

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

Tuesday, 11th May 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, Mrs P Fairfax, Mr W M Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurl (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr G Spence, Cllr. June Armstrong with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mr M A E Clarke, Ms G Y Skinner.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

(a) Chairman On the proposal of Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Allfrey, Mrs Hurl was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

(b) Vice Chairman On the proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mrs Hunt, Miss Pilling was unanimously elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

(d) Planning Committee It was unanimously agreed that the following members were re-elected en bloc to serve on the Committee for the ensuing year:- Mr Allfrey, Mrs Cale, Mrs Carver, Mr Clarke, Mr Beard, Mrs Fairfax, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Lim, Mr Rogers, Mr Spence, Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(e) Footpaths Committee It was unanimously agreed that the following members were re-elected en bloc to 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 unanimously agreed that the following members were re-elected en bloc to 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 unanimously agreed that the following members were re-elected en bloc to 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 It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should be re-elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year.

(i) Storridge Village Hall Management Committee It was unanimously agreed that Mr Beard should be 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 Dr Sarah Herriot who had recently been nominated following the resignation of Mrs Bibbings. Members were re-elected on a rotational basis and it was unanimously agreed that Dr Herriot should be elected for a four year term.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th April 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.723 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.703 Chapel Lane A letter had been received from Mr J Stoddard advising that the works to the Playing Field had almost been completed. This was noted. The Chairman read out a letter that she had received from a resident living near the playing field who had expressed several concerns including the level of noise generated from the metal roller on the overhead play apparatus. Mr Bullen informed members that Mr Stoddard had advised Wicksteeds of the problem and that they had agreed to carry out modifications to the apparatus within the next 2-3 weeks which would reduce the noise level of the unit.

On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the cheque for £36,860.93 to Wicksteeds, approved for payment last month should be cancelled, and that a payment of 50% of their total invoice should be made, and the balance paid on completion of the works and modifications.

A letter had been received from Colin Bannister of Clarke Roxburgh outlining the details of the Health and Safety Executors requirements for the playing field. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Colin Bannister asking for confirmation that all Parish Councillors and the Clerk would be indemnified against public liability. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to CALC and ask for their advice in respect of insurance and to Herefordshire Council to ascertain details of its playing fields' insurance and procedure for inspecting them. Buryfields Mr Rogers reported that the Deed of Easement had now been approved and signed and completion of the purchase of land was imminent.

Cradley Village Hall The Chairman informed members that the Management Committee had made progress towards securing a new 30-year lease on the hall and applications for grants were in progress. Herefordshire Council had indicated that it would be prepared to extend the deadline for a short time provided 75% of the works to the hall had been completed by 31st March 2000.

E.724 - Bus Stop at Finchers Comer - Ref.Min.E.707 A letter had been received from Mr A Birks, Commercial Development Manager at First Midland Red, apologising for the inconvenience caused to the residents in the area and advised that the problem had now been resolved. This was noted.

E.725 - Midland Electricity Board - Ref.Min.E.721 It was reported that there was no access to the sub-station from the roadway but it was understood that access from a parishioner's garden had been agreed and therefore no further action would be taken. E.726 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Rogers, on behalf of Mr Clarke, reported on 2 meetings held on the 13th April and 11th May 1999 when the following applications were considered:- N99/0244/N No objection was raised to the proposed extension and conservatory at Whitewells Farm House, Ridgeway Cross. N99/0304/N No objection was raised to the application for a detached double garage at Brookwood, Crumpton Hill, Storrige. N99/0242/N No objection was raised to the proposed loft extension over garage at Talland, Cradley.

N99/022 7/N Members vigorously opposed the application for a variance of conditions 4,5 and 6 on Planning Permission MH/93/1324 at Stoney Cross Barn, Cradley. N98/0268/L No objection was raised to the application for the proposed extension to accommodation and the replacement of flat roof with roof tiles at Traveller's Joy, Crumpton Hill, Storrige. NE1999/1024/F Members vigorously opposed the application for the removal of bay window and new conservatory and canopy at Seven Stars Public House, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley as it was felt that it would be an over development of the site using up further car parking space and would not be in keeping with the building or the surrounding area.

MH97/1401 No objection was raised to the proposed extension to garage to create gallery at first floor level at May Tree Cottage, Bosbury Road, Cradley. NE1999/1017/F No objection was raised to the proposed modifications to Winthill Farm, Cradley. NE1999/1081/F Members fully supported the application for the restoration and conversion of two barns into a single dwelling at Hope House Farm, Cradley. NE1999/1076/0 Members felt unable to comment on an application for a proposed one-storey agricultural worker's dwelling at Hope End Farm, Cradley until a MAFF report had been received.

N99/0295/T Members most vigorously opposed the application for the erection of a 15m high telecommunications tower and assorted equipment on land at The Barn Farm, Ridgeway Cross and felt that telephone companies should be requested to share facilities. Members also commented that the site was of an old roman settlement and as such a site of historic interest should be preserved. Mr Rogers reported that the application had since been refused on the grounds that the applicant failed to demonstrate why it was not possible to mast share and that the proposed development would adversely affect a site of national archaeological importance.

E.727 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

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

(a)CALC - Subscription	£207.60
(b)CALC - Local Council Administration Book	£33.50
(c)MHDC - Reprographic Charges - Agendas (Feb)	£8.98
(d)Storrige Village Hall Mngmt Cttee - Hire of Hall	£58.80
(e)Wicksteed Leisure - Chapel Lane - 50% of total cost	£18,430.46

The following accounts were approved for payment at the Extraordinary Meeting held after the Annual Open Meeting on Tuesday, 27th April 1999:-

(a) John Stallard and Co - Purchase Monies for Buryfields Land - £6,000.00

(b) Needham and James - Elgar's Legal Fees £353.50

(c) Hulme and Co - Buryfields Vendors' Legal Fees 353.50

(d) John Stallard and Co - Parish Council's Legal Fees, Search Fees, Land Registry Fees and disbursements 480.97

E.728 DONATION - ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

The Chairman reported that Miss Sue Hubbard had given an excellent illustrated talk on the history of the Parish at the recent Open Meeting and had declined reimbursement of her expenses. Following a discussion and on a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Mr Allfrey, it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of 50.00 to the Hereford Record Office.

QUESTION TIME

Mr Bond expressed concern at the number of accidents which had occurred on the A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road and asked if the Parish Council would consider holding a Public Meeting with the Transportation and Highways Sections of Herefordshire Council and the Police Authority in attendance. This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements. Mrs Fairfax left the meeting at this point.

E.729 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD - FUNDING

The Clerk distributed to members details of the payments procedure by Malvern Hills District Council and Herefordshire Council from the Capital Grant funds, and the Chairman reminded members that it had previously been agreed that a short term loan should be made to the Playing Fields Committee by the Parish Council towards its match funding. The Chairman asked the Clerk to explain to members how the funds were distributed and the balance of funds available, and said that the match funding required from the Playing Field Committee was 12,364.26. Following a lengthy discussion and on a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed, with 2 abstentions, that the Parish Council should amend its decision to offer a loan to the Committee and should instead make a grant for the amount of match funding required and the Clerk was asked to transfer this amount into the project account accordingly. It was further agreed that the grant recently promised to Storridge Village Hall should be honoured. Mr Hames arrived during the discussion and therefore abstained from voting. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for clarification of the situation and Mr Allfrey, on behalf of the Parish Council congratulated Mr Bullen for the organisation and fruition of a very successful project. As previously agreed, the Parish Council would provide the 25% match funding required for the Buryfields Project which currently stood at 1,798.21 and this amount would be transferred into the project account accordingly. E.730 THE MILLENNIUM

Mrs Carver reported that a meeting would be arranged with the Committee to discuss funding and grant applications and would report back to the Parish Council next month.

E.731 PARISH ARCHIVES

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from Mr Malcolm Scott enclosing the Parish Council's negatives of Cradley Archives and contact prints, together with three sets of his own copy negatives which Mr Scott had kindly loaned to the Council for its Millennium activities. It was agreed that the Clerk should retain possession of the Council's slides and negatives.

E.732 MALVERN HILLS A.O.N.B.

A letter had been received from Mr David Hancock together with details of the Transco Grassroots Environmental Grant. This was noted.

E.733 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER

Notification had been received that the C1140 Cradley from its junction with U65624 Nupend Lane to its junction with U65623 Greenhill would be closed to facilitate drainage repairs from 3rd May 1999 and it was expected that the Order would be in force for a period of 2 weeks.

E.734 AMENITY SKIPS

A letter had been received Mr M dark. Senior Contract Officer at Herefordshire Council asking for members' views on a Report outlining new proposals which were being considered for amenity skips in

the Parish. It was agreed that if the proposals went ahead, 1 skip per month would be required for the Parish, alternating every month at each end of the village.

E.735 APPOINTMENT OF LANDSCAPE OFFICER

Notification had been received from Herefordshire Council that Mrs J Patton had been appointed as Landscape Officer and would be responsible for providing landscape advice within the Planning Services department and for initiating specific landscaping schemes. This was noted.

E.736 MAINTENANCE WORKS PROPOSAL

A letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison and Local Development Officer at Herefordshire Council with a proposal to allow certain highway maintenance work to be carried out by Parish Councils. The works would include clearing silt and debris from gullies, unblocking drains, lopping overgrown trees, painting and temporary repairing fences and to provide and empty litter bins; budgeting for the proposal would be based on 150 per kilometre of road in the Parish. In the ensuing discussion, and following a vote, it was agreed to take no action.

E.737 COMMITTEES UPDATE

Edition No. 3 of the Committees Update had been received from Herefordshire Council together with information giving details of the services provided by, and functions of, the Directorate of Environment. This was noted.

E.738 THE CROWN INN

A letter had been received from Mr D Woodward expressing concern at the number of road traffic accidents along Bosbury Road which had caused damage to his property, and requested a site meeting with a Parish Councillor to discuss the existing traffic system through the village. Mr Rogers agreed to contact Mr Woodward to arrange a site meeting and to report back to members for further discussion.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

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

Tuesday, 8th June 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 M A E Clarke, Mrs P Fairfax, Mr W M Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs S Lim, Mr G Spence. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

Planning Committee - should also include Mr F A C Beard. Subject to this amendment it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 1999 be confirmed and signed. **MATTERS ARISING**

E.739 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.723

Chapel Lane The Chairman informed members that Wicksteeds had not carried out the modifications to one of the apparatus as agreed. The Clerk was asked to write to the company again to ascertain when their contractors would carry out the works. It was reported that the Clerk had not received replies from Herefordshire Council or CALC regarding the inspection of the playing field for insurance purposes and it was therefore agreed that the matter should be deferred until next month. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was further agreed that in the interim period, the following Councillors should make recorded inspections of the playing field on a weekly rota basis: Mr Clarke, Mr Rogers, Miss Pilling, Mrs Fairfax, Ms Skinner and Mrs Carver respectively. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to write further letters to CALC and Herefordshire Council asking for their response as a matter of urgency. Furthermore the Clerk was asked to contact the National Playing Fields Association and ask for their advice.

Cradley Village Hall A letter had been received from Terry Robshaw, Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee together with an invoice for the cost of survey drawings that the Committee had commissioned, and a cheque from the Committee in respect of its 25% contribution of the invoice total. As the order had not been directed through the Parish Council as stipulated in the Legal Agreement, 75% of the invoice total could not be reclaimed from the Capital Grant. The Clerk was therefore asked to return the invoice and cheque to the Committee with a letter of explanation stating that all orders should be directed through the Parish Council.

E.740 - Donation - Ref.Min.E.728 The Chairman reported that Sue Hubbard had sent a note of thanks to the Parish Council for the generous donation given to the Hereford Record Office. This was noted.

E.741 - Question Time A letter had been received from Mr John Colyer, Transportation Manager at Herefordshire Council in response to the Parish Council's request for him to attend a public meeting in respect of traffic matters in Cradley. Mr Colyer had agreed to assess the suitability for 'gating' the A4103 and to consider traffic canning measures on Bosbury Road, but pointed out that it was possible that neither location would merit a high enough priority to be allocated funding in the near future. Mr Colyer had also suggested a public meeting be held in September this year, rather than in July as requested by the Parish Council, to enable him to complete his assessments. This was noted and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Colyer to confirm that a September meeting would be acceptable and to arrange a convenient date. E.742 - The Crown Inn - Ref.Min.E.738 Mr Rogers reported that he had met with Mr Woodward to discuss traffic speed along the Bosbury Road whereby his property had been hit by vehicles on a number of occasions. Mr Woodward had asked for the Parish Council's support in pursuing a scheme to create a footpath adjacent to his property, a narrowing of the carriageway and rumble strips on the approach to the bend. Following a discussion it was agreed that the issues raised should be followed up. Mr Clarke had declared an interest in this item. Mr Hames pointed out that Bosbury Road was not a designated lorry route and the Clerk was asked to write to Herefordshire Council to ask why this ruling was not being enforced.

E.743 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Clarke reported on a meeting held earlier in the evening when the following applications were considered:-

NE 1999/13 86/F Strong objection was raised to the application for the proposed development of two 2 storey dwelling houses with integral garages adjoining 11 Oaklands, Cradley. Furthermore the Clerk was asked to include the Minute E.742 regarding traffic problems in Bosbury Road. NE1999/1443/F No objection was raised to the application for a proposed conservatory at Meadow Croft, Malvern Road, Storridge. NE1999/1371/L No objection was raised to the application for an extension to the rear and replacement roof at Traveller's Joy, Crumpton Hill, Storridge. Bungalow adjacent to Hill View, Cradley A letter had been received from Russell Pryce, Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that he had inspected the site and was satisfied that conditions attached to the planning permission had been complied with. This was noted. CLUED Application - Church House, Rectory Lane It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council's solicitor to ascertain the current position regarding the application. The Coach House, Ridgeway Cross It was reported that scaffolding had not been erected when contractors had been working on the roof of the property and had been reported to the Planning department at Herefordshire Council.

E.744 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

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

- (a) Diocese of Hereford-Leasehold Rental Cradley Village Hall £52.00
- (b) Clerk's Salary for 3 months £575.10
- (c) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months £60.59
- (d) Clerk's Telephone Allowance for 3 months £25.00
- (e) IT/Computer Allowance for 3 months £50.00
- (f) Administration Expenses - Postage, Agendas, Minutes for £35.43 April and May etc.

E.745 PLAYING FIELDS PROJECTS

Mr Clarke informed members that the purchase of the land for the Buryfields project had now been completed and he was now waiting for the registration of the title.

Mr Rogers reported that the contractor who had tendered for the works to the playing field had indicated that there could be a modest price increase due to the time lapse since the tender had been submitted but that the figure would be within the budget.

The Chairman read a letter from Michelle Sheehan, Community Grants Officer at Herefordshire Council who had stated that she had been unable to release the 75% portion of the invoice for the purchase of the Buryfields land as it was unclear what the exact funding package had been for the scheme as she did not have a copy of the Legal Agreement. This was noted.

The Clerk reported that she had sent a copy of the Legal Agreement to Mrs Sheehan to enable the portion claimed to be paid from the Capital Grant but this had not yet been received.

E.746 THE MILLENNIUM

Mrs Fairfax reported that a meeting of the Committee had been held to discuss ideas for the Millennium, and following a suggestion to make a feature of the stream it was proposed by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Hames, that the Clerk should write to the Highways department to ask if the pathway adjacent to the stream could be cleared. This was agreed. In reply to a question regarding the sum allocated for the Millennium from the precept, the Chairman requested that a list of ideas together with costs should be presented to the Parish Council for members' consideration. On behalf of members, the Chairman thanked Mrs Fairfax and Mrs Carver for their time spent organising the project.

E.747 CIVIC SERVICE

It was agreed that a service in the late Autumn would be preferred to a service in July and Mr Allfrey agreed to approach Rev. Sam Ashton and report back to members. E.748 MALVERN HILLS

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

An invitation had been received from Laurie Gregory, Chairman of the Committee requesting the company of the Chairman of the Parish Council to the opening of the new offices of the Citizen's Advice Bureau on Tuesday, 22nd June 1999 at 12.30 pm. The Chairman advised members that she could not attend but would discuss the matter with the Vice Chairman.

E.749 ZURICH MUNICIPAL Confirmation had been received from Fiona Blackmore that the Fidelity Guarantee element of the Council's insurance had been increased to 40,000 with no additional premium. This was noted.

E.750 NATIONAL TRAVELWISE ASSOCIATION

A letter had been received from Mr N Dauncey, Assistant Transport Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council together with an edition of 'Changing Tracks' newsletter to promote more sustainable travel behaviour. This was noted.

E.751 LOCAL POLICY TRAINING

A letter and a leaflet had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison and Local Development Officer at Herefordshire Council outlining training courses for Councillors to be held at Cheltenham and Gloucester College. This was noted.

E.752 HEREFORDSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/LOCAL AREA FORUMS

Notification had been received from Dorothy Coleman that Herefordshire Council would be undertaking an extensive consultation on a range of options to include possible location of new houses and jobs up to 2011 as part of its preparation of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan. A seminar would be held for all Town and Parish Councils in early July to provide a more detailed explanation of the development options. A short paper on the newly created Local Area Forums which had been set up throughout the county had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs Coleman stating that this Council wished to be represented at the Forums and ask that it be kept informed of dates and venues.

E.753 N.A.L.C. - AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

A letter had been received from Denise Mason at CALC detailing the proposed amendments to NALC's constitution and any comments that members wished to make should be received by CALC by 3rd September 1999. The amendments were passed to Mr Allfrey for perusal.

E.754 MILLENNIUM PLANNING

A letter had been received from S McGuiness, Director of Operations at Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service stating that it wished to plan its service effectively over the period from 23rd December 1999 to 3rd January 2000 and asked if the Parish Council could supply information of any celebrations it was aware of over that particular time. It was agreed that a notice should be placed in the newsletter requesting that organisers of any such functions should inform the Service accordingly.

E.755 AIR QUALITY REVIEW

A report had been received from A E Tector, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards to introduce the objectives set for air quality, the impact of pollutants and whether the pollutants required further investigation. This was noted.

E.756 DISTRICT AUDIT

A letter had been received from Brian Bethall, District Auditor in response to the Council's letter to the Audit Commission, apologising for the delay in conducting the 1997-8 audit which had been due to local government reorganisation. It had also suffered the loss of an Audit Manager, on prolonged sick leave at a critical stage, but anticipated that the 1998-9 audit would be completed earlier. This was noted.

E.757 CLARKE ROXBURGH

A letter had been received from Colin Bannister enclosing a copy of the company's newsletter 'CRIBNEWS'. This was noted.

E.758 TRAINING COURSES

A letter had been received from June McQuaid, Clerk at Ledbury Town Council stating that the new Mayor, Cllr.Lane had suggested that the Town Council should host a series of training courses for Councillors at a cost of 15.00 per person. This was noted.

E.759 LITTER PATROLS

The Chairman read out two letters that had been received by a parishioner from Herefordshire Council which had stated that Litter Patrols around the area of Ridgeway Cross had ceased on 1st April 1998 when the new Council had been set up. However, if the Client Services department received a report regarding areas in particular need of de-littering, arrangements would be made to clean that area if necessary. This was noted.

E.760 CLLR-ROY STOCKTON

The Chairman reported that Mr Roy Stockton had been elected to represent the Hope End Ward with Cllr. June Armstrong and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to him and invite him to the Parish Council's meetings.

E.761 PC KEITH EYLES

Mr Allfrey advised members that West Mercia Police Authority's new Beat Officer for the parish was P C Keith Eyles. His beat would extend from Storridge to Marcle but would exclude Ledbury.

E.762 GRASS CUTTING

Mrs Hunt expressed concern that the grass at Credenleigh and Pixiefields had been cut sporadically. On a proposal by Mrs Fairfax, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Highways department to clarify its grass cutting policy and to ask if the grass at these sites could be cut with more uniformity and more frequently. It was further agreed that a letter should also be sent to Elgar Housing Association to ascertain its policy for grass cutting at The Leys, Buryfields and Credenleigh.

E.763 POTHOLES

It was reported that two large potholes had appeared opposite Lower Vinesend Farm and the Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.41 pm.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Chapel Lane Playing Field, Cradley on

Wednesday, 23rd June 1999 at 6.00 pm.

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

E.764 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD PLANNING

Mrs Hurle, on behalf of the Chairman Mr Clarke, reminded members that the extraordinary meeting had been called to discuss whether planning permission should have been sought for the erection of the play apparatus at the site, following a complaint made by a resident to the Planning department at Herefordshire Council. Mr Clarke had previously advised the Clerk that he had spoken to the Planning Officer, Kevin Bishop, who had informed Mr Clarke that he had passed the complaint to the Enforcement Officer. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Enforcement Officer, Russell Pryce on the day of the meeting and explained to him that there had been no change of use, and grant monies from the Malvern Millions had been used towards the purchase of new apparatus to replace the dilapidated play apparatus already in situ. Mr Pryce stated that he had not received any complaints regarding the playing field. Furthermore, Mr Pryce confirmed that although, technically, permission should have been sought, it was not a matter that he would pursue. However, if a complaint was received, he would have to make a site visit, and may request that the Parish Council make a retrospective application. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of explanation should not be sent to the Enforcement Officer at this juncture, and to wait and see if the Officer approaches this Council in this matter.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Mrs Hurle reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call on the day of the meeting from Sarah Hawkins, Health Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that she had visited the site following a complaint from a resident about:

- 1) The noise of the 'zipper'.
- 2) The curve on the 'zipper' - children stopping abruptly and could be dangerous.
- 3) Broken wire fence on one side of the field - children running out into road.

It was reported that the trolley on the overhead apparatus had been removed by Wicksteeds on the day of the meeting for modifications and would be replaced on Friday, 25 June 1999.

Mr Bullen advised members that the curve on the apparatus slowed the trolley before coming to an abrupt halt and that the broken wire fence would be replaced by an off-set stile. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Mr Bullen regarding contractors and further agreed that the Clerk would advise Miss Hawkins accordingly.

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

Tuesday, 13th July 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 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, Mrs P Fairfax

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th June 1999 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd June 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.765 - Capital Grants Scheme - Ref.Min.E.739 Cradley Village Hall

Mr J Thomas, Chairman of the Building Sub-Committee distributed a progress summary to members before speaking about the works currently taking place on the hall. The Chairman informed Mr Thomas that architects should not have been retained without prior approval from the Parish Council as previously agreed, as the Council was not empowered to pay invoices for works it had not commissioned.

In reply to members' questions, Mr Thomas stated that the Trusteeship had not been set up, so the new thirty year lease could not be signed by the four new Trustees, and the Committee had not yet received written confirmation from Herefordshire Council in respect of extending the deadline to secure the Malvern Millions grant.

The Chairman then read a letter received from Michelle Sheehan of Herefordshire Council which had indicated that the majority of the works to the hall should be completed by 31st March 2000.

Mr Clarke agreed to write to the Diocese with regard to the surrender of the lease and further agreed to speak to David Harrison in respect of setting up the Trusteeship.

On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Beard, it was agreed that in order to progress:-

- 1) A new Charitable Trust should be set up.
- 2) The Parish Council would then surrender its Lease and the Trustees would sign the new Lease.
- 3) Herefordshire Council should be informed that the Malvern Millions grant should be assigned to the new Trust.

Following the resolution, Mr Thomas informed members that several grants had been applied for, including an application to the Heritage Lotteries Fund, however, it would be four or five months before the Committee would know if that particular application had been successful, and the Trustees did not wish to make a commitment to sign the new Lease or to enter into a Trusteeship until the funding package was in place.

In the ensuing discussion Mr Clarke suggested that a meeting should be set up between the Building Sub-Committee and the Management Committee to try to resolve the issue.

E.766 - Millennium - Ref.Min.E.746 A letter had been received from Roger Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that arrangements had been made to clear the path alongside the stream. This was noted.

E.767 - Grass Cutting - Ref.Min.E.762 The Clerk reported that a telephone call had been received from Robert Evans at Elgar Housing Association confirming that the Association was responsible for cutting the grass at The Leys, Credenleigh and Buryfields and was normally carried out on a fortnightly basis, but was very much dependent on the weather. Mr Evans had suggested that the Parish Council might wish to consider employing its own grass cutting contractor to cut areas of its choice and to reclaim previously agreed costs from the Association. In the ensuing discussion, members agreed not to pursue the suggestion.

A letter had been received from Colin Meneaud, Parks and Countryside Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that grass cutting at Pixiefields was the responsibility of his department and its policy was to cut the grass fortnightly, weather permitting. Mr Bullen informed members that the grass had been cut very shoddily and members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Meneaud accordingly.

E.768 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Clarke, reported on a meeting held earlier in the evening when the following applications had been considered:- NE1999/1853/F Members strongly opposed the application for the conversion of an existing double garage to a holiday let unit at The Mines, Bromyard Road, Cradley. NE1999/1631/F No objection was raised to the application for alterations to roof and extension to the dwelling at Sunnyside, Halesend, Storrige. NE 1999/1615/F No objection was raised to the application for the proposed two storey extension, internal alterations and alterations to rear access at Old Vinesend Farm, Vinesend Lane, Cradley. NE1999/1516/F No objection was raised to the application for an extension of existing stables to provide hay store, tack room and workshop at Laburnum Cottage, Storrige. NE1999/1386/F A letter had been received from Mr K Bishop asking if members would review their observations for the proposed development adjoining 11 Oaklands, Cradley. Following a discussion members agreed to stand by their previous comments and to reiterate the Council's opposition. CLUED Application - Church House. Rectory Lane It was reported that Herefordshire Council's Legal Section was awaiting further documentation from the occupiers before it could consider the application. E.769

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Chairman reported that two invoices had been received from Cradley Village Hall Management Committee for works carried out by architects on the hall.

Members agreed that the Parish Council could not approve payment as it had not placed the orders and that the invoices should be returned to the Committee.

In the ensuing discussion it was further agreed that the Clerk should seek advice from the District Auditor whether payments could be made retrospectively for works not commissioned by the Parish Council.

E.770 ANNUAL AUDIT

The Chairman circulated the final Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 1998 for members' approval before signing for the Annual Audit.

E.771 PLAYING FIELDS PROJECTS

Chapel Lane It was reported that the noise from the 'zipper' had been greatly reduced following modifications to the apparatus by the contractors and the litter bin had been installed. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Spence, it was agreed that as there had been no provision in the contract for a retention, the balance of Wickstead's invoice amounting to 18,430.47 should now be paid.

A letter had been received from Fran White outlining Herefordshire Council's playing field inspection policy, and advice had been received from CALC.

The Clerk reported that a telephone call had been received from Colin Bannister of Clarke Roxburgh advising that the Parish Council's insurers had agreed to cover for the playing field provided that a recorded weekly inspection was carried out and an annual inspection made by an independent company.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Bannister to ask for written confirmation that a lay, rather than professional, inspection would be acceptable. It was further agreed that members would continue to inspect the playing field on a rota basis and inform the Clerk when the inspection had been carried out.

Mr Bullen advised members that he had asked two contractors to quote for the supply and installation of the off-set stile to the field. One tender had been received at a cost of 60.00 and on a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the tender should be accepted.

Buryfields Mr Rogers reported that the tender price for the works to the field had been increased by 36% to a revised cost of £16,195 plus VAT despite the contractor stating that there might be a modest increase. Members felt that the increase could not be justified and it was agreed that no further action should be taken until two further tenders had been received.

E.772 A4103 AND BOSBURY ROAD - PUBLIC MEETING

The Chairman read a letter that had been received from John Colyer, Transportation Manager at Herefordshire Council stating that he would be willing to attend a meeting in September. Following a discussion, members agreed that the meeting should take place on Tuesday, 21st September 1999 at Storrige Village Hall at 7.30 pm. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to the Clerks of

other Parish Councils that border the A4103 and invite their Councillors to attend the meeting. The Clerk reported that P C Martin Hallam had agreed to attend the meeting in September. Mr Colyer had also pointed out that the use of Bosbury Road by lorries was lawful and that lorries were not confined to designated routes. This was noted.

E.773 MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Mrs Carver informed members that she had attended the opening of the new offices and had been very impressed with the work carried out at the premises and hoped that the Parish Council would continue to support the bureau.

E.774 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

It was agreed that the parish would not enter the competition this year as it was felt there was insufficient time to prepare the entry before the deadline date.

E.775 CALC

Mr Allfrey spoke about Herefordshire's new Local Area Forum (LAF) which consisted of County Councillors plus invited local representatives. Cradley had lacked representation and the Clerk was asked to write to Neil Pringle, Chief Executive at the Council in this respect.

E.776 FLOOD PLAN

A letter together with a draft copy of the County Flood Plan had been received from A J Greaves, Director of Support Service at Herefordshire Council. It was anticipated that the final version would be issued in the autumn prior to the next flood season and the Plan would be reviewed annually thereafter. This was noted.

E.777 STREET WORKS

A schedule of programmed street works for the period from July to September 1999 had been received from Mr A Negus, N.R.S.W.A. Co-ordinator at Herefordshire Council. This was noted.

E.778 SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

The final version of the Service Delivery Plan for Herefordshire Council for 1999/2000 had been received from Mr Neil Pringle, Chief Executive. This was noted.

E.779 MALVERN HILLS HOPPER

Notification had been received from Mr David Hancock that the Malvern Hills Hopper would be operating from Sunday, 27th June until 26th September 1999 and would cover the areas from Great Malvern to Ledbury. This was noted.

E.780 EAST HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE

A letter had been received from Martin Brent, Secretary of the Committee asking for a response to a questionnaire previously submitted. The collated results would influence the future arrangements for consultation and liaison with Herefordshire Council. A further questionnaire had been enclosed and it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would complete the form.

E.781 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

A letter had been received from Karen Humphries, Community Projects Officer requesting information regarding the Parishes projects. It was agreed that the Clerk should complete the enclosed questionnaires.

E.782 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY BOARD

A letter had been received from Mrs Judith Gifford confirming that access to the substation opposite the Old Rectory was gained from a route shown on an enclosed plan, and not directly from the Highway. This was noted.

E.783 TAXI LICENSING

A letter had been received from Mr J Colyer, Transportation Manager at Herefordshire Council stating that the existing hackney carriage licensing areas of the former District and City Councils, would be amalgamated into a single hackney carriage licensing area. This was noted.

E.784 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT AND MILLENNIUM PLANNING

A letter had been received from Dr D J Nicholson, Chief Forward Planning Officer stating that the Council was in the process of preparing a new plan to guide the development of land and buildings in the County up to 2011. This was noted.

E.785 SKIPS IN PARISH

A letter had been received from Mr A Lindsay-Jones, Waste Management Officer at Herefordshire Council advising that a free skip would be available for the Parish for one week in the year. It was agreed that a skip should be requested over the August bank holiday and should be sited at Buryfields as usual.

E.786 TRAINING COURSES

A letter had been received from June McQuaid, Clerk at Ledbury Town Council stating that the new Mayor, Cllr. Lane had suggested that the Town Council should host a series of training courses for Councillors at a cost of 15.00 per person. This was noted.

E.787 PARISH MATTERS

A letter had been received from Roger Lewis, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that the potholes on the B4220 were on a list for repair, the kerbstones at the front of the Seven Stars, Stiffords Bridge had been installed in accordance with planning regulations and there were no plans in the current financial year to repair or resurface the road on the section of the A4103 between the Red Lion and the Seven Stars. This was noted.

E.788 RECTORY LANE

The Chairman read a letter that Mr Paul Hunt had received from the County Archaeologist at Herefordshire Council in response to his concern about future development. The letter had stated that Conservation Area Appraisal studies and Village Design Statements had been designed to express the value of local historic environments. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council and ask if one or both such studies could be carried out for Cradley, and the cost involved.

E.789 ELECTIONS

The Chairman drew members' attention to the fact that children had lost two days schooling following the closure of the school for the recent Elections. Members agreed that it would be more sensible to hold the Polling procedure in the village halls and that the Clerk should write to the Returning Officer accordingly.

E.790 SEAT AT WAR MEMORIAL

It was reported that the arms of the seat at the War Memorial had come away from the joints and the Clerk was asked to contact Major Fraser to ascertain who is responsible for its repair.

E.791 OVERHANGING VEGETATION

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways department and request that the overhanging vegetation opposite Barratts Cottage be cut back.

E.792 ABANDONED VEHICLES

The Clerk was asked to inform Herefordshire Council of the three vehicles reported abandoned in the parish.

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 Cradley Village Hall
on

Tuesday, 10th August 1999 at 7.30p.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 E A Hunt, Miss J Pilling (Vice-Chairman-in the chair) Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Cllr. June Armstrong with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Mrs P Fairfax, Mr W M J Hames. Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Mr G Spence

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th July 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING E.793 - Capital Grants Scheme –

Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.E.765 The Chairman read a report from the Parish Council's representative on the Committee stating that a meeting had been arranged between Mr Thomas, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, and Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community at Herefordshire Council, to discuss extending the 31st March 2000 deadline and that the Treasurer would be applying to Herefordshire Council to ask if 75% of the invoices for works not directed through the Parish Council could be drawn from the Malvern Millions Capital Grant by the Management Committee.

It was reported that the advice given by the Auditor had been vague and therefore the Clerk had sought advice from CALC who advised that invoices could not be paid in retrospect, and that further advice regarding the Legal Agreement should be sought from Herefordshire Council.

The Clerk subsequently contacted the Solicitor for the Council and ascertained that as the grant had not yet been assigned to the Management Committee it could only take the project forward with the Parish Council's permission and involvement.

The Chairman reminded members that at least two architects should have been asked to tender for the works, however, rather than cause any further delay it was agreed, with one abstention, that the Parish Council should continue with Hook Mason and to formally instruct them to carry out the further architectural works required on the hall, and that payment of invoices incurred to date should be met by the Management Committee. In the ensuing discussion Mr Thomas advised members that grant applications were being finalised and on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Hunt, it was agreed that tenders for the building works should be prepared in readiness for dispatch if the grant applications were successful.

Members were informed that the Clerk had obtained a letter from Jane Jones at Herefordshire Council to Hook Mason stating that providing quarterly updates on progress were submitted to the Council, and that progress had been significant by February 2000, the grant would not be withdrawn and the period extended to allow the conclusion of the project.

The Chairman then read a letter from Mr Paul Hunt who had stated that the Management Committee would be paying the fee for the planning application, however, members agreed that the application together with the fee of 47.50 should be directed through the Parish Council.

Mr Thomas, on behalf of the Management Committee thanked the Parish Council for its support in this matter.

E.794 - Skips in Parish - Ref.Min.E.785 A letter had been received from Mr A Lindsay-Jones, Waste Management Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the Task Group had sought clarification from the Environment Agency regarding waste collection. The Agency had questioned whether the current scheme complied with the Duty of Care Regulations under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act. Members agreed that it would not be possible to sign a form of declaration that only household waste would be deposited in the skip and the Clerk was asked to inform Mr Lindsay-Jones that the new regulations were not acceptable to this Council.

E.795 - Seat at War Memorial - Ref.Min.E.790

It was reported that Major Fraser had carried out a temporary repair to the seat and the Clerk was asked to write a note of thanks to him. Mr Allfrey agreed to contact Major Fraser to discuss the possibility of

carrying out a major overhaul to the seat and suggested that the provision of a new seat could be an idea for the Millennium which was noted by Mrs Carver.

E.796 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Clarke, reported on a meeting held earlier in the evening when the following applications had been considered:-

NE1999/2094/F Members strongly opposed the application for a change of use of land from domestic to business and retention of fruit and vegetable storage building at Chockbury Cottage, Chockbury Lane; Cradley, as it was felt that a change of use to business for the whole site would be inappropriate in a 'predominantly residential area. NE1999/2173/F No objection was raised to the application for alterations and extension to dwelling at Little Byefields, Storrige. NE1999/2092/U Members agreed to raise no objection to the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use in breach of planning condition 2 of Outline planning permission MH1568/80 and condition 1 in Approval of Reserved Matters at White House, Tanhouse Lane, Cradley. NE1999/2166/F Members fully supported the retrospective application for a retaining block wall at Highlea, Chapel Lane, Cradley.

NE1999/1386/F A further letter had been received from Mr K Bishop stating that planning status of the site adjacent to 11 Oaklands, Cradley had been safeguarded-in that the original scheme approved on appeal in December 1990 could be continued at anytime and therefore development status was confirmed. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform Mr Bishop that the Parish Council would not pursue its objections if Herefordshire Council was satisfied that the status of the site had been safeguarded. A letter had been received from Michelle Gallego stating that:

1 A MAFF report recently requested by the Parish Council for the proposed agricultural dwelling at Hope End Farm, Cradley was unnecessary as the applicant had submitted a planning appraisal. Members disagreed and the Clerk was asked to write to Miss Gallego to ask if there had been a change in planning policy which had sidelined MAFF.

2 PPG7 paragraph 3.14 on the re-use of buildings encouraged conversions of rural buildings for business re-use and that tourism use was generally considered to be appropriate business, re-use. Members agreed to reiterate their previous comments that the building at The Mines, Bromyard Road, Cradley was a garage approved in the original development and was not a redundant building, and to point out that there was an agricultural condition on the property.

E.797 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS It was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:

(a) MHDC - Reprographic charges for Minutes/Agendas for June £9.08

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Peter Draper, Chairman of Storrige Village Hall Management Committee stating that further work to the car park had been necessary and that the invoice had been more than envisaged- On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mr Clarke, it was agreed that the previously agreed grant of £5,000 should be paid towards the cost of the works plus the VAT on that amount, and the balance of the invoice should be paid by the Management Committee. The VAT paid by the Parish Council should then be reclaimed. Mr Allfrey had declared an interest and did not vote.

E.798 OFFICE EQUIPMENT On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rogers it was unanimously agreed that a new filing cabinet and suspension files should be approved for purchase by the Clerk at an approximate total cost of 95 00 plus VAT.

E.799 PLAYING FIELDS PROJECTS

Buryfields Mr Rogers reported that two further tenders for the works had been received and in the ensuing discussion members agreed that the lowest tender of 9,700 plus VAT should be accepted. Further discussion took place on whether additional eight foot high fencing alongside the brook was required and at this point Mr Allfrey declared an interest. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Mr Clarke, it was agreed that the additional fencing was necessary and the Clerk was asked to write to the successful tenderer to ask him to submit a separate estimate for the additional works before the next meeting.

Ms Skinner asked if the Parish Council would consider having play equipment installed at the site. In reply, Mr Rogers stated that play equipment was not part of the remit, therefore any equipment would have to be funded by the Residents' Association.

Chapel Lane It was reported that a hinge on the metal gate was broken and Mr Bullen agreed to obtain estimates for its replacement if it was not repairable. Mrs Carver asked if a rota could be drawn up by the Clerk so that each member knew when they were required to inspect the playing field and the apparatus. This was agreed.

E.800 OPEN MEETING AT STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

It was reported that Mr Prescott had kindly agreed to publish a quarter page advert free of charge in the newsletter to advertise the meeting. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed not to include leaflets in the newsletter but to advertise the meeting by displaying coloured posters throughout the parish.

E.801 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of the Clerk as Representative on the Village Hall Committee it was unanimously agreed that Miss Pilling should be appointed to represent the Parish Council. The Chairman of that Committee agreed to ensure that Agendas and Minutes were sent to Miss Pilling before its meetings.

E.802 SERVICES UPDATE/LOCAL AREA FORUMS

A letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison and Local Development Officer at Herefordshire Council together with the latest edition of the Services Update and a list of dates and venues (where known) of future meetings of the LAF's. This was noted. Cllr. Armstrong advised members that she had attended a recent LAF and had noticed that Cradley had not been represented. Mr Allfrey pointed out that a letter in this regard had been sent to Neil Pringle at Herefordshire Council and in reply Cllr. Armstrong suggested that a letter should have been sent to the Chairman of the LAF requesting that Cradley receive notification of its meetings.

E.803 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

The 1998/99 Annual Report on video had been received from Ian Payne, Clerk to the Authority together with a questionnaire for comments. It was agreed to pass the video to Major Fraser for his perusal and to ask him if he would be kind enough to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

E.804 POTHOLES

It was reported that the two potholes at Vinesend Lane that had been reported to Herefordshire Council some weeks ago had not yet been repaired and that the filling in the recently repaired pothole at Cowleigh Gate Farm had become dislodged. The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department accordingly.

E.805 BRITISH TELECOM

Mr Allfrey informed members that during the erection of three telegraph poles, workmen had drilled into the pipes in his ditch and that he had made a complaint to the company.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm. Chairman.

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

Friday, 10th September 1999 at 7.30 pm.

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 Hunt, Mrs P M Hurlle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Mr G R Spence with the Clerk in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Hames declared an interest as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Cradley Village Hall On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed by 11 votes to 4 that the meeting should be held in committee. The Chairman advised members that the meeting had been called following a request from the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council remain Custodian Trustee of the hall and to take up the new 30-year lease proposed by the Diocese. Following extensive discussions it was proposed by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Beard that a sub-committee of the Parish Council should be formed to liaise with Mr Jerry Thomas with a view to approaching the Diocese in respect of purchasing the freehold of the Village Hall and that the proposal should come back to the Parish Council meeting on the 14th September 1999. This was agreed; it was further agreed that Mr Clarke alone should liaise with Mr Thomas and report back to members at that meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Clarke for the amount of time he had spent on the project on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.43 pm.

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

Tuesday, 14th September 1999 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 Hurlle (Chairman), Miss J Pilling, Ms G Skinner, Cllr. Roy Stockton with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs S Lim, Mr M J Rogers, Mr G Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Hames declared a non-direct, non-pecuniary interest in Cradley Village Hall as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th August 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.806 - Skips in Parish - Ref.Min.E.794 A letter had been received from Melissa Law, Assistant Contract Officer, Waste Management at Herefordshire Council clarifying the previous letters that had been sent to the Parish Council regarding the scheme. Although this Council had informed the Waste Management Section that it could not comply with the new regulations, a skip was delivered to the Buryfields site. Following collection of the skip, several complaints had been received from residents concerning rubbish left at the site and the Clerk informed the Waste Management Section accordingly. Cllr. Stockton informed members that Colwall had experienced similar problems and asked for a copy of the letter from Miss Law to enable him to investigate the matter.

E.807 - Seat at War Memorial - Ref.Min.E.795 A letter had been received from Major Fraser stating that he and Mr Allfrey would repair the seat to make it serviceable.

E.808 - Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.E.799 It was reported that the refuse collection service had agreed to collect the bag of litter during their rounds if it was left on the Highway near the entrance to the field. As refuse was collected in the lane a few days after members carried out their inspection, it was agreed that members should remove the bag of litter from the bin and put it out for collection with their own household waste. A letter had been received from Colin Bannister at Clarke Roxburgh confirming that the insurers would accept a weekly recorded inspection and an annual inspection carried out by a competent person with in- depth knowledge and experience. This was noted. Miss Pilling reported that the brambles were overgrown and an amount of barbed wire had been dumped in the field and a crack had appeared in the tarmac strip. Mr Bullen agreed to investigate. The Clerk distributed an inspection rota to members who would make their own arrangements to swap dates if necessary.

E.809 - Public Meeting - Ref.Min.E.800 The Chairman reported that representatives from Leigh Sinton Parish Council would not be attending the meeting as Worcestershire County Council had now installed gating, double hatching and extra and larger traffic speed signs through the village. The Chairman also reported that representatives from Bishops Frome Parish Council were unable to attend the meeting and conveyed their apologies.

E.810- Local Area Forum - Ref.Min.E.802 Notification of dates and venues of meetings had been received from Mr T Brown, Committee Manager (Personal) at Herefordshire Council. This was noted.

E.811 - West Mercia Police Authority - Ref.Min.E.799 Confirmation had been received from Major Fraser that he had completed the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Allfrey informed members that the police had taken over two hours to respond to a recent accident involving a motorcyclist at the Cowleigh turn and the Clerk was asked to notify the Police Authority accordingly.

E.812 - British Telecom - Ref.Min.E.802 Cllr. Stockton stated that he had contacted the company on Mr Allfrey's behalf and was informed that the matter was being dealt with. Mr Allfrey advised members that the company would be removing the poles.

E.813 PLANNING MATTERS.

Mr Allfrey, on behalf of Mr Clarke, reported on a meeting held earlier in the evening when the following applications had been considered:- NE1999/2315/F Members raised no objection to the application for a single storey extension to dwelling to form an additional bedroom, bathroom and

utility room at 2 Brook Cottage, Storridge, but pointed out that the property was subject to flooding. NE1999/2333/F Although no objection was raised to the application to the proposed conservatory at Lower Vinesend Farm, Vinesend Lane, Cradley, members expressed concern at the rooflights and felt they were inappropriate for the building. NE1999/2457/F No objection was raised to the application for a two-storey extension and alterations to function room to include new toilet facilities with office over at The Crown Inn, Cradley. Woodland Grant Scheme No objection was raised to the application to selectively fell and restock, by natural regeneration 0.7 hectares of Oak. Mr Allfrey declared an interest and did not vote. Hedgerow Removal No objection was raised to the removal of hedgerow at The Pheasants, Winthill, Cradley.

E.814 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:

- (a) West Mercia Supplies - Filing Cabinet and Files £107.01
- (b) Hadley and Son - Works at Chapel Lane £60.00
- (c) Clerk's Salary for 3 months £575.10
- (d) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months £74.18
- (e) Telephone Allowance for 3 months £25.00
- (f) IT Equipment Allowance £50.00
- (g) Administrative Expenses £34.46

It was agreed that a meeting of the Chairman and ex-Chairmen should be arranged to discuss a review of the Clerk's salary.

E.815 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman reminded members that the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on the 10 September 1999 had been held to discuss the future of the hall following a request from the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council remain the Custodian Trustee and asked that it take up the new lease as proposed by the Diocese. The key points from the discussion at the meeting were as follows:-

- 1) Whether the Parish Council should take up the new 30-year lease proposed by the Diocese which included a quinquennial inspection clause.
- 2) To re-open negotiations with the Diocese to purchase the building at a realistic price.
- 3) To continue with the existing lease and review the position on its expiry in 2006.

Mr Clarke reported that he had spoken to Mr Thomas, Chairman of the Building Sub-Committee and had advised him of the situation before contacting Reverend Michael Smith at the Hereford Diocesan Office.

Mr Clarke stated that the Diocese had indicated that it would be prepared to sell the building and had agreed to refer the matter to the District Valuer to enable a price to be agreed that would satisfy both parties, however, the Parish Council would be under no obligation to proceed with the purchase. The Chairman then read a letter from Mr George Spence who had stated that he felt that the proposed alterations were far too grandiose.

E.816 QUESTION TIME

In reply to a question from Mr Thomas who felt that the Parish Council's responsibilities would be increased and that grant applications could be delayed by the legalities of the purchase, Mr Clarke stated that as leaseholders the Council were already responsible for the maintenance of the building and as freeholders, greater opportunities for grants would be available.

Mrs W Hunt asked if the Parish Council shared the views of Mr Spence and in reply Ms Skinner stated that Councillors had mixed views.

In reply to questions by Mr Hunt regarding the Malvern Millions grant and why the elaborate part of the application was being ruled out, the Chairman stated that

- a) the letter from Jane Jones of Herefordshire Council regarding the deadline to secure the grant had been too vague and that
- b) coupled with the cost of the scheme, the Parish Council had never been shown plans by the Management Committee.

In the ensuing discussion Mrs Carver suggested that the Parish Council should purchase the building without being dependent on the Malvern Millions and improvements should be carried out with grants available.

Mrs Fairfax thought that the building should be purchased by the Parish Council using monies from the Malvern Millions grant and then handed to the Trustees at a later date.

The Chairman then read a clause from the Legal Agreement that stated that the grant could only be applied to carrying out the works to the hall. If an Applicant wished to change the purpose of a grant, a fresh application would have to be submitted and considered by Herefordshire Council.

Following the discussion it was proposed by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mrs Fairfax and unanimously agreed that negotiations with the Diocese should be opened with a view to purchasing Turner's Old Boys' School and that a valuation should be obtained from the District Valuer.

It was further unanimously agreed that Herefordshire Council should be approached about the possibility of using the Malvern Millions grant to purchase the building and to seek an amendment to the contract in this regard.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Paul Hunt who had asked if the Parish Council would consider entering into the new 30-year lease proposed by the Diocese with the Council remaining Custodian Trustee during that period, and if it would instruct Hook Mason to prepare and submit grant applications to various bodies. Mr Hunt had also asked if the Parish Council intended to see the project through to completion.

On a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed by eight votes to three with one abstention that the Parish Council would not be prepared to enter into the new lease and that no decision could be made in respect of grant applications until further information had been obtained from Herefordshire Council regarding the Malvern Millions.

The Clerk was asked to write to Hook Mason to explain the situation and request that works are held in abeyance until negotiations with the Diocese and Herefordshire Council have been resolved. The Chairman then informed members that a letter had been received from Hook Mason stating that they had made an error in the planning fee. The correct fee should have been 190.00 and not 47.50 as previously stated. It was agreed that the increased fee should be paid on receipt of the invoice.

E.817 BURYFIELDS PROJECT

The Chairman advised members that a letter from the North Cradley Residents' Association had not been received therefore this item could not be discussed.

E.818 CIVIC SERVICE

It was agreed to defer the service and to place the item on the Agenda for discussion in January.

E.819 AREA APPRAISALS/VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A letter had been received from Mr W Bloxsome, Chief Conservation Officer at Herefordshire Council together with guidance notes that had been prepared by English Heritage. Appraisals were currently under discussion and advice on Village Design Statements could be obtained from the Countryside Agency. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Agency and invite an officer to give a talk at a parish meeting. It was further agreed that the Clerk would photocopy four sets of the guidance notes for circulation to members.

E.820 FLOOD PLAN

The final copy of the County Flood Plan had been received from A J Greaves, Director of Support Services. This was noted.

E.821 PROVISION OF SANDBAGS

A letter had been received from Mr R B Lee, Drainage Engineer at Herefordshire Council stating that sandbags would be provided for the parish if required. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries with regards to the amount of sandbags available and to make the necessary arrangements for storage.

E.822 GREEN GATE NETWORK

Notification of a series of events aimed at supporting local voluntary groups had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison and Development Officer at Herefordshire Council. This was noted.

E.823 CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES

A letter had been received from Mr J Davies, Public Transport Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that a number of changes to bus services had taken place during the week commencing 5th September 1999 following re-tendering of local bus service contracts. This was noted.

E.824 HEREFORDSHIRE PROVISIONAL LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - JULY 1999

Notification had been received from R J Ball, Lead Transportation Planner of Herefordshire Council advising that the Provisional LTP had been submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands and comprised of the Council's bid for funds to undertake improvements to the transport system in Herefordshire during the financial year 2000/01. This was noted.

E.825 CHANGING TRACKS

A letter had been received from Mr N Dauncy, Assistant Transport Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council together with a newsletter which outlined some of the latest developments in the campaign to promote more sustainable travel behaviour. This was noted.

E.826 ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Notification had been received from Penny Langford, Local Development Manager at Herefordshire Council advising that the Street Trading Policy for Herefordshire was now in operation and enforcement action would be implemented from 1st February 2000. This was noted. E.827 AONB A copy of the project outline for the AONB Archaeological Survey had been received from its Officer, David Hancock. This was noted.

E.828 WEST MIDLANDS PLANNING AID

A letter had been received from Andrew Ford regarding the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Rural Planning Outreach Project which offered Parish Councils free input into training and seminar events to give a broad overview of the planning system. This was noted. E.829 CALC The Terms of Reference of the Herefordshire Committee of the Hereford and Worcester County Association of Local Councils had been received from the Association. This was noted.

Mr Allfrey reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the East Herefordshire Committee in which Mr Alan Poole of Herefordshire Council's Planning Section had spoken about planning issues and had indicated that he would be prepared to look into concerns expressed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask him to peruse the report on Ridgeway House.

E.830 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Chairman reported that Major Fraser had indicated that he was prepared to continue to co-ordinate the scheme until the end of the year 2000 unless a replacement could be found before then. This was noted.

E.831 MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY BOARD

A letter together with a Quality of Service Report 1998/99 had been received from Gareth Holliday, Network Customer Services Manager stating that its performance to restore supplies in the event of a loss had improved. The Chairman, however, advised members that following a recent failure in the area, the supply had been restored after a loss of power for eleven hours.

E.832 HEREFORD AND WORCESTER MAGISTRATES' COURT SERVICE

A letter had been received from Vivienne McGhee, Clerk to the Justices stating that the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Sub-Committee for Herefordshire would be holding an Open Meeting on Thursday, 30th September 1999 from 5.00 pm until 7.00 pm at the Hereford Magistrates' Court, Gaol Street, Hereford for anyone interested in becoming a Magistrate. This was noted.

E.833 BEST VALUE TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

A letter had been received from Hilary Preedy, Policy Officer at Herefordshire Council advising of the proposals set out in a consultation paper on the application of best value to Town and Parish Councils that had been issued by the Government. A copy of the consultation paper could be obtained from Mrs Preedy. This was noted.

E.834 MINOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

A further letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison and Local Development Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the response from Parish Councils to undertake minor maintenance had been mixed and of the twenty Councils who wished to be involved, eight had been chosen for the pilot scheme which would commence on 1st April 2000. This was noted.

E.835 CPRE

A newsletter from the organisation had been received which included items relating to Consultation on the Unitary Development Plan Options and Planning for the New Millennium.

E.836 CHURCH HOUSE

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council requesting that an Enforcement Officer visit the site with regard to the CLUED application.

E.837 BOSBURYROAD

It was reported that three cars had been parked along Bosbury Road during the hours of darkness without any form of lighting.

E.838 STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman reminded members that the newly refurbished hall would be officially opened on Saturday, 25th September 1999 at 3.30 pm by the Hon. Lady Morrison.

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, 12th October 1999 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, Mr W M J Hames (arrived late), Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Cllr June Armstrong with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs P Fairfax, Mr G Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 10th September 1999 be confirmed and signed. Subject to the following amendment it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 1999 be confirmed and signed. Ms Skinner pointed out that during Question Time she had said that it was vitally important to use the Malvern Millions grant for pump priming to get the Cradley Village Hall project started.

MATTERS ARISING

E.839 - Public Meeting - Traffic Matters - Ref.Min.E.809 The Chairman informed members that the meeting had been extremely well attended and then read a letter from John Colyer of Herefordshire Council in response to the concerns expressed by parishioners at that meeting. Mr Colyer had made several suggestions including re-positioning speed limit signs, extending and increasing speed limits and incorporating additional roads within a 30 mph zone. Furthermore he would arrange for the visibility splay at the junction of the C1140 and A4103 to be kept clear of vegetation. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Colyer accepting his suggestions and ask if various road markings could also be implemented. A request would also be made for the overgrown vegetation to be cut further back on a longer stretch of the road. It was further agreed that the contents of Mr Colyer's letter should be published in the newsletter. The Chairman then read a letter from a resident who had stated that she had written to Mr Colyer on two occasions and had not received replies. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Colyer to respond to these letters.

E.840 - Area Appraisals/Village Design Statement - Ref.Min.E.819 The Chairman informed members that four copies of the Appraisals/Design Statements were available for circulation.

E.841 - Seat at War Memorial - Ref.Min.E.807 Mr Allfrey reported that the seat had been removed for restoration.

E.842 PLANNING MATTERS NE99/1076/0

Mr Clarke read a letter from Michelle Gallego of Herefordshire Council who had advised that supporting appraisals to demonstrate the need for a dwelling were requested by the Planning department and could be obtained from a number of sources including MAFF.

E.843 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:

(a) Hook Mason - Planning Application Fee £190.00

E.844 PRECEPT

The Clerk distributed copies of the estimated expenditure for the year 2000/2001 for discussion next month.

E.845 QUESTION TIME

Mr Bond asked if the Police had contacted the Clerk with regard to the recently held Public Meeting. In reply, he was advised that they had not, but it was thought that they would liaise directly with Herefordshire Council. Mr Bond thanked the Parish Council for arranging the meeting.

E.846 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman reported that she recently had a meeting with Jerry Thomas, Chairman of the Building Sub-Committee who had informed her that the four proposed Trustees still wished to take up the new 30-year lease offered by the Diocese and had asked if they could meet with members of the Council to put forward their proposals.

The Chairman informed members that a special meeting had been arranged for this purpose and asked if they still wished the Parish Council to proceed with enquiries with a view to purchasing the hall.

Following a discussion in which mixed views were expressed, it was agreed that a decision regarding

the purchase of the hall should not be made until after the prospective Trustees had met members of the Council.

Mr Clarke confirmed that the special meeting would take place on Thursday, 14th October following a planning meeting to consider the Planning Application for the hall, and pointed out that the Diocese had not yet had sight of the plans

In the meantime the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Thomas and request that the prospective Trustees' proposals are put in writing before the special meeting. The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had received a telephone call from Jane Jones at Herefordshire Council stating that she could not give written confirmation of a firm deadline date but gave assurance that the grant would not be withdrawn if sufficient progress to the hall had been made by February 2000. This was noted. A letter had been received from Geoff Cole, Head of Culture at Herefordshire Council advising that if the Parish Council wished to amend the Legal Agreement he would require reworked costings of the new proposals, income and expenditure breakdown and a formal confirmation of the resolution before he would instruct solicitors. This was noted. A letter had been received from Hook Mason confirming that they would initiate no further action on the project until further instructions had been received from the Parish Council.

E 847 BURYFIELDS PROJECT

Mr Rogers advised members that he, together with Mrs Lim and Mrs Fairfax, had attended a recent meeting of the North Cradley Residents' Association and had been asked if the Parish Council would be responsible for insurance, grass cutting, maintenance of stiles and footpaths.

Members agreed that the insurance would be the Council's responsibility but other matters relating to the land would be discussed once a Management Committee for the Association had been set up. Mr Allfrey pointed out that the land would possibly require re-seeding in the spring.

The Chairman then read a letter that had been received from the secretary of the Residents' Association requesting that the balance of the grant for the scheme be given to the Association towards play equipment.

Members were reminded that the grant was payable only towards the cost of works to the land and the Clerk was asked to write to the Association and explain the terms of the Agreement. An estimate for 4,400 had been received for the further fencing works and on a proposal by Mr Rogers seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed that the estimate should be accepted. Mr Allfrey had declared an interest and did not vote.

E.848 REFUSE COLLECTION

Notification had been received from Mr M dark at Herefordshire Council Waste Management Section that the new refuse collection contract would be undertaken by Cleanaway Ltd, of Leominster and that refuse in the parish would now be collected on Tuesdays However, it was reported that this had been an error and refuse collection days in the area would stay the same. This was noted.

E.849 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - POOP SCOOPS

Notification had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison Officer that free bags would be available from Council Office Receptions to encourage responsible dog ownership. This was noted.

E.850 CALC-AGM

Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Saturday, 23rd October 1999 at Bishops Frome Village Hall at 10.00 am to decide whether Herefordshire has its own CALC or continues to operate under a two counties CALC.

E.851 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

The Annual Report for 1998/99 had been received from the Authority. This was noted.

E.852 MALVERN HILL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

A letter had been received from Manager, Liz Puzey requesting an increased grant towards the running costs of the bureau. It was agreed to place the request on the Agenda next month for discussion.

E.853 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL A letter together with a Quarterly Activity List relating to road works in the County and a Notice of Meetings had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison Officer. This was noted.

E.854 POTHOLES

It was reported that the potholes in Vinesend Lane had still not been repaired and the Clerk was asked to inform the Highways department accordingly.

E.855 BRITISH TELECOM

The Clerk was asked to contact the company requesting that their poles are removed from the ditch as soon as possible as water was now running down the road.

E.856 BLACK HOUSE

It was reported that the garage appeared to be in residential use and the Clerk was asked to notify the Enforcement Officer.

E.857 CHURCH HOUSE

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the solicitor at Herefordshire Council to ascertain the current position on the CLUED Application.

E.858 PARISH MAPS

A request had been received from Mr Brigden to borrow the Parish maps. It was agreed that copies should be made of the maps which could then be lent out.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held at Cradley Village Hall on
Thursday, 14th October 1999 at 7.30 pm.**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL
PLANNING MEETING**

Before the business of the meeting members had considered the planning application for the alterations and refurbishment of the hall and had felt that the proposed extension would not be in keeping with the building and other alterations could be improved upon. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed that the plans should be withdrawn pending a meeting with the architects with a view to amending or re-drafting the plans and to inform Hook Mason accordingly. It was further agreed that the Clerk should contact the Principal Planning Officer informing him of the Council's decision, and to enquire whether the fall planning application fee could be recovered.

TRUSTEESHIP

Members then met with three of the four proposed trustees, Messrs Jerry Thomas, Tony Madsen and Terry Robshaw. Mr Thomas confirmed that they were still fully committed to taking the project forward but felt that the purchase of the hall was not the right objective.

Furthermore, the prospective trustees had been satisfied with the terms of the new lease which they wished to take up, and would be prepared to set up a Trusteeship and sign the new lease once grant funding was in place. Mr Thomas stated that the paperwork for the grants had been completed and asked if the applications could be directed through the Parish Council. Mr Robshaw then stated that Trevor Hewitt of Hook Mason had successfully prepared grant applications and asked if he could be engaged for this purpose, in reply, the Chairman said that the terms of the Legal Agreement stated that the grant was only for the works on the hall and architects fees relating to those works but if the Trusteeship was set up now it could submit grant applications.

Mr Robshaw stated that the following conditions were required before the Trusteeship could be set up and only the first one had been met.

1. The negotiation of a new lease.
2. The assignment of the Malvern Millions.
3. Sufficient match funding

The group were reminded that the Malvern Millions grant, and assignment of that grant, was only available if the freehold of the building was purchased or a twenty-one year lease was in place, and that the Parish Council, on a majority vote, did not wish to take up the new lease.

Mr Clarke stated that the Trusteeship should be set up to apply for match funding and that it would have no responsibility until the lease was signed; in the meantime the Parish Council would do everything it could to preserve the Malvern Millions grant and to support the Trust as necessary.

In reply to a member's question, Mr Thomas confirmed that English Heritage had seen the plans but the architects had not yet received written approval, in reply to a question regarding future use of the hall, Mr Madsen agreed to forward a copy of the business plan for members' perusal.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a better liaison between the Village Hall Management Committee, Sub-Committees and the Parish Council should be established and that the Parish Council should have a direct input in the Planning Application. Mr Thomas, on behalf of the proposed Trustees, thanked members for meeting them and said they would give further thought to the project.

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

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

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

Apologies:- Mrs A Carver, Mrs P Fairfax, Mrs S Lim.

Before the commencement of the business of the meeting P C Keith Eyles, the newly appointed Beat Management Officer spoke to members about the concept of Beat Management which had been introduced in Cradley and surrounding parishes following feedback from public surveys that communities wanted to liaise with their own uniformed officer. He explained that parishioners could ring him on 07967 139389 from 8.30 am until 10.00 pm for advice or to arrange an appointment to see him but pointed out that he was not a first response officer, and that if an immediate response was required such as an accident or a criminal incident, then the main Hereford Police Station should be contacted. P C Eyles said that he would be looking at crime patterns in the parish and would be advising Neighbourhood Watch as well as liaising with the N.F.U., with a view to getting a farm watch in place, in reply to members' concerns about speeding traffic in the parish, P C Eyles said that he would shortly be undertaking training to use a radar gun which would enable him to respond to members' requests for speed checks. After answering further questions P C Eyles was thanked for his attendance by the Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Buryfields as adjoining landowner.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 1999 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on the 14th October 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.861 - Overgrown Vegetation - Ref.Min.E.839 It was reported that the trees and shrubs had not yet been cut back at Stoney Cross and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Colyer at Herefordshire Council requesting that urgent action is taken to remedy the situation.

E.862 - CALC - AGM - Ref.Min.E.850 The Chairman advised members that a vote was taken and a resolution passed that Hereford and Worcester CALC would separate at a date to be agreed and that Cradley would become a member of Herefordshire CALC. This was noted.

E.863 - Potholes - Ref.Min.E.854 Notification had been received from the Highways department that the potholes in Vinesend Lane had not reached intervention level at the last inspection, however, they would be inspected again soon. This was noted.

E.864 - BT Poles - Ref.Min.E.855 The Chairman informed members that drainage repairs were due to be carried out at the site and the poles would then be removed. Mr Allfrey confirmed that the poles had now been removed.

E.865 - CLUED Application - Church House - Ref.Min.E.857 The Chairman advised members that Michelle Gallego, Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council was waiting for further information from the owner of the property before the application could be considered. Furthermore, any application for a change of use would require planning permission; This was noted.

E.866 - Parish Maps - Ref.Min.E.858 It was reported that two of the parish maps had been copied and a further three maps would be copied shortly.

E.867 PLANNING MATTERS

NE99/2813/F No objection was raised to the application for a proposed stable block at Meadow End, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley. Mr Clarke read a letter from Trevor Hewitt of Hook Mason which had stated that he would be happy to meet with a properly constituted client body to discuss how to take the project forward once matters relating to Cradley Village Hall had been clarified. This was noted.

E.868 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

(a) MHDC - Reprographic Charges £24.32

(b) Cradley Village Hall Mngt Cttee - Hire of Hall £60.00

(c) Clerk's Salary, Back-pay, Ex-gratia payment Telephone and IT allowance £1379.06

(d) Mrs P Hurle - Photocopying £1.70

(e) Clarke Roxburgh - Village Halls' Insurance £1060.10

(f) Zurich Municipal - Parish Council Insurance £157.50

E.869 ACCOUNTS FOR AUDIT The Clerk distributed a copy of the 1998/99 final accounts for members' perusal before being submitted to the Auditor next month.

E.870 DONATION - MALVERN HILLS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU After discussion it was agreed that a donation of 80.00 should be given towards the cost of running the bureau.

E.871 PRECEPT

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting the estimated expenditure for the year 2000/2001. On a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Beard it was agreed by 9 votes to 1 that the precept for the year be £15,000.

E.872 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL

A letter had been received from Mr P Hunt, Chairman of the Management Committee stating that a meeting was being sought with Jane Jones of Herefordshire Council with a view to a new Legal Agreement being prepared in the name of the Management Committee to provide availability of the grant for the refurbishment project. He asked if the Parish Council could be represented at the meeting and Miss Pilling was asked to liaise with Mr Hunt in this respect. The Chairman read a letter that had been received from Paul Nicholas, Senior Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officer at Herefordshire Council together with Guidelines to Entertainment Licensing. It appeared that the two parish halls did not have Public Entertainment Licences in place and the Clerk was asked to send copies of the Guidelines to the Chairmen of both halls.

E.873 BURYFIELDS

Mr Rogers reported that the fencing works were progressing and confirmed that the contractor would remove the stones, re-seed and roll the ground next spring. However, there was some doubt as to whether plant could pass through the access to the field to carry out this work once the remainder of the fence was in place and discussion took place as to whether some of the fencing should not be erected at this time. With this in mind it was agreed that Mr Rogers should speak to the contractor to ascertain the width of the access required. As the majority of the works had been completed it was further agreed that a part payment of £12,000 should be made to the contractor and the balance paid on completion. Furthermore the playing field should now be added to the Council's insurance policy. Mr Rogers also reported -hat he had attended a meeting with the **NCRA** and was advised that the Association would be raising funds for play equipment.

E.874 SKIPS IN PARISH

Notification had been received from Melissa Law at Herefordshire Council stating that until 31st March 2000 the arrangements would continue as they were prior to 1st April 1998.

E.875 SERVICES UPDATE

A letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison Officer together with information on Herefordshire Council's activities between 22nd June and 15th October 1999. It was further stated that a service could be provided for the disposal of bulky household waste such as 3-piece suites and mattresses at a cost of 15.00 for up to three items and an extra 5.00 for each additional item.

Collections would be on Wednesdays and arrangements could be made through Kelly Berry, Waste Management Section. It was agreed that this information should be published in the newsletter.

E.876 CALC

Notification had been received of a playground safety course organised by RoSPA to take place next February/March if enough interest was shown. The cost would be £15.00 with a holding deposit required. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed to send a deposit of £5.00 to book one place on the course. Notification had been received from CALC that a focus group on memorials, churchyards and burial grounds had been arranged for Saturday, 4th December 1999 at the Market House, Ledbury at 10.00 am. This was noted.

E.877 AONB

A letter had been received from Bernard Lane, Programme Consultant for the Malvern Hills inviting Parish Councillors to take part in the consultation process about the new Sustainable Tourism Strategy being developed for the AONB. This was noted.

E.878 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

A letter had been received from Clare Daley, Campaigns Officer drawing the Council's attention to water pollution in the area involving oil products. It was agreed that reference to the matter should be included in the article for the newsletter.

E.879 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD

It was reported that the hinge on the gate was still broken. Mr Bullen agreed to make arrangements for its repair.

E.880 ROAD CONDITION

It was reported that the road at the bottom of Winthill towards Nupend had deteriorated due to badgers on the side of the bank. The Clerk was asked to notify the Divisional Surveyor accordingly.

E.881 COWLEIGH BANK

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Herefordshire Council and request that rubble is cleared from the road and ask for the blocked gullies to be cleared at the junction of Crumpton Hill Lane.

There being no farther business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.16 pm and invited all present to join her and Dr Hurle at their home for a pre-Christmas celebration.

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

Tuesday, 11th January 2000 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 (arrived late) Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- .Mrs D Cale, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence and Cllr. J Armstrong.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 1999 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.883 - A4103 - Traffic Matters - Ref.Min.E.863 A letter had been received from John Colyer confirming that larger terminal speed signs would be erected along the A4103 in mid-January and an extension to the speed limit to Stiffords Bridge would be implemented within the next few months. An additional bend warning sign would be erected on the B4219 and the hedge surrounding the existing sign would be trimmed. Furthermore, arrangements had been put in place to have the overgrown vegetation at Stoney Cross cut back. No changes were proposed for additional larger signs or for a weight restriction on the B4220. This was noted. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain whether Herefordshire Council operates a points system in the event of serious accidents.

E.884 - Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau - Ref.Min.E.870 A letter had been received from the Manager thanking Members of the Council for the donation and increased support for the work of the Bureau. This was noted.

E.885 - BT Poles - Ref.Min.E.879 Mr Allfrey reported that the pipes had not yet been reconnected following the removal of the poles and water was now running down the road making it hazardous in icy conditions. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department.

E.886 - Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.E.880 Mr Bullen informed members that the broken hinges on the gate had now been replaced. The Chairman reminded members of their playground inspection duties for the following four weeks and said that the Clerk would distribute copies of the new rota at the next meeting. Following a discussion it was agreed that an annual inspection of the playing field at Chapel Lane should be undertaken by RoSPA in March which would include a risk assessment for a total cost of 67.00. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange the inspection. It was reported that RoSPA inspections were acceptable for insurance purposes and carried an indemnity insurance of 5,000,000. In this respect the Clerk was asked to ascertain if this insurance would lower the Council's current premium.

E.887 PLANNING MATTERS.

NE1999/3080/F No objection was raised to the application for garage and alterations at 21, Huntingdon, Cradley.

NE1999/3236/F Members fully supported the application for the repair of barns and erection of new link to convert barns to a single dwelling at Hopehouse Farm, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley.

NE1999/3020/F No objection was raised to the application for the erection of a two storey building to comprise of a ground floor garage and first floor office/toilets at Little Byefield Kennels, Storridge.

NE1999/2092/U A Certificate of Lawful Use or Development (CLUED) had been issued by Herefordshire Council for an existing use in breach of planning conditions at The White House, Tanhouse Lane, Cradley. Notification had been received from Herefordshire Council Conservation Section of the following: a) Proposed works to trees at the rear of Pixiefields, Cradley. b) To create a new area of woodland at The Nupend, Cradley.

E.888 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

(a)MHDC - Reprographic Charges £11.89

(b)Mrs P Hurle - Photocopying £1.30

(c)Clerk's car allowance for 3 months £27.29

(d)Administration costs for 3 months £15.60

(e)Local Council Review - subscription £11.65

E.889 BURYFIELDS.

The Chairman reminded members that it had been agreed at the last meeting that the balance of payment to the Contractors would be made on completion of works. However, at a special meeting held on 16th December 1999 members agreed that 4317.50 should be paid and the balance of 250.00 should be retained until the reseeding works had taken place in the Spring. The Chairman then thanked Mr Rogers for the time and effort he had put into the project.

E.890 INSURANCE.

A letter had been received from Colin Bannister at Clarke Roxburgh stating that the insurers had made an additional premium of 52.50 to cover public liability on the Buryfields Land. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that this amount should be paid. The Chairman informed members that a Security Warranty had been added to the village halls' policy which required all external doors to be fitted with security deadlocks and that such locks should not be fitted to fire exit doors without the agreement of the local Fire Officer. In the ensuing discussion it appeared that a Fire Officer had visited Cradley Village Hall and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk should ascertain the name of the Officer from the Chairman of the Management Committee to make arrangements for an inspection to seek recommendations to meet the requirements of the insurers.

E.891 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL.

Notes of a meeting which had been arranged by the Management Committee to meet with Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community at Herefordshire Council had previously been circulated to members for their perusal and before discussion took place the Chairman asked members to delete the word 'supplementary' and substitute 'new' in relation to the legal agreement. The Chairman then read a letter from Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community at Herefordshire Council outlining her proposals, particularly in relation to the Malvern Millions grant monies. Mrs Jones stated that she had asked her Council's legal department to prepare an agreement to extend the deadline but would not nominate signatories until she had been notified which body that should be. If the Parish Council did not wish to be a signatory, a formal resolution would be required in that respect. Mrs Jones had also indicated that assistance with the preparation of funding bids and legal advice would be made available and offered to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to reiterate her proposals.

QUESTION TIME

Mr Hunt asked if the Parish Council intended to pass a resolution as outlined in Mrs Jones' letter and in reply the Chairman said the issue would be discussed after question time. In reply to a question by Mr Baker the Chairman pointed out that both she and Miss Pilling who was the Parish Council representative on the Management Committee had attended many meetings concerning Cradley Village Hall. Following a question from Mr Maybury, it became clear to members that the potential Trustees had been reluctant to form a Trusteeship until the grant monies had been transferred to the Management Committee for the purpose of match funding.

Further discussion took place and Mrs Fairfax proposed that Mrs Jones should be invited to a special meeting to meet with members of the Council, the Management Committee and the proposed Trustees. This was seconded by Mrs Hunt but defeated by a vote of five to seven.

Another proposal was made by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Beard that a letter should be sent to Mrs Jones to thank her for setting out her Council's proposals so comprehensively and to inform her that the Parish Council had no objection to relinquishing its legal agreement and for Herefordshire Council to enter into a new legal agreement with the Management Committee to enable the grant monies to be assigned to that body. This proposal was carried by six votes to two with four abstentions.

Before the vote was taken on Mr Clarke's proposal Mrs Lim had asked for clarification regarding the VAT element on invoices. The Clerk explained that VAT could only be recovered if the Parish Council placed the orders and paid the invoices.

E.892 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING.

Members discussed the outstanding matters and it was agreed that the Clerk should follow these up and comments would be distributed with the next pending list.

E.893 STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL.

A copy of a letter sent to Hook Mason had been received from Mr Hugh Bond that had asked the Architects to submit the final invoice for the Contractors. This was noted.

E.894 ROYAL MAIL.

Notification had been received from Mr M Cottle, Collections Planning Manager that the Post Office was considering removing the post box at Stiffords Bridge due to its under use coupled with the safety factor for collectors and the public when walking along the road. Mr Cottle had asked for members' views and it was agreed to consult residents through the newsletter before a decision was taken.

E.895 LOCAL COUNCILS' COMMITTEE.

Notification had been received of a meeting to be held at the Town Hall, Hereford on Thursday, 20th January 2000 at 7.30 pm.

E.896 WEST MERCIA POLICE.

A letter had been received from Ian Payne, Clerk to the Authority together with Draft Targets for the Joint Policing Plan 2000/2001 with the closing date for comments being 7th February 2000. It was agreed that the plan should be passed to Major Fraser for his perusal.

E.897 THE HEREFORDSHIRE PLAN.

A draft of the plan had been received from Guy Rutter, Chairman of Herefordshire Partnership which would give an opportunity for organisations working in Herefordshire to plan for the future. This was noted.

E.898 COWLEIGH ROAD.

A letter had been received from Dr Hurle asking if the Parish Council would contact the Divisional Surveyor and draw his attention to the potholes which were becoming a serious hazard, particularly to cyclists and motorcyclists. This was agreed.

E.899 STREET WORKS/COUNCIL MEETINGS/VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT.

A Street Works programme together with details of Council Meetings and information on Village Design Statements had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison Officer at Herefordshire Council. This was noted. Mrs Hunt agreed to pass her copy of the Village Design Statement to Mrs Fairfax.

E.900 TIDY BRITAIN GROUP.

A letter and leaflets had been received from Julie Hinsley, Campaign Co-ordinator stating that the group would be celebrating its tenth year in April 2000 with a series of roadshows throughout the UK. This was noted.

E.901 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.
Notification had been received of a public seminar to be held on Wednesday, 16th February 2000 at Ludlow Assembly Rooms. An Agenda and the time of the meeting would be forwarded at a later date. This was noted.

E.902 JAC MEETINGS.

Notification had been received of the following meetings: Friday, 28th January 2000; Friday, 26th May 2000; Friday, 29th September 2000. All meetings to take place at the Malvern Hills District Council Offices at 10.00 am. A tour had also been scheduled for the 8th September 2000 but details would be confirmed.

E.903 SLOWER SPEEDS INITIATIVE.

A letter had been received from Denise Carlo, Co-ordinator asking if the Parish Council would write to the Prime Minister before 14th January 2000 to seek assurance that the Government would take action to introduce lower speeds and tougher enforcement measures. This was noted. Mr Hames informed members that he had written to Mr Blair.

E.904 EAST HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE.

Notification had been received of a meeting of the Committee on Thursday, 13th January 2000 at Bishops Frome Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Mr Allfrey pointed out that Superintendent Guy Rutter and Inspector Geoff Mayor had been invited to the meeting to report on the Beat Management concept and if members wished Mr Allfrey to put any questions to the Officers, they should inform him before the meeting.

E.905 MACLEAN MEMORIAL.

A letter had been received from Major Fraser enclosing a copy of the catalogue entry for the papers that had been deposited at the Record Office which Major Fraser suggested should be held by the Parish Council. This was noted.

E.906 FLOWER FESTIVAL.

It was reported that Mrs Wynne-James had invited the Parish Council to be represented at the forthcoming festival in June. As the Elections were due to take place in May, members felt that they could not make a decision on the matter at this time.

E.907 SIGNS.

It was reported that the chevron sign at the junction of the A4103 and the B4219 had been reinstated the day after it had been knocked down. It was agreed that Clerk should write to the Highways department to thank them for their prompt action.

E.908 CRADLEY BROOK.

Mr Hames informed members that the brook was prone to water quality problems and said the Environment Agency proposed to invest 10,000 for the year 1999/2000. However, in a previous report he had noted that the Agency would be investing in improvements to sewage works in 1998/2000. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should ascertain whether the same work had been designated.

E.909 PLANNING APPLICATION.

In reply to a question by Mrs Lim, Mr Clarke replied that an application for the refurbishment of Cradley Village Hall had not yet been submitted.

E.910 FLY TIPPING.

The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department of the building rubble that had been deposited on the verge below Home End Farm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.31 pm

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

Tuesday, 8th February 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- 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 (arrived at 8.15pm) Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurlle (Chairman), Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Cllr. R Stockton with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mrs D Cale, Ms G Skinner, Mr G Spence and Cllr. J Armstrong.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Subject to the following amendment it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2000 be confirmed and signed. Min.E.886 Should read that the gate and hinges had been replaced.

MATTERS ARISING

E.911 - A4103 - Ref.Min.E.883 It was reported that Mr Colyer had informed the Clerk that Herefordshire Council do not operate a points system in the event of serious accidents. Members noted that the more prominent signs had now been erected on the 50 mph speed limit section and it was agreed to monitor their effect.

E.912 - BT Poles - Ref.Min.E.885 The Clerk had received a telephone call from the NRSWA Inspector at Herefordshire Council stating that an order had been placed for the works to be carried out and in the meantime the road would be gritted in icy conditions if requested. E.913 - RoSPA - Ref.Min.E.886 Confirmation had been received from RoSPA that they would carry out an Annual Inspection at Chapel Lane Playing Field sometime in March 2000. This was noted. E.914 - Insurance - Ref.Min.E.890 Cradley Village Hall A letter had been received from Colin Bannister of Clarke Roxburgh confirming that the insurers had agreed to delete the security conditions from the policy due to the hall's listed status but requested that a more secure padlock is fitted on the front door. Miss Pilling agreed to inform the Committee.

Chapel Lane Playing Field Although it had been noted that an Annual Inspection had been arranged and that RoSPA carried their own Indemnity Insurance, the premium would not change but it would help protect the Council should RoSPA fail to carry out its duties satisfactorily. This was noted.

E.915 - Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.891 The Chairman read a letter from Mr Robshaw, Treasurer of the Committee stating that the match funding monies that had been requested could not be paid until clarification of the following invoices:

- a) Rod Robinson - Feasibility Study
- b) Jonathan Chiltern - Valuer
- c) Hook Mason - Planning Fee

Following a discussion it was agreed that the match funding amount of 347.50 should be paid by the Committee for the invoices of Rod Robinson and Hook Mason respectively.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council would meet the match funding amount of 112.50 for the invoice from Jonathan Chiltern and that the Clerk should inform Mr Robshaw accordingly.

The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had booked Storridge Village Hall from April until the end of the year for Parish Council meetings due to the uncertainty of the availability of Cradley Village Hall during its refurbishment.

E.916 - Post Box at Stiffords Bridge - Ref.Min.E.894 As there had been no response from parishioners regarding the proposed removal of the box, members agreed to raise no objection and to inform the Post office accordingly.

E.917 - West Mercia Police Targets - Ref.Min.E.896 The Chairman read the comments that had been made by Major Fraser and it was agreed that they should be passed to the Police Authority.

E.918 - Potholes - Ref.Min.E.898 Mr Beard pointed out that the potholes in Cowleigh Road had now been marked out for repair. Members were informed that there were also potholes in Halesend, and from Ridgeway Cross to Chockbury Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Divisional Surveyor requesting that all repairs be carried out at the same time. Mrs Fairfax and Mrs Lim gave their apologies and left the meeting at 8.20pm.

E.919 - Tidy Britain Group - Ref.Min.E.900 Notification had been received that the Group's premier campaign would begin in April 2000 and interested parties wishing to take part should telephone 0800 783 7838 for their free kit and tabard. This was noted.

E.920 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

- (a) Cradley Village Hall Mngt Cttee-Hire of Hall £8.00
- (b) Flanagans Final Invoice - Storridge Village Hall £14,916.68
- (c) Hook Mason Final Invoice - Storridge Village Hall £1,010.50
- (d) Basil Merrick-Grass Cutting £24.00
- (e) Hadley and Sons - Chapel Lane £80.00

E.921 BURYFIELDS - MATCH FUNDING.

Before discussion, the accounts for the Buryfields project had been circulated for members perusal. As had been previously agreed the Parish Council would finance the 25% match funding for the project and 1,798.21 had already been paid for match funding on previous invoices. Match funding amounting to 3,525.00 was now required for the final invoice and on a proposal by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that this amount should be transferred from the Parish Council's Business Account into the Project Account. The Chairman informed members that the Parish Council's total contribution of match funding for this project had been 5,323.21.

E.922 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING.

It was agreed that the date for the meeting should be Tuesday, 18th April 2000 and further agreed, with one abstention, not to invite a speaker for this year. Mrs Hunt suggested that an advertisement should be placed in the newsletter and members agreed that the Clerk should ascertain the cost.

E.923 CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE MEETING.

It was agreed that the meeting should take place on Tuesday, 22nd February 2000 at 6.00 pm at Scotsraig House, Storridge.

E.924 RELATE.

A letter had been received from the organisation asking for a donation towards its work. After discussion it was agreed to take no action.

E.925 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL INITIATIVE.

A letter had been received from Jan Perridge stating that she would contact Mr Bullen to arrange a site visit at Chapel Lane Playing Field to assess its suitability for the scheme. Furthermore she would also write to Mr Knight with information of small grants for play equipment for the Buryfields land. This was noted.

E.926 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL.

The following information and leaflets had been received from Dorothy Coleman:- Services Update, Becoming a Herefordshire Councillor, Street Works Activity List, Planning Bulletin, Green Gate Diary and Herefordshire Today. The Local Transport Plan questionnaire was passed to Mr Hames for completion.

E.927 COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

A letter had been received from Karen Humphries thanking the Parish Council for completing the questionnaire about its schemes. The information supplied would be used to draft a final report on the Malvern Millions Project. This was noted.

E.928 HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP.

Notification had been received of the Partnership's first annual conference to be held on Thursday, 2nd March 2000 at the Courtyard Theatre, Hereford from 9.00am until 1.00pm.

E.929 CPRE.

A leaflet had been received outlining the Housing and Transport plans for Herefordshire. This was noted.

E.930 BLACK HOUSE.

It was reported that the Enforcement Officer had visited the property and had been informed that the owner was not residing in the property and would be submitting amended plans. However, he had agreed to revisit the property and notify the Parish Council of his findings. This was noted.

E.931 FOOTPATHS.

Mrs Carver reminded members that a footpath meeting had been due but it was agreed to defer it until after the Elections.

E.932 BURYFIELDS.

In reply to a question Mr Rogers said that the Residents' Association were aware that funds needed to be raised for play equipment and were proposing to hold a meeting with residents to discuss fund raising ideas. Mr Beard asked if the Parish Council would be responsible for play equipment installed by the Association and in reply Mr Rogers stated that clarification on that point would be sought from the Sub-committee.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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

Tuesday, 14th March 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mr W M J Hames (arrived late) Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle (Chairman), Mr M J Rogers, Ms G Skinner, Cllr. J Armstrong with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr R S Bullen, Mrs A Carver, Mrs P Fairfax, Mrs S Lim, Miss J Pilling, Mr G Spence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Min.No.E.951.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2000 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

E.933 - A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref.Min.E.911 Mr Allfrey reported that he had attended a recent meeting which had also been attended by Superintendent Guy Rutter and Inspector Geoff Mayor of West Mercia Police Authority, and had been informed that the Police were reluctant to carry out speed checks along the road because it was too dangerous. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Inspector of the Authority asking him to explain the statement which had been made in the presence of Inspector Mayor. It was further agreed to ascertain what traffic calming measures the police could put in place. The Chairman read a letter from a resident who had stated that there had been an onslaught of dumper trucks going through the village at speed and asked if anything could be done to divert the trucks up Fromes Hill. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should be sent to Mr Colyer at Herefordshire Council asking him to take positive action regarding this long standing problem. A copy of the letter would also be passed to Cllr. Armstrong.

E.934 - Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.E.915 The Chairman advised members that a cheque for 347.50 had been received from the Management Committee for its match funding of invoices. A cheque had also been received from Storridge Village Hall Committee in the sum of 3981.80 in respect of match funding for the final invoices together with 10.00 that had been underpaid from a previous invoice.

E.935 - West Mercia Police Authority - Ref.Min.E.917 A letter had been received from Ian Payne, Assistant Clerk to the Authority, thanking the Parish Council for its comments on the Draft Policing Plan. Mr Payne pointed out that West Mercia Constabulary's performance in the area of house burglary was better than the national average for performance in both recording and detection figures and in the area of violent crime, its performance was in the top quartile nationally. The Constabulary had, however, set a target to reduce the number of crimes recorded over a five-year period and would look to increase the detection rate over that same period. This was noted.

E.936 - Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.E.922 The Chairman informed members that an advertisement had been placed in the newsletter and that no fee would be payable.

E.937 PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman, on behalf of Mr Clarke, reported on a meeting held on the 8th February 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/0114/F Members raised no objection to the proposed two-storey extension at Yewtree House, Storridge. NE1999/2173/F No objection was raised to alterations and extension to dwelling at Little Byefields, Storridge. NE2000/0192/F Members were unable to consider the application for the revised design of house on land at Oaklands, Cradley until planning approval for the house had been clarified.

NE2000/0248/B Members strongly opposed the application for the erection of a 15m high ultra-slim monopole with antenna and equipment housing at Chockbury Lane, Cradley The Chairman reported that the CPRE had also opposed the application in a letter to the Planning Officer. NE1999/2501/F - Cradley Village Hall Members were asked for their comments on the application which had previously been withdrawn for further consideration. Following a discussion it was agreed that the plans should be referred back to the architects for reconsideration of two items. There was concern about all the fire precaution requirements, especially the provision of a fire escape from the gallery. Subject to there being no objections to the revisions from English Heritage, the Diocesan Architects or the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council sub-Committee would raise no objection to the proposals.

E.938 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:

- (a) Storrige Village Hall Mngt Cttee- Hire of Hall £58.80
- (b) Major Fraser - Repairs to seat £35.00
- (c) MHDC - Ground Maintenance at Chapel Lane £458.25
- (d) Clerk's Salary for 3 months £575.10
- (e) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months £39.60
- (f) Clerk's Telephone Allowance for 3 months £25.00
- (g) IT Allowance £50.00
- (h) Administrative Expenses £30.66

It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Major Fraser thanking him for giving up his valuable time to repair and restore the seat at the War Memorial. The Chairman, on behalf on the Parish Council, thanked Mr Allfrey for housing the seat during its restoration and for supplying some of the materials.

E.939 MALVERN MILLIONS - PROJECT ACCOUNT.

The Chairman reminded members that the projects for Storrige Village Hall, Chapel Lane Playing Field and Buryfields play area had now been completed and that a substantial amount of unused grant monies remained in the project bank account. The Clerk had circulated a breakdown of the accounts and explained that the full grants for the projects had not been taken up and as Malvern Hills District Council and Herefordshire Council had paid out on the gross invoice total, a surplus amount of grant monies had accumulated in the account.

Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should inform Herefordshire Council that an overpayment had been made and ask if a grant of £5,000 could be made from the surplus grant monies to reimburse the Parish Council for the grant awarded to Storrige Village Hall towards its car park.

E.940 CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman, on behalf of Miss Pilling, reported on a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 29th February 2000 when it had been agreed to recommend that the following grants be paid for the maintenance of the three Churchyards in the Parish for 1999:-

Cradley PCC 450.00

Storrige PCC 275.00

Cradley Chapel 55.00

This was unanimously agreed.

E.941 QUESTION TIME.

A member of the public asked if visual improvements could be made to the entrances to the village which had become very run down. In reply the Chairman stated that the matter would be placed on the Agenda for further discussion next month. In the meantime it was agreed to appeal for help through the newsletter with clearing the sites and that a letter should be written to Herefordshire Council asking for the litter around the sites to be removed.

E.942 AMENITY GRASS CUTTING.

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Fran White at Herefordshire Council stating that the existing system of grants was, in some areas, inadequate and asked for precise areas of grass that the Parish maintains. This was noted. As the forms had to be received by 10th March 2000 the Chairman informed members that the Clerk had returned the completed forms.

E.943 QUARTERLY REPORT AND SURVEY.

It was agreed that the Clerk should complete and return the Quarterly Report Questionnaire which had been received from Herefordshire Council.

E.944 POLL CARDS.

The Chairman advised members that poll cards could be issued by the Electoral Registration Office in the event of the Parish Council Election being contested. The cost of 25p for each card would be charged to the Parish Council. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed not to request the issue of cards.

E.945 HEREFORD HOSPITAL.

A letter had been received from Mrs J M Dereham, Chairman of the Appeal, asking for support to buy equipment for the new hospital. Following a discussion it was agreed to take no action.

E.946 HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP.

Notification had been received of a meeting to be held on Thursday, 23rd March 2000 at the Three Counties Hotel, Belmont, Hereford at 6.30 pm. This was noted.

E.947 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL.

The Chairman read various correspondence that had been received from Herefordshire Council consisting of information about the Council's Internal Telephone Directory, Guided Walks, Street Works Programme and Ledbury and District Liaison Group.

E.948 LAUGHARNE POTTERY.

A letter had been received from Mark Howells, together with a brochure for commemorative pottery to celebrate the Millennium. This was noted.

E.949 WICKSTEED LEISURE.

The Chairman reminded members that RoSPA would be carrying out an inspection of the playing field and apparatus at Chapel Lane in March and it was therefore agreed not to take up the inspection service from Wicksteeds.

E.950 BURYFIELDS LAND.

A letter had been received from Mr J Hale asking if the Parish Council would consider renting out the Buryfields land to the football club next season and said that the club would handle all pitch maintenance and provide goal posts and pitch marking equipment.

Members were reminded that the land was purchased by the Parish Council as a play area for the children of the Buryfields Estate and therefore it was unable to agree to the club's request.

However, support would be given by the Council in helping the club to find a suitable pitch.

Mr Rogers informed members that Elgar had promised to create an access and install a gate to the land to enable the contractor to gain access with equipment, and agreed to contact Elgar again requesting that the works be given urgent priority to enable the contractor to roll and re-seed the site during the Spring.

Mr Allfrey reported that a willow tree had fallen onto his land from the adjacent Buryfields land and asked if the Council would consider having the remaining willow trees pollarded. It was agreed that the Clerk should first ascertain the ownership of the trees.

E.951 LIFELONG LEARNING.

A letter had been received from Elizabeth Ferguson, Researcher at Herefordshire Council asking if members of the parish would be interested in adult learning groups in the area. It was agreed to ask for parishioners comments through the newsletter.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.36 pm.

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

Tuesday, 11th April 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey, Mr F A C Beard, Mr R S Bullen, Mrs D Cale, 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, with the Clerk in attendance. Note: Mr Hames arrived during consideration of item E.959. Apologies:- . Mrs A Carver, Mr G Spence, Cllr. J Armstrong.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Min.No.E.956.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2000 be confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment:-

E.940. Expense may be incurred on Cradley Church clock later in the year and an application for a donation could be made then.

MATTERS ARISING

E.952 - A4103 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref.Min.E.933

It was reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call from Inspector Mayor who said that the statement made at the recent CALC meeting had tried to explain the difficulty the police had in stopping speeding motorists along the road because of its insufficient width and stretch, however, other enforcement action could be taken such as the use of a video car, police motor cyclists, wires across the road and the setting up of video cameras. Furthermore the Inspector said that the police regarded the road as a cluster route which received special attendance on a fairly regular basis. Members pointed out that it was a regular occurrence on Sundays for motorcyclists to ride along the road in excess of 100 mph and it was agreed that a letter should be written to West Mercia Constabulary requesting police surveillance during that time. The Chairman then read a letter from Cllr. June Armstrong stating that she had asked John Colyer, Transportation Manager at Herefordshire Council to consider other traffic calming measures along the road and said that she would continue to bring the matter to his Council's attention. This was noted.

E.953 - Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.E.934 The Chairman advised members that a new padlock had now been fitted to the hall door in accordance with the insurance policy and that advice on the type of padlock had been sought from a locksmith before installation. This was noted.

E.954 - Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.E.936 The Chairman informed members that the advert for the meeting did not appear in the newsletter due to lack of space. However, the Clerk had arranged for leaflets to be printed which were placed inside some of the newsletters and other public places around the village. It was also reported that Mrs Mayor at the Post Office had kindly inserted some of the leaflets in the newspapers.

E.955 - Malvern Millions Project Account - Ref.Min.E.939 The Clerk had received a telephone call from Herefordshire Council asking for a breakdown of the accounts for Storridge Village Hall and copies of invoices for works to the hall for which grant monies had not been claimed to enable Mrs Jones to give further consideration to the Council's request for a grant.

E.956 - Buryfields Land - Ref.Min.E.950 A further letter had been received from Jon Hale, of the Red Lion Falcons Football Club regarding the use of the land for football matches. Members agreed that it should be established whether the club wanted to use the land for matches or practice and the frequency of use required. It was felt that car parking in Buryfields by team members could cause a problem. The Chairman read out a condition of the legal agreement which stated that the land was to be used as a recreation area for the benefit of the people of the parish and that no preference should be given to individuals or groups of individuals, in the ensuing discussion it was agreed that Mr Rogers would arrange a meeting with the North Cradley Residents' Association to discuss the club's request.

Mr Rogers advised members that he had telephoned Elgar Housing Association on four occasions asking for the works to create a wider access to be carried out as a matter of urgency to allow the contractor to gain entry with machinery to re-seed and roll the site, and had been informed that a works order had been placed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Alan Moorhouse at the Association requesting the works be given priority.

Mr Beard expressed concern at the third party liability aspect if play apparatus was installed on the land and said that any equipment installed should be included in the Parish Council's insurance policy. Mr Clarke supplied a plan showing the willow trees on the site but it was unclear from the plan where the exact boundary was. It was agreed to defer the matter until next month.

E.957 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Clarke reported on a meeting held prior to the main meeting when the following applications had been considered: - NE2000/0639/F Members raised no objection in principle to the application for the erection of a porch and first floor extension over existing garage at 3 Huntingdon, Cradley but expressed concern at the over development of the site. NE2000/0114/F Strong opposition was raised to the application for a two-storey extension and new access at Yew Tree House, Storrige. Members' main objection was that the proposed new access would generate more traffic at an already very dangerous junction. NE2000/0248B Mr Clarke informed members that approval had been refused for the application for the erection of a 15m high ultra-slim monopole with antenna and equipment housing at Chockbury Lane, Cradley. The Chairman reported that Cllr. June Armstrong had spoken to the Enforcement Officer about the Black House and had been informed that the owner was seeking permission to live in the garage, which had been fitted with a bathroom, whilst the house was being restored, and that the owner was at present living elsewhere. Furthermore, the owner had informed the Officer that during darkness the lights had been left on in the building for security purposes. The Officer had taken legal advice and would be monitoring the situation carefully. This was noted.

E.958 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:

(a) MHDC - Photocopying Agendas, Minutes and Leaflets £18.82

E.959 VISUAL ENHANCEMENT.

Following a discussion members agreed that a letter should be written to Herefordshire Council requesting the removal of litter and general rubbish around the village entrance at Stoney Cross and to ask for the removal of old vehicle parts that had been dumped in the dip at Storrige Bank and which had leaked liquid matter into the watercourse. Furthermore it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mathon Parish Council requesting that rubbish is removed from its boundary with Cradley. The Clerk was asked to notify the Enforcement Officer of the torn tarpaulin behind the garage at Stoney Cross which had become an eyesore and to enquire whether planning permission had been approved for a change of use at Grove Bank. Mr Bullen confirmed that daffodil bulbs had been planted around the War Memorial, Cradley notice board and the bank at Pixiefields.

E.960 PATH ADJACENT TO STREAM.

It was reported that although the Divisional Surveyor had agreed to arrange for the path to be cleared it had now transpired that there was no footpath at the site and therefore the path was not the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

E.961 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL.

Various literature had been received Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer including a newsletter from the Waste Management Section, a draft consultation of the Economic Development Plan 2000/2001, Childcare Services, Green Gate and notification of meetings.

E.962 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.

An entry form had been received from the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes with details of the 2000 competition. As the closing date for entries was not until the end of June, it was agreed to defer the matter until after the election.

E.963 HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY.

A letter had been received from David O'Dwyer, Chief Officer, seeking the Council's support for fairer funding. At the last meeting of the Authority it had been noted that the Standard Spending Assessment settlement remained inadequate. This was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter supporting the campaign.

E.964 NATIONAL SPEED POLICY REVIEW.

The Chairman reported that Mr Hames had received a response from the Department of the Environment Transport and Regions together with a Speed Policy Review and Summary of Recommendations following a letter he had written to Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The policy had

considered all aspects of speed management and contained proposals which, Mr Hames felt, would do much to reduce excessive speed in the vicinity of local black spots. A new financial system would be developed with regard to enforcement and penalties that would use part of the fine revenue to repay operational and administrative costs of speed cameras to the police, courts and local authorities.

Although the proposals in the policy would require active implementation by local authorities it was felt that the document would be useful when liaising with the Highways Authority and the Police.

E.965 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD.

It was reported that 2 lengths of fencing had been pulled down. Mr Bullen agreed to arrange for its reinstatement.

E.966 WALL AT RECTORY HOUSE.

Members were informed that the wall adjoining the highway looked to be in danger of collapsing. No action had been taken by the owner following a letter from the Parish Council and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council pointing out the potential danger to the highway user.

E.967 FINCHER'S CORNER.

A request had been received for a bus stop to be erected at the site but members agreed that it should be deferred until after the election. It was also pointed out that there was a blocked drain by the telephone kiosk and the Clerk was asked to notify the Highways Authority accordingly.

E.968 ELECTION 2000.

Following a request by Mrs Hunt it was agreed that a list of nominations for the coming election should be printed in the newsletter. Before the close of the meeting, the Chairman thanked members of the Parish Council who had supported her over the past four years, and gave special thanks to the Clerk, Vice-Chairman Jane Pilling and the ex- Chairmen, Messrs. Allfrey, Beard, Clarke and Rogers. Mr Clarke, on behalf of the Parish Council, congratulated the Chairman on her Chairmanship.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.51 pm.