtain further information about the museum from Ms Hart.

E.693 ELGAR HOUSING ASSOCIATION - POTHOLE

Notification had been received from Alan Moorhouse, Area Manager, that arrangements had been made for the pothole to be repaired. This was noted.

E.694 AGE CONCERN - SERVICES FOR ELDERLY

A letter had been received from Mrs V O'Keefe, Rural Development Officer, advising of services available to the elderly in the parish. It was agreed that the letter should be passed to Mrs Vockins for her information.

E.695 WALL AT THE OLD RECTORY

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the occupiers of the property drawing their attention to the wall which seemed to be cracking. It was further agreed that the Conservation Officer should also be informed.

E.696 BUS STOP AT FINCHERS CORNER

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council to ascertain if the residents in the vicinity had been consulted about the proposed site for the new bus stop. It was further agreed that the Clerk should inform Midland Red that their vehicle was parked at the stop with its engine left running at 7.30am and disturbed the residents.

E.697 ROAD SURFACE-A4103

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Highways Department with regard to repair work required to the surface of the road between the Seven Stars and Millbank Garage.

E.698 POTHoles - B4220

It was agreed that the Clerk would notify the Highways Department of the potholes on the side of the road between Copley Farm and Ridgeway Farm which were forcing motorists into the middle of the road.

E.699 CALC

The Chairman reported that she had recently attended a meeting and was advised that site meetings could be requested by writing to Steve James at Herefordshire Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should press for such meetings.

E.700 JUNE ARMSTRONG

Cllr. June Armstrong spoke of general matters in the parish and answered members questions. Following a discussion about Council Tax, Mr Hames pointed out that the Parish Council should be mindful of the fact that the precept was not capped.

E.701 FOOTPATHS

Miss Pilling asked if the Clerk could obtain a map without contours from Jon White to distinguish the boundaries of land. This was agreed and farther agreed that once the map had been marked out it should be retained by the Parish Council with a copy to Mr White.

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

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

Tuesday, 13th April 1999 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Mr R S Bullen, Mrs S Lim.

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 March 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.702 - Chapel Lane - Ref.Min.E.676 A letter had been received from Mr D Nugent, Customer Representative stating that the leakage team had been unable to locate the farther leak which had been reported and recommended that a site meeting be held if the problem persisted. This was noted. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the complainant and was advised that the leak reported had been adjacent to the original leak under the surface of the road which had now been repaired by the Highways Department. Members agreed that the situation should be monitored.

E.703 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.677 Chapel Lane Playing Field A letter had been received from John Stoddard advising that the works to the field were nearing completion. This was noted. The Clerk reported that Mr Ian Harrison, on behalf of Clarke Roxburgh would inspect the site during the week beginning 12th April and advise on the recommended cover.

StorrIDGE Village Hall Mr Allfrey declared an interest. A letter had been received from Mr Peter Draper, Chairman of the Management Committee together with a Schedule of Work for the car park improvements and tenders from three contractors. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept the lowest tender of £5,120.00 excluding VAT from Flanagans Contractors and to advise Mr Draper accordingly.

Cradley Village Hall The Chairman reported that the Legal Department at Herefordshire Council had confirmed that monies from the Malvern Millions set aside for the project must relate to works to the hall and could not be drawn against for legal fees to set up the Charitable Trust. Furthermore when the Trust had been set up a new Legal Agreement would have to be negotiated and an assurance given by the Trust that at least 75% of the works to the hall would be completed by 31st March 2000 with the remainder 25% being completed soon after. This was noted.

Buryfields Playing Field Mr Clarke reported that he was still awaiting approval of the draft Deed of Easement from Elgar's solicitors.

E.704 - Annual Audit - Insurance - Ref.Min.E.687 A letter had been received from Fiona Blackmore at Zurich Municipal advising that the Fidelity Guarantee insurance should cover the maximum value of monies retained in the bank. Furthermore, there would be no additional premium based on a revised limit of indemnity of £40,000. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the company and request that the indemnity be increased accordingly.

E.705 - Millennium - Ref.Min.E.688 Members were advised that there had been a poor response to the questionnaire which had been published in the newsletter. Members were asked to remind people to complete their questionnaires and it was agreed to place the matter on the Agenda next month.

E.706 - Parish Archives - Ref.Min.E.689 The Chairman advised members that Mrs Wynnell Hunt had obtained 2 sets of photographs from Jessop's and John Drummond respectively which were passed to members for their perusal for discussion at a later date.

E.707 - Bus Stop at Finchers Corner - Ref.Min.E.696 A letter had been received from Mr J Davies, Public Transport Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the siting of the stop was agreed at a site meeting with Mrs Fairfax and the Police and that it had not been possible to inform residents of the changes. This was noted.

E.708 - Road Surface A4103/Potholes B4220 - Ref.Min.E.697/698 Notification had been received from Mr R Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council that both carriageways would be inspected and a report of the inspector's findings would be sent shortly. This was noted. It was

reported that kerb stones had been installed at the Seven Stars Public House which had restricted its access and also that of the footpath. It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain if these kerb stones had encroached onto highway land.

E.709 - Footpaths - Ref.Min.E.701 The Clerk reported that Mr Jon White had informed her that a map without contours was not available. This was noted.

E.710 PLANNING MATTERS.

The Coach House, Ridgeway Cross Mr Clarke reported that a letter had been received from Julie Preston, Head of Planning at Herefordshire Council stating that she would not recommend that the Planning Committee revoke its permission. This was noted.

E.711 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

- (a) Wicksteed Leisure 36860.93
- (b) John Stoddard 790.00
- (c) RD Home-Site Clearance at Chapel Lane 200.00
- (d) D Home - Hedge Cutting at Chapel Lane 11.75

It was further agreed that the accounts for Wicksteeds and John Stoddard should be paid when confirmation had been received from Mr Stoddard that the works to Chapel Lane Playing Field had been completed.

E.712 WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Notification had been received that the meeting of the Malvern Hills Joint Advisory Committee scheduled to take place on Friday, 27th August 1999 had been rearranged for Friday, 20th August 1999 at 10.00 am at Malvern Hills District Council offices.

E.713 BEACON MILLENNIUM

A letter had been received from Bruno Peek, Founder and Chairman of the Beacon Millennium together with an information pack with regard to the lighting of beacons on 31st December 1999. The information was passed to Mr Allfrey for his perusal.

E.714 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

The Chairman reported that the additional Policing Plans requested by the Council had been received.

E.715 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

A letter had been received from Alan Blundell, Head of Policy and Communication at Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership together with the first Herefordshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. This was noted.

E.716 COUNTY FLOOD PLAN

A letter had been received from R B Lee, Drainage Engineer at Herefordshire Council together with a questionnaire requesting information on properties in the parish affected by flooding. The questionnaire was passed to Mr Beard for completion.

E.717 DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT 1999/2000

A letter together with a copy of Herefordshire Council's Economic Development Statement 1999/2000 had been received from Ruth Jackson, Economic Resources and Policy Assistant. This was noted.

E.718 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Notification had been received from R J Ball, Lead Transportation Planner that Herefordshire Council was in the process of preparing a Local Transport Plan which would set out the Council's bid to Central Government for funds to enable improvements to be made to the County's transport system. This was noted.

E.719 URBAN GRASS CUTTING

A letter had been received from Mrs F White, Technical Officer for Parks and Countryside at Herefordshire Council advising that a grant scheme for grass cutting arranged by Parish Councils would be available once the mowing had ceased in October/November. The grant available to the Parish Council would be 200.00 and members unanimously agreed that this should be claimed. Mrs

Hunt advised members that the grass at Credenleigh and The Leys required cutting but members agreed that no action should be taken as the mowing season had not yet started.

E.720 BOSBURY ROAD

The Chairman read two letters that had been received by Ms Skinner from a resident living in Bosbury Road who had expressed concern at the speed of traffic along the road. It was agreed that Ms Skinner should pass the details of the Transportation Section at Herefordshire Council to the resident so that she may deal directly with the section. Mr Clarke advised members that effective traffic calming measures had been introduced in the village of Pembridge by narrowing the road at each of the village which slowed traffic down. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Transportation Section and ask if these measures or the installation of sleeping policemen could be implemented along Bosbury Road.

E.721 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY BOARD

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the company and had been advised that the plans had indicated that MEB had fenced the area around the sub-station and a gate for access had been provided. Ms Skinner agreed to ascertain if a gate existed.

E.722 TELEPHONE BOX AT STORRIDGE

The Chairman reported that the telephone apparatus which had been vandalised had been repaired within a few days. The Clerk was asked to write to British telecom and thank them for their prompt action. Before the close of the meeting Mr Clarke, on behalf of himself and Carys, thanked members for the card and kind wishes sent to them following the birth of their baby daughter. The Chairman also thanked members for their good wishes and the cards sent to her on her birthday.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.16 pm.