

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

**Tuesday, 9th May 2000 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Apologies:- Cllr. Roy Stockton. The retiring Chairman, Mrs Pamela Hurle, reminded members that a few moments silence had been held at the recent Open Meeting in the memory of Mr Vincent Brigden who died recently. She said that Mr Brigden had served on the Parish Council for thirty-one years, five of them as Chairman, and that he would be remembered with gratitude and respect. At the commencement of the business of the meeting, Mrs Hurle welcomed the six new members to the Council and explained to them that if they had an interest in an item on the agenda or during the meeting, it was a legal requirement for that interest to be declared. All present signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Allfrey declared an interest in Min.No.E.969.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. (a) Chairman.

Miss Pilling proposed Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Rogers and Mrs Carver proposed Mr Thomas. However, Mr Thomas said he was unable to make the commitment at this time. As a result of his decision it was unanimously agreed that Mr Allfrey should be elected Chairman for the ensuing year. (b) Vice Chairman. On the proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, Mr Rowe 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 should be given authority to sign cheques on behalf of the Council. (d) Planning Committee. It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr Beard, Mrs Cale, Mrs Carver, Mr Creed-Newton, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Hurle, Mr Knight, Miss Pilling, Mr Rogers, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (e) Footpaths Committee. It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mrs Carver, Mr Edgar, Mr Hames, Mr Thomas, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (f) Churchyard Committee. It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr Beard, Mrs Cale, Mr Edgar, Mr Hames, Mrs Hunt, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (g) Playing Fields Committee. It was agreed that the following members should serve on the Committee for the ensuing year: Mr Creed-Newton, Mr Knight, Miss Pilling, Ms Turnbull, Chairman and Vice Chairman. (h) Cradley Village Hall Management Committee. On the proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Mr Rowe, Miss Pilling was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year. (i) Storridge Village Hall Management Committee. On the proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rowe, Mr Beard was unanimously elected to represent the Council on this Committee for the ensuing year. (j) Herefordshire Association of Local Councils. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should represent the Council on this body. (k) Charities of Richard Hill and Others. Members were reminded that Dr Sarah Herriott replaced Mrs Bibbings last year as a Trustee on this body together with Mr Beard and Mr Clarke. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mrs Hurle, it was unanimously agreed that Dr Herriott should be re-elected for a further year term. It was reported that Mr Clarke was willing to continue as a Trustee and this was unanimously agreed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2000 be confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING E.968 - A4I03 Hereford to Worcester Road - Ref.Min.E.952 It was reported that the Clerk had received a telephone call from Inspector Mayor who said that he had passed on the Council's request for police surveillance on the A4I03 to PC Martin Hallam. With regard to the police response time following the accident at the junction with the B4219 last August, the

Inspector said that shortly after the accident a telephone call was received by the police from the owner of the damaged property stating that she had exchanged details with the motor cyclist and that police attendance would not be required. E.969 - Buryfields Land - Ref.Min.E.956 A letter had been received from Mr Clarke of John Stallard Solicitors stating the following points: 1. Willow Trees It appeared from the plans that the willow tree which had fallen onto the adjoining field belonged to the Parish Council. Furthermore the remaining willow trees should be inspected and appropriate action taken if any of them looked to be in danger of falling, and he suggested that pollarding be carried out in the Autumn after the leaf-fall. This was noted. The Chairman informed members that the fallen tree had now been removed and asked the Playing Field Committee to inspect the remaining trees as a matter of urgency. Mr Rogers said that the Committee had only been involved with Chapel Lane playing field and asked for clarification regarding inspecting the Buryfields recreation area. In reply, the Chairman said that inspection of the site should now be incorporated with Chapel Lane playing field and that the Committee should arrange a meeting with North Cradley Residents' Association to establish responsibilities. It was further agreed that Mr Rogers, Mrs Carver and Mr Hames would represent the Parish Council on the NCRA Committee. 2. Planning Approval Following the discussion at the last meeting regarding play apparatus on the land, Mr Clarke felt it appropriate to remind members of Condition No.2 in the Planning Approval that permission obtained was for a change of use from agricultural land to children's play area and did not include the placing of any equipment on the land, which would need a separate application. The inclusion of a figure in any Grant Application could not, therefore, include the costs of play equipment. This was noted. 3. Title Certificate The Certificate for the land had now been received and Mr Clarke asked if the Parish Council wished his firm to hold the document for safe keeping. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Certificate should be kept at the bank together with other Parish Council deeds, however, members agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Clarke thanking him for the offer and to also thank him for his continued and consistent advice and efforts on behalf of the Parish Council during his term as Parish Councillor. Mr Rogers reported that works on the access had now been carried out by Elgar but expressed concern at the amount of stones on the land which required picking. Mr Knight suggested that top soil could be placed on the site before re-seeding but members felt that it would require too great a quantity. It was anticipated that the contractor would soon be re-seeding and rolling the area. E.970 - Wall at Rectory House - Ref.Min.E.966 A letter had been received from Mr Steve Thompson, Assistant Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council stating that Mr Massey from the Building Control Section would inspect the wall and if it was considered to be a hazard, a Dangerous Structure Notice would be issued. This was noted. Mr Rowe pointed out that the wall was listed and the Clerk was asked to inform Mr Massey accordingly. E.971 - Finchers Comer - Ref.Min.E.967 Mr Thompson had also stated that the gully would be dug out and if the pipework was blocked, arrangements would be made for it to be jetted. This was noted. The Chairman reminded members that a request had been made at the last meeting for a bus shelter at the location. Following a discussion it was agreed that the cost of the purchase and installation of a shelter together with ongoing maintenance costs, all of which would have to be borne by the Parish Council, would outweigh the frequency of use therefore members agreed not to support the request. Mrs Hunt pointed out that there had been a typographical error in the previous minute which had stated bus stop instead of bus shelter. E.972 PLANNING MATTERS. The Chairman reported on a meeting held on the 18th April 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/0862/F Members raised no objection to the application for the erection of a replacement garage and the erection of a studio in the garden at Sundown, Bosbury Road, Cradley but requested that, if approved, a clause was inserted that the developments were not to be used as residential dwellings. NE2000/0228/N and NE2000/0229/L No objection was raised to the application for proposed extensions, conservatory and conversion of garage to laundry at Old Vinesend Farm, Cradley. Cradley Village Hall The Chairman read a letter from Trevor Hewitt of Hook Mason which had commented on the various points raised by members including fire precautions at the hall. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should be sent to Mr Thomas for consideration. New School A letter

had been received from Mr and Mrs Merrick, requesting the opportunity of commenting on proposals for the present school site. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to advise them that it was not a Parish Council matter and that the Planning department would inform them, as owners of the adjoining property, of any planning application submitted. Yew Tree House. Storridge The Chairman informed members that the application for an extension had been approved following the applicant's withdrawal of the proposed new access and agreement to use the existing access. A condition of the approval was that space should be laid out to enable a vehicle to turn so that it entered and left the site in a forward gear. It was reported that a car was recently observed backing out of the driveway onto the A4103 opposite the junction with the B4219 and members agreed that the Enforcement Officer should be advised. It was further reported that an advertisement had appeared in the newsletter of a landscaping business at Yew Tree House. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer and ask if an application had been approved for a change of use and to send him a copy of the advert. E.973 QUESTION TIME. Mr Bond asked if the Parish Council would consider arranging another meeting with Herefordshire Council Transportation Section and the Police to follow up the progress made and to ascertain what action was planned for the future with regard to traffic matters in the parish, in particular along the A4103 and Bosbury Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to arrange a meeting with both authorities to take place in September. E.974 BOOK-KEEPING COURSE FOR CLERKS. The Clerk had indicated an interest in the course to keep up to date with the latest developments in accounting rules and regulations. The cost of the course was 20.00 and would take place on 30th May and 6th June 2000 at the Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford. On a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed to approve the payment. E.975 ROSPA REPORT. A Report on the inspection of Chapel Lane Playing Field had been received from Playground Management Services, the Play Safety section of ROSPA which had categorised items as high, medium and low safety risk and had made recommendations regarding the removal of old fencing, and work to the hedges, seats and gate. A copy of the Report would be sent to the Playing Fields Committee so that appropriate action could be taken. An invoice in the sum of 81.08 in respect of the inspection had also been received and on a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was unanimously agreed that this amount should be paid. The Chairman reminded members of their duty to inspect the playing field on a rota basis and guidelines had previously been circulated to members for their information. Members were required to report their findings in a record book before handing the book to the next member on the rota. E.976 CIVIC SERVICE As services in previous years had been poorly attended members agreed that it should not be continued. E.977 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION. Members agreed that the parish should enter the competition and that Mrs Hunt should form a sub-committee to organise the project. E.978 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL LITERATURE. Various literature had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer which included the Planning Bulletin, Waste Management Newsletter, Notice of Meetings and Safety Partnership Newsletter. These were left on the table for members' perusal. The Chairman urged members to attend the meeting of the Local Area Forum to be held at Cradley Village Hall on Wednesday, 21st June 2000 at 7.00pm and reminded them that Cradley was not represented on the Forum. E.979 EMERGENCY PLANNING. Leaflets had been received from Tracey Cook, Emergency Planning Officer at Worcestershire County Council to raise public awareness on its role in the event of an emergency such as flooding. It was agreed to place the leaflets in the Post Office, butcher's shop and the doctor's surgery. E.980 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY. A letter had been received from Superintendent Guy Rutter in response to the Council's comments with regard to the draft target for the Joint Policing Plan 2000/01. He said that the parish had suffered a relatively low number of burglaries during the policing year of 1999/2000 and that no violent crime had been reported in the area during that time. This was noted. Members felt that thefts from outbuildings and sheds had not been included in the statistics. E.981 HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP. A letter had been received together with a final draft of the Economic Development and Business Support Strategy 1999-2001. This was noted. E.982 SOCIAL INCLUSION/ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY. A letter had been

received from Claire Evans at Herefordshire Council together with the draft Strategy which had been produced by a Herefordshire multi-agency co-ordinating group. This was noted. E.983 POST BOX AT STIFFORDS BRIDGE. It was reported that a parishioner had complained about the lack of publicity given to the proposed removal of the post box by the Royal Mail. E.984 CALC COURSE. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had failed to get onto the Playground Course and that the Association had returned the Council's cheque for 5.00 in respect of the deposit. E.985 CLLR. REES MILLS. The Chairman asked Cllr. Mills if he wished to make any comments and said that the Parish Council had been disappointed with some of the planning decisions made by Herefordshire Council. In reply Cllr. Mills said he had asked the department how its democracy worked and would report back to the Parish Council. It was agreed that comments made by the Parish Council on applications should be sent to both Cllr. Mills and Cllr. Stockton before the East Herefordshire Planning Meetings. E.986 ELECTION 2000. Mr Rogers reported that a few parishioners had approached him and said that they had voted for names that were familiar to them and suggested that prior to future elections a small paragraph about each candidate was placed in the newsletter. E.987 CRADLEY CLOCK. Mr Rowe informed members that the clock would be inspected soon and an estimate obtained for its overhaul. E.988 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. In reply to a question. Miss Pilling said that there were seven keys to the hall which had been allocated to users of the hall. Mr Thomas asked if parish meetings could also be held at Cradley Village Hall. Mrs Hurle explained that meetings were usually held at Cradley for six months of the year and Storrige for the remaining five months as there was no meeting in December. However, the Clerk had been informed that the refurbishment of the hall was due to start last September and she therefore booked Storrige Village Hall for the whole year. Furthermore, the Management Committee at Storrige had declined a two-year booking from another user to accommodate the Parish Council. The Clerk did, however, manage to arrange for Cradle/s hall to be used for the polling station at the election to enable the loss of rental income to be recouped and when the refurbishment at the hall had been completed it was the Council's intention to return. E.989 PREVIOUS MEMBERS. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the six previous members of the Parish Council thanking them for their contribution during their term of office. E.990 DOG FOULING. Mr Hames advised members that the Dog Warden was looking into the legal powers for possible prosecution. E.991 THE CROWN. It had been noted that a traffic survey had been carried out opposite the public house and further reported that a brick wall had been built on the edge of the carriageway which could put pedestrians in danger. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Enforcement Officer and ask him to inspect the wall and a copy of the letter should be sent to the Highways department and the Police. E.992 FLOODING IN BOSBURY ROAD. Mr Hames reported that a spring had been disturbed following work undertaken by British Telecom and as a result had flooded an area by Ashvale. It was agreed that this should be noted for reference. E.993 CRADLEY STORES AND POST OFFICE. The Chairman informed members that he had been asked by the proprietors for a list of the election results to display in the shop window. An agenda and minutes of meetings was also requested so that parishioners could view them in the shop. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

E 994 INFORMATION FOR NEW COUNCILLORS. In reply to a question from Mr Creed-Newton, Mrs Hurle said that booklets could be obtained from the CALC office in Malvern and the Chairman said he would ask CALC about courses for new Councillors. E 995 CRADLEY SCHOOL. In reply to a further question from Mr Creed-Newton, the Chairman said that the situation regarding the school was not a Parish Council matter. However, Mrs Hurle advised members that a public meeting would be held on the 5th June 2000 at the school. There being no farther business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.56 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 13th June 2000 at 7.30 p.m.**

present—Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed- Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies:- Miss K E Turnbull, Cllr. Rees Mills. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Mrs Hurle declared an interest in F.002. Mr Thomas and Mr Edgar declared an interest in F.008.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2000 be confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment:- ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. Charities of Richard Hill and Others. Mrs Cale pointed out that Mr Clarke and not Dr Sarah Herriott should have been re-elected to serve on this body and that the term of office was for three years and not four. MATTERS ARISING E.996 - Bun/fields Land - Ref.Min.E.969 A letter had been received from Mr Michael Clarke of John Stallard together with the Title Certificate and other documents relating to the land. This was noted. E.997 - Wall at Rectory House - Ref.Min.E.970 A letter had been received from Mr Chris Massey, Senior Building Control Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that he had inspected the wall in question and although he felt it was not in an imminent state of collapse, he had notified the owner and would be making regular inspections until the wall had been repaired. Furthermore, one section of the wall had been hit by a tractor and trailer but had since been made safe. This was noted. Mr Massey had telephoned the Clerk and said that the wall was not listed. Mr Rogers thought it was and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries. It was also reported that a crack had appeared in the wall opposite near the church notice board and it was agreed that both matters should be monitored. E.998 - Yew Tree House - Ref.Min.E.972 Confirmation had been received from Russell Pryce, Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council that an area of agricultural land was being used for horticultural purposes and did not require planning permission, however, five polytunnels had been erected on the site and planning permission was required to retain them. With regard to access, Mr Pryce said that there was a condition on the recent planning approval that required sufficient turning space to allow a vehicle to enter and leave in a forward gear but the condition would not come into force until the extension had been completed and occupied. This was noted. E.999 - The Crown Inn - Ref.Min.E.991 Mr Pryce had also stated that he had advised the owner of the property that planning permission was required to retain the wall as it constituted a means of enclosure within the curtilage of a listed building. This was noted. F.001 - Traffic Matters - Ref.Min.E.973 The Chairman reported that a Public Meeting had been arranged for Tuesday, 5th September 2000 at Storridge Village Hall at 7.30 pm as a follow up to last year's meeting and that Mr John Colyer, Transportation Manager at Herefordshire Council and PC Martin Hallam had agreed to attend. Mr Hames said that he had received correspondence from a parishioner regarding a weight restriction along Bosbury Road. Members were reminded that it had previously been agreed that a restriction would be unenforceable by the police. However, it was agreed that the matter should be placed on the Agenda for further discussion before the public meeting in September. F.002 - New School - Ref.Min.E.995 It was agreed that the Agenda and Proposals for consideration of the new school should be filed with the Parish Council as an official record of the facts. The Chairman referred to concern expressed to him at the implied criticism of the Parish Council in a letter published in last month's newsletter and said that he had received an apology from the writer.

Discussion took place as to whether the school should be approached in regard to the Parish Council having joint use of the proposed new school's hall which could be used for bigger functions than either of the village halls could cater for. Members were advised that part funding from the Parish Council would be required and the security aspect would also have to be considered. Mrs Hurle agreed to raise the matter at the next school governors' meeting. F.003 PLANNING MATTERS.

Miss Pilling, Chairman of the Committee, reported on a meeting held on the 17th May 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/1011/F Members raised no objection to the application for the construction of a stable block at Coombe Farm, Coombe Lane, Ridgeway Cross, Cradley. NE2000/1129/F It was agreed, with two abstentions, to raise no objection to the application for the replacement of an existing bungalow at Bywood, Storridge. F.004 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment: (a) Hereford Diocesan Board of Education-leasehold rental for Cradley Village Hall £52.00 (b) H.A.L.C -subscription £210.00 (c) Clerk's salary for 3 months £651.42 (d) Clerk's back pay - payment error in last quarter £76.32 (e) Clerk's car allowance for 3 months £66.30 (f) IT allowance for 3 months £50.00 (g) Telephone allowance for 3 months £25.00 (h) Administration expenses for 3 months £17.54 F.005 MILLENNIUM PROJECT. Mrs Carver reminded members that several ideas had been put forward to mark the Millennium including a village web site, an additional notice board and bench seats and a leather-bound book containing the names, addresses and occupations of all residents in the civic parish. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that Mrs Carver would set up a committee to investigate the possibility of a web site, Mrs Hunt would obtain further information regarding the book and Mr Rowe would liaise with the Clerk to locate suppliers of notice boards and bench seats. All agreed to report back at the next meeting. It was reported that taped recordings of some parishioners had been made but the whereabouts of the tapes were not known. The Clerk was asked to try to track them down and retain them for safe keeping. F.006 REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING. The Chairman read several letters that had been received in response to matters on the pending list and the replies were as follows: Broken Stile - E.406. All Public Rights of Way in the parish were currently being surveyed and any necessary maintenance work would be carried out in the autumn. This was noted. Church House. Rectory Lane - E.865. Several letters had been sent by the Planning Officer to Mr Davies requesting further evidence, such as more precise affidavits, rent books and tenancy agreements, in support of his CLEUD application but no response had been received. The Officer stated that if, after twenty-one days, information had not been forthcoming, a refusal of the CLEUD would be issued. In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that as a separate dwelling, council tax was payable on the pavilion and the Clerk was asked to establish whether any such tax had been paid during the time the pavilion had been occupied. Countryside Agency - E.819. A Conservation Area Appraisal for Cradley had not yet been determined and it was not known when any such statements would be prepared or reviewed. It was also unlikely that such a programme would proceed until further progress was made upon the Unitary Development Plan. Furthermore, Village Design Statements would normally be prepared by the local community and if the community wished to prepare such a statement, suggested contacts could be supplied. This was noted. The Black House - E.957. The Enforcement Officer had stated that the garage could be used for residential purposes once the house was occupied, provided it was not let, sold or occupied independently of the main house and that it would not be expedient to pursue the matter. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain independent advice to ascertain whether the information given by the Officer was correct. Environment Agency - E.908. Further information had been requested by the Agency with regard to the issue which had now been forwarded. Storridge Village Hall - Grant Request - E.955. Mr Geoff Cole had agreed that, following consultation with Herefordshire Council's accountants, surplus grant monies should be kept by the Parish Council. Litter in Parish - E.959. It had been confirmed that the litter had now been cleared and that the Environment Agency had been notified in respect of the diesel oil that had leaked into the watercourse. Birchtree Garage - E.959. The Enforcement Officer had visited the site and had written to the owner requesting that the forecourt be cleared of vehicles and that the general condition of the site and buildings be improved. This was noted. F 007 REPORT OF THE PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE. The Chairman advised members that Mr Knight had been elected Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee at a meeting on 2nd June 2000. In his report Mr Knight said that Malvern Hills District Council would no longer be able to undertake the grass cutting at Chapel Lane playing field due to a heavy work load and although the

Clerk had approached three other contractors only one had replied. It was agreed at that meeting that the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements for the work to be carried out and Mr D M Smith was appointed. Unfortunately, two rolls of rusty wire fencing concealed in the long grass had damaged the contractor's machinery and had also caused a puncture. In the ensuing discussion it was reported that the Parish Council was covered for public liability and the Clerk had requested a claim form from the insurers. Mr Knight further reported that he had cut off and filed down the projecting bolt threads on the seats as recommended in the ROSPA report and said that the holes in the fence had now been repaired. A telephone call had been received by the Clerk from a parishioner who said the overgrown hedge around Chapel Lane playing field made it difficult for cyclists to use the perimeter track. It was agreed that Mr Knight would obtain an estimate from Mr Smith to trim the hedge and ask him to cut the grass around the perimeter of the Buryfields land that had become overgrown. F 008 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. A letter had been received from Alice Kemble-Davies, Legal Assistant at Herefordshire Council requesting the Parish Council's consent for its release from the Malvern Hills District Council's agreement. Mr Beard reminded members that the Parish Council was still the leaseholder of the building and felt that the lease should be relinquished before the rights to the grant were given up. In the ensuing discussion it was unanimously agreed that the letter of consent should be withheld until the new lease had been signed. F 009 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. Various items of correspondence and literature had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer and included a Planning Bulletin, Schedule of LAF Meetings and Three Counties Show information. The literature was left on the table for members' perusal. F 010 CLARKE ROXBURGH. A letter had been received from Colin Bannister requesting an additional premium for the inclusion of Products Liability on the Council's insurance following a request from a member for its forthcoming fete. As the Council had no knowledge of any such request the Clerk had cancelled the additional cover. F 011 TAS PARTNERSHIP. A letter had been received from John Taylor stating that the Partnership had been commissioned by the Countryside Agency to raise the profile of transport locally and to help communities express their transport needs. This was noted. F.012 HALC. Various information including the NALC Circular and Members' Allowances had been received and the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of guidelines on Best Value Indicators for Planning. F 013 FLOODING INFORMATION. A letter had been received from Mr R Lee, Drainage Engineer at Herefordshire Council asking if the Parish Council wished to reconsider its decision not to hold a supply of sandbags. The Chairman reminded members that there had been no response to a previous appeal for their storage and it was therefore agreed to take no action. F 014 MALVERN HILLS AONB. Notification had been received of community consultation days at which the Parish Council and members of the public could make their views known on the Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This was noted. F 015 SLOWER SPEEDS INITIATIVE. A letter had been received from Paige Mitchell asking the Parish Council to write to Lord MacDonal about the Ten Year Transport Plan. Mr Hames said that he had also received a copy of the letter and would respond to the request. F 016 EAST HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE. Mr Rowe reported that Mr Allfrey had been re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Committee and elected as representative on the Ledbury and District Liaison Group. Mr Rowe also said that the Clerk of the Committee was investigating the possibility of representation of both Herefordshire and Worcestershire Associations on the Joint Advisory Committee. F 017 30MPH SPEED LIMIT. In reply to a question from Mr Rowe, the Chairman said that if the 30mph speed limit was extended through the village, cars could park at night without lights and therefore the matter had not been pursued. F 018 RESURFACING WORKS. It was reported that the recent resurfacing works along the A4103 at Stiffords Bridge had started to degrade. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Divisional Surveyor if the Parish Council could be informed of planned works to the highway. F.019 POTHOLES. The Clerk was asked to notify the Highways department of the potholes from Grittlesend to the main road. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.53 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 11th July 2000 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed- Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Turnbull, Cllr. Rees Mills with the Clerk in attendance. Note: Mr Hames arrived during consideration of Min.F.021

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Mrs Hurle declared a non-pecuniary interest in F.030, Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.024, Mr Rogers declared an interest in F.033, and Ms Turnbull declared an interest in F.022.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2000 be confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment:- Min.F.007. Mr Knight had cut off the projecting bolt threads from the top of the slide, not the seats.

**MATTERS ARISING F.020 - Matters Pending - Highway Boundary Ref.Min.F.006** Confirmation had been received from Mr Andrew Culley, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council that upon investigation it was found that the fence line was acceptable and therefore the fence did not encroach onto the highway. This was noted. **F.021 - Matters Pending - Tree Lopping - Ref.Min.F.006** A letter had been received from Mr T Boulton, Arboricultural Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that contractors who had carried out tree lopping in the area had been advised that appropriate application would need to be made before any future works were carried out to trees within the Cradley Conservation Area. This was noted. **F.022 - Church House, Rectory Lane - Ref.Min.F.006** Ms Turnbull withdrew from the meeting before the Chairman reported that Mr Davies had informed the Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council that further evidence to support his CLEUD application would be forwarded before the end of July. It was further reported that no Council Tax had been paid on the building before 21st March 1998. The department had asked for copies of the affidavits to enable the outstanding tax to be recovered. **F.023 - Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.007** Mr Knight reported that a quote had been received in the sum of 120.00 plus VAT for hedge cutting around the field boundary. In the ensuing discussion it was reported that two residents whose properties adjoined the field had requested certain restrictions before the hedge was cut. In this respect it was agreed that the Clerk should establish the amount of hedge owned by the Parish Council before the quote was accepted. Mr Rogers pointed out that large dead branches from two oak trees on the land were in danger of falling. The Chairman agreed to seek advice from a qualified tree surgeon. The Chairman further agreed to make arrangements for the wire in the ditch to be removed and Ms Turnbull advised members that Wicksteed would shortly be inspecting the zipper. **F.024 - Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.F.008** A further letter had been received from Alice Kemble-Davies, Assistant Solicitor at Herefordshire Council, stating that the new Capital Grant Agreement included a clause that required a new lease to be granted for at least twenty-one years and that the Grant was strictly conditional upon such Lease being obtained. If no Lease was obtained then, in accordance with the Agreement, no Grant monies would be payable. Following a discussion it was agreed, with two abstentions, that the Parish Council's release from the original Agreement should be signed. Mr Thomas informed members that the new Agreement had been signed and the formation of the Trusteeship and the new Lease were in hand. **F.025 - Planning Guidelines - Ref.Min.F.012** The Chairman informed members that the Guidelines had now been received. This was noted. **F.026 PLANNING MATTERS.** Miss Pilling, reported on a meeting held on the 13th June 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- **NE2000/1209/F** No objection was raised to the application for the provision of games room and laundry for use with holiday lets and attached domestic private garage at Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp. **NE2000/1013/F** Members strongly opposed the relief of Condition 3 (occupancy tie) at Reafield, Bearswood Common, Cradley and felt that the condition placed on the approval by Malvern Hills District Council should stand. **NE2000/1271/L** No objection was raised to the application for

alteration and replacement of windows to front elevation of house at Greenhill Farm, Greenhill, Cradley. NE2000/1415/L It was agreed to raise no objection to the application for the replacement of two first floor metal frame casement windows with wood and restoration of window arches at Millbank, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley. NE2000/1272/0 Members raised no objection in principle to the application for the erection of two single storey dwellings and ancillary works at a site off Chapel Lane, Cradley but requested that the development should consist of no more than two, three-bedroomed bungalows with each having a single garage. Furthermore members suggested that permitted development rights should be withdrawn. The Chairman commented briefly on the two applications considered before the main meeting, the details of which would be reported at the next meeting.

F.027 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Mr Knight, it was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment: D M Smith - Grass Cutting £110.46

F.028 INSURANCE CLAIM. The Chairman reminded members that the contractor had damaged his machinery on wire fencing concealed in the grass at Chapel Lane playing field and that he had submitted a claim in the sum of £372.00. As the Parish Council had an excess of £250.00 on its policy and the premium would rise in the event of a claim, it was unanimously agreed that the Council should recompense the contractor for the amount claimed.

F.029 CHARITIES OF RICHARD HILL AND OTHERS. Mrs Cale advised members that the term of office was in fact four years and not three as amended in the minutes of the previous meeting. Furthermore Mr Clarke should have been elected this year. On a proposal by Mrs Cale, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Clarke should serve on this body for a four year term. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to Malvern Hills District Council to establish their representation on this body.

F.030 JOINT USE OF NEW SCHOOL HALL. Mrs Hurle advised members that a meeting of the governors had recently taken place and they had agreed that joint use of the hall by the Parish Council would not be a viable proposition mainly due to security issues. However, they would be prepared to reconsider if a proposal was put forward by the Parish Council. Mrs Hurle added that any proposal the Council wished to make should be made without delay. Following a proposal by Ms Turnbull, seconded by Mr Rowe, a vote was taken on whether an approach should be made to the school and was lost by eight votes to four.

F.031 QUESTION TIME. In reply to a question by a parishioner, the Chairman said that members of the Planning Committee had strongly opposed the application for a telecommunications mast and equipment at Ridgeway Cross and said that anyone who wished to object to the proposal should write to the Planning Officer before Herefordshire Council's next meeting in early August.

F.032 MILLENNIUM PROJECT. Mrs Carver handed out an information sheet of the village web site idea for members' perusal which explained how the concept worked. She said that UK Villages.co.uk would register and set up the site free of charge and that a committee had been set up to investigate the project further. In the ensuing discussion some members questioned its usefulness and asked if the effort to update the site on a regular basis would be sustained. It was agreed that a presentation about the project should be given next month. Mrs Hunt informed members that following consultation with an archivist and the local police officer she had decided against the idea of a book containing personal data of residents in the parish and would, instead, compile information of all the organisations in the civic parish which would also include village maps and photographs of places of interest. Members agreed that the cost of materials for the project should be met by the Parish Council. Mr Rowe reported that he had obtained three quotations for notice boards and said that one of particular interest was made with vandal proof glass. He had also received details and prices for benches and was waiting for a quote from Ridgeway Joinery for both a notice board and bench. It was agreed that all the projects should be discussed further next month.

F.033 HEREFORDSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. The Chairman had previously circulated to members a copy of a letter and map from Mr Ian Culley, Forward Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council and before discussion took place Mr Rogers offered to withdraw from the meeting. Mr Culley had outlined the progress of the UDP and was seeking Parish Council involvement in its preparation. Cradley had been identified as a main village on the map which showed development proposals and a settlement boundary along with significant housing

commitments and statutory designations similar to Local Plan practice. Members expressed concern at the results of the Council's Housing Needs Survey and agreed that the Clerk should ask for an Officer to attend the next meeting to clarify various points and to enable questions to be answered before any comments were made on the plan. F.034 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. Various items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer which included the Economic Development Plan 2000/2001 and information regarding e-mail addresses and parish magazines. F.035 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES. A further letter had been received from Dorothy Coleman outlining the procedure for dealing with temporary road closures for events requiring such closure. This was noted. F.036 DONATION REQUESTS. Requests for donations had been received from Macmillan Nurse Appeal and the WRVS. As with previous donation requests it was agreed to take no action. F.037 SUBSIDISED LOCAL BUS SERVICES. A letter had been received from Mr J Davies, Public Transport Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the contracts for the services were due to expire in September and that some services in Cradley would change due to reduced passenger use. It was agreed that full details of these changes should be posted at the doctors' surgery and to inform parishioners through the newsletter to this effect. F.038 REFUSE COLLECTIONS. A letter had been received from Mr M dark, Senior Contract Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that the free skip service would no longer operate in the parish but that a system had been set up whereby a box van and a refuse collection lorry with drivers would be available for two hours on a designated Saturday at a cost in the region of 33.00 plus VAT per visit. Following a discussion it was agreed not to take up the offer this year. F.039 MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS. Notification had been received of an Open Day at Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern on Saturday, 15th July from 10.00am until 3.00pm. F.040 BLACK HOUSE. The Chairman reminded members of the letter that had been received last month from Mr Pryce, Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council and said that a previous letter from him dated 8th March 1999 had stated that the owner had been given the opportunity to submit a retrospective planning application for the conversion of the garage to residential accommodation and that if no application was submitted, enforcement action would be considered. In reply to a question, Cllr. Mills said that the owner could be forced to change the building back to a garage if he did not move into the house once building works on it were completed and that Mr Pryce would keep the file open until the matter was concluded. Cllr. Mills agreed to speak to the Planning Officer and report back to the Parish Council. F.041 GPU POWER. The Chairman read a letter of apology that had been sent to Mr Hames regarding a recent disruption of supply which had been caused by a transient fault on the 132kV network supply in the area. This was noted. F.042 LAND BEHIND THE PARLEYS. It was reported that a lorry travelling up the track to the rear of the Parleys had knocked down a fence. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored. F.043 EMERGENCY SERVICES. Mrs Carver informed members that fire fighters lost valuable time turning vehicles around in the village whilst trying to locate the site of a recent fire and said that grid references or post codes should be given when assistance was requested. It was agreed that a separate item should be placed in the newsletter to this effect. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 8th August 2000 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Apologies:- Mr S Knight, Ms K E Turnbull. The Chairman welcomed Mr David Nicholson, Chief Forward Planning Officer and Mr Ian Culley, Forward Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council who had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to give a slide presentation and answer members' questions in relation to the Unitary Development Plan. Mr Nicholson explained that the object of the Plan was to identify main villages within public transport corridors where most facilities and services existed as the most sustainable location for further housing. Although Cradley had been identified as a main village, members informed the Officers that it had infrastructure constraints as well as traffic implications and any further housing developments would be detrimental to the village. Members agreed that the existing settlement boundary should remain and that windfall sites should be sufficient until 2011. After the Officers answered members' questions the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and said that the Parish Council would write formally to the department stating its objections to the Plan. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Mr Rogers declared an interest in F.044, Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.062, Mr Rowe declared a non-pecuniary interest in F.052 and the Chairman declared an interest in F.063. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th July 2000 be confirmed and signed. The Chairman informed members that copies of lengthy correspondence would be sent to them for perusal prior to the parish meetings. **MATTERS ARISING** F.044 - Unitary Development Plan Mr Rogers made a brief statement about ownership of land outside the settlement boundary. F.045 - Pavilion - Church House - Ref.Min.F.022 It was reported that Mr Davies had not forwarded supporting evidence before the end of July as agreed and therefore his CLEUD application was out of time. Members were reminded that Herefordshire Council would be pursuing the reclamation of unpaid council tax. F.046 - Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.023 The Chairman advised members that the wire had now been removed from the field. The Clerk had obtained the deeds of the land but as ownership of the boundary hedge appeared unclear it was agreed that the Parish Council should assume responsibility for cutting the whole hedge until ownership had been clarified and that the estimate from D M Smith in the sum of 120.00 plus VAT should be accepted. It was further agreed that the contractor should be instructed to top and cut the hedge right back except on the road side which should be trimmed. Mr Rogers expressed concern that the dead branches on the oak trees had not been removed. The Chairman agreed to take the matter up with the tree surgeon. F.047 - Black House - Ref.Min.F.040 A letter had been received from Andrew Ford of West Midlands Planning Aid outlining the local authority's enforcement powers and stated that provided the garage remained in single family occupation, the change of use did not require planning permission. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored and to inform the Enforcement Officer if planning conditions were breached. Cllr. Mills advised members that he would keep the matter open on file. F.048 - GPU Power - Ref.Min.F.041 It was reported that there had recently been a thirty minute interruption of the electricity supply in Bosbury Road. F.049 - Emergency Services - Ref.Min.F.043 Mr Rowe informed members that Hereford and Worcester Fire Service relied on post codes rather than grid references and unlike some other emergency services, did not have satellite navigation equipment.

**F.050 PLANNING MATTERS.** Miss Pilling, reported on a meeting held on the 11th July 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/1572/F Strong objection was raised to part of the application for a proposed two-storey extension at High Green, Cradley on the grounds that the rear extension and balcony would overlook the adjacent property's bedroom window and would therefore be a gross invasion of privacy. However, members agreed to raise no

objection to the proposed extension to the front of the property. NE2000/1610/F No objection was raised to the application for demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension and sun lounge with terrace at Bramblewood Cottage, Storrige. NE2000/1609/F Members strongly opposed the application for the erection of a twenty metre high slimline mast with three omni-directional antennae and two dish antennae plus an equipment cabin at Ridgeway Telephone Exchange, Worcester Road, Ridgeway Cross because of its close proximity to dwellings and the height of the mast would be seen from almost all over the village.

F.051 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mrs Hurlle, seconded by Mr Thomas, it was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment: MHDC - Reprographic Charges £25.40

F.052 CRADLEY CHURCH CLOCK. Mr Rowe informed members that the clock had been overhauled at a cost of £3,200 and future annual maintenance charges would be £164.50 including VAT. On behalf of the Parochial Church Council Mr Rowe asked if the Parish Council would make a donation towards the expenses. In the ensuing discussion members were reminded that the clock belonged to the Parish Council. On a proposal by Mrs Cale, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that as the overhaul expenses had already been paid by the PCC the Parish Council should meet future annual maintenance costs. The Clerk was asked to notify Clock Restorers J B Joyce and to advise the PCC accordingly. Mr Rowe had declared an interest and did not vote.

F.053 MILLENNIUM PROJECTS. Mrs Hunt reported that some of the forms distributed to the various organisations had now been returned and would be passed to the Clerk for typing. It was anticipated that the pages would be ready for binding by October. Mr Rowe informed members that he had received four quotes for the new notice board and the lowest was from Ridgeway Joinery in the sum of £545.12 including VAT. On a proposal by Mr Rowe, seconded by Mr Thomas, it was unanimously agreed that the quote should be accepted. Mr Rowe further advised members that the same company would be replacing the glass in the doors of the notice board at Fincher's Comer which had been vandalised and added that plans for the new benches had been shelved for the present. The Chairman said the presentation on the village web site would be deferred until next month.

F.054 PUBLIC MEETING - TRAFFIC ISSUES. A letter had been received from a parishioner expressing anger at the number of dumper trucks travelling at speed along Bosbury Road and asked if a weight restriction could be put in place to divert heavy vehicles up Fromes Hill to the B4214. Mr Hames said he had spoken to the parishioner and understood that Herefordshire Council would consider a weight restriction if an approach was made to them by the Parish Council. Members were reminded that the department had previously said that a weight restriction would be difficult to enforce. Following a discussion and on proposal by Mr Hames, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed that a weight restriction should be requested on this road and through the village and that advice on the suggested weight limit should be sought from the Transportation department. Members were further reminded that the Public Meeting would be held on the 5th September in Storrige Village Hall at 7.30pm and that notices to this effect would be posted around the parish.

F.055 CALC. The Chairman reported that the new refuse collection arrangements had been discussed at a recent meeting and parishes were unhappy at the reduction of quality in service. It was agreed that the Clerk should convey members' displeasure regarding this matter to Steve James, Director of Environment. Cllr. Rees ^^^-> pointed out that although only one black sack would be left, any amount of bags would be collected and that arrangements were in hand to leave different coloured bags for recycling purposes. It was with deep regret that the Chairman announced the death of Martin Brent, Clerk to Colwall Parish Council and Secretary to East Herefordshire Area Committee and said that he had been a most efficient secretary to the Committee and would be sadly missed.

F.056 MILLENNIUM AUCTION. A letter had been received from the British Fire Services requesting a donation for its forthcoming auction with proceeds being distributed to various Fire Service Charities. Following a discussion it was agreed to take no action.

F.057 DIRECTION SIGN. It was reported that a sign had recently been erected at the junction of the A4103 and the B4219 directing traffic to Malvern along Cowleigh Road which was unsuitable for heavy traffic and large vehicles. As Hereford and Worcester County Council removed a similar sign at the Parish

Council's request some years ago it was agreed that the Clerk should inform the Transportation department of members' concerns and request that the new sign be removed. F.058

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Streetworks July 2000. The latest list of streetworks for the County. Dog Fouling Signs. Leaflets concerning signs together with prices. Members agreed to take no action. Concessionary Parking. "The Home Town" scheme would be adopted with a review in 2002. Further details on the scheme would be published in due course. Services Update. The latest edition covering 29th April to 27th July 2000. Farmers' Markets. Leaflets giving information and dates held. Herefordshire Councillors. Leaflet giving contact details of all Herefordshire Councillors. F.059 INSURANCE. The Chairman advised members that a letter and an endorsement in the sum of 25.00 had been received from Clarke Roxburgh to cover a recently held event in aid of Cradley Village Hall. The Clerk had returned the documents and informed the company that the Parish Council had not given authorisation for the additional cover and that any future instructions should only be carried out following written confirmation by the Clerk. F.060 FOOTPATHS. Mr Hames reported that he had recently attended a meeting with Sam Beaton, Footpaths Warden and that works to footpaths in the parish would be carried out in the autumn. Mr Hames added that a Footpaths meeting would be arranged soon and Mr Beaton would be invited to attend. F.061 OVERHANGING VEGETATION. It was reported that a hedge at Sundown, Chapel Lane had exceeded the line of kerb stones and had covered a drainage ditch which could lead to flooding. Andrew Culley, Divisional Surveyor at Herefordshire Council had agreed to investigate the matter and inform the owners of their legal responsibilities. F.062 CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL. In reply to a question by Mr Thomas the Chairman said that the Parish Council did not, at present, have a legal representative. It was agreed that the matter be placed on the Agenda for next month. F.063 DEAD TREES. It was reported that there were dead trees on the highway verge between Little Halesend and the main road and others at Settelol. At this point the Chairman declared an interest and the Vice-Chairman took the chair. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Highways department. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 12th September 2000 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Turnbull. Cllr. R Mills with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs P Hurle, Mr S Knight, Mr J Rowe. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.069 and Mr Allfrey declared an interest in F.084. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th August 2000 be confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment: F.055 should read Cllr. Mills and not Cllr. Rees. MATTERS ARISING F.064 - Unitary Development Plan - Ref.Min.F.044 An acknowledgement to the Parish Council's letter had been received from Ian Slater, Head of Planning Services at Herefordshire Council stating that the first deposit draft of the UDP was expected to be published in the Autumn of 2001. This was noted. F.065 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling, reported on a meeting held on the 8th August 2000 when the following applications had been considered: - NE2000/1835/F No objection was made to the application for a new vehicular access at Stone House, Cradley. NE2000/1736/F Members agreed to raise no objection to the application for a replacement garage with two-storey extension and changes to existing conservatory at Meadow End, Stiffords Bridge. NE2000/1838/F No objection was raised to the proposed barn conversion with garage and ancillary site works at Birch Farm, Ridgeway Cross. NE2000/1842/F No objection was raised to the application for the retention of the existing polytunnels but members requested that no further polytunnels were added in the future. NE2000/1609/F Notice had been received of the withdrawal of the application for the erection of a 20m high slim line mast and equipment on land adjacent to Ridgeway Telephone Exchange, Worcester Road, Ridgeway Cross- Mr Beard agreed to arrange for the removal of the objection notices surrounding the site. F.066 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mrs Caner, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment: (a) MHDC - Reprographic Charges £7.46 (b) D M Smith - Grass cutting at Chapel Lane Playing Field £41.13 (c) E A Hunt -Reimbursement of expenses for -Millennium Project £33.54 (d) Clerk's salary for 3 months £651.42 (e) Clerk's car allowance for 3 months £32.15 (f) IT Allowance for 3 months £50.00 (g) Telephone allowance for 3 months £25.00 (h) Administration expenses for 3 months (postage and photocopying) £18.32 F.067 PUBLIC MEETING - TRAFFIC ISSUES. A letter had been received from Gary Williams, Senior Traffic Engineer at Herefordshire Council stating that the sign at the junction of the A4103 and the B4219 had been amended following complaints from nearby residents that lorries had been stopping on the A4103 asking for directions to Malvern. In the interest of safety, Mr Williams felt the sign should remain. This was noted. With regard to the weight restriction on Bosbury Road, -Mr Williams said that two levels of restrictions *could* be used: 7.5 tonnes and 17.5 tonnes. Following a discussion members agreed that an application should be made for a 17.5 tonne weight restriction to be put into operation. The following comments had been received from John Colyer, Transportation Manager in reply to questions put to him at the public meeting. Bosbury Road The "Gating" scheme should be implemented in the New Year and the proposal for the 17.5 weight restriction was being progressed. The signs on-the-bend-had been-reviewed and he considered that chevron signs would be the most beneficial. Although the footway was second on the list, the timescale could not be determined due to the need to negotiate land purchase. A request for a list of programmed works would be made-to Mr Colyer. F.072 ANNUAL AUDIT. The Chairman informed members than an invoice had been received from the Audit Commission in the sum of £584.56 in respect of audit fees for 1998/99 and that the fees were based on a sliding scale. On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Creed-Newton, it was unanimously agreed that the invoice should be paid. F.073 HEREFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS. Various items of correspondence and literature had been

received and left on the table for members' perusal. F.074 INVITATIONS, The following invitations had been received: (a) Army Presentation Team - Monday, 2nd October 2000 at The Courtyard, Hereford at 6.30pm. (b) Community Safety Conference - Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2000 at The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford, 9am to 4pm. (c) The Mayor's Charity Ball - Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000 at The Abbey Hotel Malvern at 7.15pm. F.075 ABANDONED VEHICLES. A letter had been received from Mr A Tector, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards at Herefordshire Council advising that an agreement had been entered into with West Mercia Constabulary whereby his department could gain access to the DVLA database through the police computer system which would speed up the process of dealing with abandoned vehicles. This was noted. F.076 WASTE MANAGEMENT. Notification had been received from Herefordshire Council that refurbishment works at the Bromyard site had commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2000 and the site would be closed for approximately ten weeks. A temporary site would be located at the Council Depot, Hereford Road from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2000 and would operate on Sundays only between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm. This was noted. F.077 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. The Local Environment Agency Plan (LEAP) July 2000 together with a questionnaire had been received from Steve Morley, Area Manager, Upper Severn. This was noted. F.078 FLOOD PLAN. The Herefordshire County Flood Plan - Amendment No.2 had been received from Mr B Lee, Drainage Engineer at Herefordshire Council. This was noted. F.079 GREEN FARM. A letter had been received from Bryan Hamson, owner of the land, offering to dispose of the land for village use and asked if the Parish Council would consider its future use. The Chairman informed members that he had spoken to Mr Hamson and the matter had been dealt with. F.080 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION. Notification had been received from Helen Rossington, Review Manager that the Commission had started a review of electoral arrangements of Herefordshire Council. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the number of Parish Councillors should remain as at present. As the parish does not receive County status because of its dual ward it was further agreed that the Clerk should write to the Commission and suggest that dual wards be abolished. F.081 GM CROPS. A letter had been received from Mr J Latham stating that a petition had been organised against Genetically Modified crops being grown in the neighbouring parish of Canon Frome for the next five years. This was noted. F.082 BURYFIELDS LAND. Mr Rogers expressed concern at the condition of the land and said the contractor had failed to re-seed the site in the Spring as agreed and that the stones had not yet been removed. Following a discussion it was agreed that Mr Rogers should contact the contractor again and request that top soil is placed on the site before re-seeding. F.083 TREES IN PARISH. It was reported that the owner of a house at the top of The Leys had been approached by Elgar Housing Association to have an acer tree removed following the appearance of a crack in a garage wall. On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed that a Tree Preservation Order should be requested on the tree and a further Order placed on a Chestnut tree at Millbank. F.084 CRADLEY SCHOOL. Mr Creed-Newton informed members that if the school changed its present status from Voluntary Aided to Voluntary Controlled the LEA would be responsible for providing all funding for the new school. It was agreed the information obtained from the Church of England Web Site should be passed to the School Governors. F.085 TRACK ADJACENT TO THE PARLEYS. In reply to a report of overgrown vegetation and a question about the use of the track, the Chairman said Cllr. Mills was looking into the matter. F.086 HORSE RIDERS. It was reported that horses were being ridden on the pavement by the doctor's surgery leaving manure behind. It was agreed that a notice should be placed in the parish newsletter asking horse riders to use the road. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.04pm.

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

**Tuesday, 10th October 2000 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr J F Rowe, Ms K E Turnbull, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mr M J Rogers, Mr J C Thomas. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2000 be confirmed and signed- The Minute Book was with the District Auditor. MATTERS ARISING F.087 - Traffic Matters - Ref.Min.F.067 Notification had been received from Marie Rosenthal, Solicitor at Herefordshire Council of the proposed Order for the 50mph speed limit at Stiffords Bridge. This was noted- The Chairman read a letter he had received from Sgt. R Wilson of West Mercia Police in response to the non- attendance of the police at the recent public meeting. Sgt. Wilson stated that the Officer who had agreed to attend the meeting had not received the Clerk's letter confirming the date. This was noted. The Clerk reported that Mr Martin Cottle, Collections Planning Manager at the Royal Mail, had informed her that he would arrange a meeting between the Royal Mail, the Highways department and the Parish Council to discuss the re-siting of the post box in Bosbury Road. F.088 - Cradley Village Hall - Ref.Min.F.069 A letter had been received from the Management Committee asking for the Parish Council's written support in its applications for funding. This was agreed. F.089 - Track adjacent to The Parleys - Ref.Min.F.085 Two letters had been received from residents expressing concern about overhanging trees on land at the rear of The Parleys and of large, heavy vehicles using the track to gain access to the field. Cllr. Mills had visited the site and said the Planning Officer was aware of the situation. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Planning Officer to inform him of the planning infringement and ask for clarification of the distance of trees to property boundaries. Cllr. Mills added that Herefordshire Council would be appointing an Enforcement Officer within the next month. Mr Knight gave his apologies and left the meeting. F.090 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling, reported on a meeting held on the 12th September 2000 when the following applications had been considered: - NE2000/1572/F No objection was made to the amended application for the proposed extension at High Green, Cradley. NE2000/2210/F Members asked for clarification on usage and materials of existing building and materials to be used for proposed extension at The Haven, Crumpton Hill before the application could be considered. NE2000/2010/F No objection was raised to the proposed bam conversions at Millbank, Storridge provided that the materials used were of boarding and stone, however, members strongly opposed the proposed access in view of highway safety and asked that it be moved further towards the Worcestershire end. NE2000/2131/F Members agreed to raise no objection for a change of use of land to form an all weather tennis court at Netherley, Mathon, Cradley. Miss Pilling reported that the Planning department had since refused the application. It was reported that a summer house in the garden of a property in Rectory Lane was being used for residential purposes and the Clerk was asked to notify the Planning department accordingly. F.091 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment: D M Smith - Hedge cutting at Chapel Lane and Buryfields £158.63 F.092 MILLENNIUM PROJECT. Mrs Hunt informed members that an article about the Church Bells had been submitted to the Village of the Year Competition and a prize in the sum of £50.00 had been awarded. It was agreed to discuss expending the money at the January meeting. Mr Edgar informed members that a volunteer had agreed to put together an outline plan and budget for the CD Rom during the next four weeks. In reply to a question by Mrs Carver, the Chairman said it had not yet been decided where the new benches will be situated and suggested members give some thought to suitable sites before the next meeting. It was agreed that suggestions should also be sought from

parishioners through the newsletter. It was reported that the missing tapes had been located and the Clerk would establish whether they had been transcribed. F.093 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN. A letter had been received from R J Ball, Lead Planner (Transportation) at Herefordshire Council together with the Local Transport Plan 2001/02 which was passed to Mr Hames for perusal. Mr Hames pointed out three items of interest: 1) 20mph outside schools. 2) Footpath at Westfields at a cost of 39,000. 3) Gating on the A4103 at Storridge during 1999/2000 at a cost of 2,500. Members were reminded of the Parish Council's decision to pay for a roundel and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should write to Mr Ball in respect of item 3. F.094 HACKNEY CARRIAGE BYELAW. A copy of the byelaws relating to hackney carriages had been received from Chris Gordon, Principal Lawyer at Herefordshire Council. This was noted. F.095 CPU POWER. The Quality of Service Report for 1999/2000 had been received from Gareth Holliday, Customer Services Manager at GPU Power Distribution. This was noted. F.096 HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP PLAN. A copy of the revised Herefordshire Plan, together with a briefing pack had been received from Alison McLean. This was noted. F.097 MOBILE SHOP. It was reported that a mobile shop selling groceries and other essentials had recently advertised that it would be trading in the parish. Members agreed that the vehicle should be in possession of a street trader's licence and on a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to the Licensing department at Herefordshire Council stating that the village already had two shops which the Parish Council wished to protect. F.098 IT COURSE. Mrs Carver informed members that a very successful IT course was being held at Cradley Village Hall. F.099 REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the Chairman should arrange a meeting with ex-Chairmen to discuss the Clerk's salary review. F. 100 QUESTION TIME. In reply to questions asked by members of the public, the Chairman said that it was unclear who owned the track at The Farleys and suggested that they approach the Land Registry and the Hereford Record Office to try to ascertain the information required. The Chairman also advised that any previous evidence regarding the use of the track which had been sent to Malvern Hills District Council should be forwarded to Herefordshire Council. F. 101 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD. Mrs Hunt reported that the grass required cutting and the zipper was still not working properly. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Wicksteeds to arrange a site meeting between the company's representative, the Chairman and Mr Knight. F. 102 RECTORY LANE. Miss Pilling reported that the condition of the lane had deteriorated badly and asked for clarification of responsibility for repairs. The Chairman said the road was privately owned and therefore thought that the residents of the lane together with the Church and Village Hall may be jointly responsible. Mr Beard informed members that the responsibility might be recorded in previous Minutes. It was agreed that the Clerk should try to establish liability before the next meeting. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 14th November 2000 at 7.30 pm.**

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

Apologies:- Mrs D Cale, Mr E J Edgar, Mr S Knight. **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 10th October 2000 be confirmed and signed. **MATTERS ARISING** F.I 03 - Mobile Shop - Ref.Min.F.097 A letter had been received from Mrs C L Hall, Area Manager of Environmental Health at Herefordshire Council stating that mobile shops of the advertised nature did not require a Street Trader's licence. The Goodie Shop was a registered food premises and any issues of concern regarding food safety should be directed to Worcester City Council This was noted. F.104 - Chapel Lane Playing Field - Ref.Min.F.104 The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had met a representative of Wicksteeds on site and been advised that the nylon bearings on the zipper had worn and were removed to be refurbished by the company. In reply to a member's question relating to the angle of the slope, the Chairman said if the apparatus was jacked up it would be too high for the children to mount, and that to move the zipper to another part of the field would be too expensive. Mr Rowe, on behalf of Mr Knight, informed members that the Contractor would be spraying weed killer at the Buryfields site ready for re-seeding in the spring and that the Contractor had agreed to topsoil and seed at his own expense. Mr Rowe said he would make enquiries as to whether the weed killer was toxic and report back. F.I 05 - Track adjacent to The Parleys - Ref.Min.F.089 Cllr. Mills reported that the matter was progressing and asked if members could ascertain who owned the land prior to development and if the Right of Way to the field was for pedestrians only or also for vehicular use. This was agreed. Cllr. Mills also reported that the Land Registry had been instructed that the Black House, Cradley and the garage of that property should not be sold separately. Mr Hames arrived at this point. **F. 106 PLANNING MATTERS.** Miss Filling., reported on a meeting held on the 10th October 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/2378/F Strong objection was raised to the application for a two-storey extension at Butterfields, Bosbury Road, Cradley on the grounds that it would be an over development of the site and the balcony would be an invasion of privacy to the adjoining neighbour and residents of Oaklands Estate. NE2000/2351/F No objection was raised to the proposed erection of a steel portal framed cattle building at Vos Farms, Netherley. NE2000/2577/F No objection was raised to the application to change flat roofs to pitched roofs at Hawthorns, Chockbury Lane, Cradley. NE2000/2598/F Members strongly objected to the application for the proposed erection of a 15m mast, three omni-directional antennas and equipment at Crossways Farm because the site was a vantage point on the Tourist Map, and furthermore, there was another mast a quarter of a mile away which could be shared. NE2000/2431/F No objection was raised to the application for the retention of three stables and hay store on land south-east of The Barrow, Cradley. NE2000/2372/F No objection was raised to the application for the provision of workshop, garage, laundry and telephone room at Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp. NE2000/2210/F Members agreed to raise no objection to the proposed single storey extension at The Haven, Crumpton Hill, Storridge.

**F.I 07 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.** On a proposal by Miss Pilling, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment: MHDC - Reprographic Charges £12.64 John Drummond - Photography for Millennium Book £36.00 **F.108 ELECTION EXPENSES.** The Chairman read a letter from S R Oram, Registration Services Manager at Herefordshire Council which had explained the costs incurred for the recent elections and that his Council had calculated costs per parish over the whole county in proportion to the number of electors in each parish. In the ensuing discussion it was calculated that the actual expenditure for the

parish election amounted to £211.38 and on a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was agreed that this amount should be sent to Herefordshire Council in full and final settlement of its invoice. F. 109 INSURANCE. The Chairman reported that the Annual Insurance Premiums had become due and the amounts were as follows: a) Clarke Roxburgh (Village Halls and Playing Fields) 1257.35 b) Zurich Municipal (Parish Council) 157.50 Members were also advised that Clarke Roxburgh had agreed to include Glass cover at no extra cost. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that both premiums be paid. (The Clerk withdrew for this item) F. 110 CLERK'S SALARY. The Chairman reported that a meeting of the sub-committee had recommended that the Clerk's salary be increased from £2605.68 to £2736.36 per annum backdated to 1st April 2000. This represented the 3% increase awarded to all local authority staff plus an incremental increase due to the length of service. It had also been recommended that £100.00 per annum be paid towards her telephone expenses and £200.00 per annum towards her computer expenses. Following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept the sub-committee's recommendations. It was noted that the Clerk was responsible for her own tax and insurance. The Clerk expressed her appreciation for the salary increase. F. 111 PRECEPT for 2001/2002. The Chairman invited members to consider the estimates of income and expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002 as previously circulated by the Clerk. After careful consideration it was unanimously agreed on a proposal by Mr Allfrey, seconded by Mr Beard, to set the precept for the coming year at 8,000. F.I 12. DONATION REQUESTS. A request had been received from Liz Pusey, Manager of Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation towards the cost of operating the Bureau. After discussion it was unanimously agreed on a proposal by Mrs Carver, seconded by Mr Hames, to make a donation of £100.00. A letter had been received from David Hawkins, Chairman of the Easier Access Footpath Committee at Malvern Hills Conservators asking for a donation towards the construction of a footpath for wheelchairs. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed to take no action. F. 113 MILLENNIUM PROJECT. Mrs Hunt informed members that the book was progressing and would soon be ready for binding. She asked if the 50.00 prize money recently awarded for the article on the church bells could be used to have a box made for the book. As members had different views as to where the book should be placed for safe keeping it was agreed that both matters should be discussed at the January meeting. Mr Rowe reported that the seats had been ordered but he had only received two suggestions for their siting. It was agreed that a decision on where they should be situated would be made at the January meeting Mr Creed-Newton, on behalf of Mr Edgar, said that enquiries around the village had indicated support for the CD Rom project which would record the history, geography, current events and people of the parish. The project would be organised by an independent working group, possibly chaired by a member of the Parish Council, and a budget would be set for grant applications. It was reported that only one of the tapes had been transcribed with others partly transcribed. It was agreed that the Clerk should transcribe one of the tapes and report back at the January meeting. Mr Creed-Newton thought that the tapes could be linked to the CD Rom project. Mr Hames, on behalf of the Parish Council, conveyed thanks to those members who had given their time to organise and undertake work on the projects. F.I 14 WILDLIFE TRUST. A letter had been received from Mr P Burton, Survey and Training Officer requesting landowner contact details. The Clerk would try to establish details from the Rights of Way Warden. F.I 15 REFUSE COLLECTION. A letter had been received from Mr S James, Director of Environment at Herefordshire Council stating that due to budgetary constraints all 77,000 households in Herefordshire would only be issued with one black bag but there would be no limit on the number of bags collected from each household. This was noted. F.116 THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY. A questionnaire had been received from Ewen Cameron, Chairman of the Agency, requesting information to improve rural services. The results of the survey would be published in mid-2001 and would be used to influence Government policies to benefit rural communities. The Clerk said that she would complete the questionnaire. F. 117 CHARITIES OF RICHARD HILL AND OTHERS. A letter had been received from Kevin Douglas, Corporate Director at Malvern Hills District Council, advising that the Council held no records with regard to

the Charity and therefore did not transfer any to Herefordshire Council. It was pointed out that Mrs Cale's term of office as a Trustee of the Charity was until May 2000 and that she had been appointed a Trustee in her own right, not as a representative of the District Council, and therefore Mrs Cale would not have been required to contact the Charity Commission. This was noted. F.I 18 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY. The Annual Report 1999/2000 of the Constabulary together with a video and questionnaire had been received from Ian Payne, Clerk to the Authority. It was agreed to pass the questionnaire to Major Fraser for completion. F.I 19 A4103 - HEREFORD TO WORCESTER ROAD. A letter had been received from Andrew Jenkins stating that applications for authorisation to place a roundel on the road could only be made by Herefordshire Council. The Clerk reported that John Colyer had recommended red on both sides of the road at the beginning of a speed limit to be effective. An estimate of approximately 238.00 had been quoted for one side but the total cost of red on both sides, plus re-instatement of centre marking would be approximately 600.00 which the Parish Council would be required to fund. It was agreed to wait for the response from John Colyer in respect of expenditure for 'gating' on the A4103 at Storrige as reported in the Transport Plan. F. 120 POST BOX AT BOSBURY ROAD. Mr Rowe informed members that he had attended a site meeting with representatives from the Royal Mail and the Highways Authority to try to establish the best place to reposition the post box. It was agreed by all parties that the safest place for pedestrians and the collector was between numbers 2 and 3 Finchers Comer. It was further agreed that the grey mailbag box would be re-sited adjacent to it. F.I 21 REVIEW OF BOUNDARIES. Cllr. Mills reported on a letter he had received from S Oram at Herefordshire Council stating that a decision in respect of the review of boundaries would be made in January 2001 and asked if the Parish Council had received a copy. The Clerk reported that no correspondence had been received regarding the deadline and she was asked to obtain a copy of the letter from Mr Oram. Once this was received an extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be arranged before the January deadline. Furthermore it was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive of the Council expressing members' grave concern that this Council had not been informed. F. 122 CRADLEY CLOCK. It was reported that the clock had stopped and that J B Joyce would be coming to fix it on 24th November 2000. F.123 THE LEYS. Concern was expressed that Elgar Housing Association was housing young, homeless people at The Leys which was built primarily for the elderly. F. 124 GRITTLESEND. It was reported that a recent frost had caused the road to become a sheet of ice and had not been gritted. The Chairman believed it to be caused by a drainage problem. At the close of the meeting the Chairman invited members to join him and Mrs Allfrey for pre-Christmas refreshments. Mr Rogers, on behalf of those assembled, proposed a vote of thanks for the hospitality given to members by Mr and Mrs Allfrey. There being no farther business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 9th January 2001 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs D Cale, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Mr Allfrey declared an interest in F.I 34 - NE2000/2010/F and Mr Rogers declared an interest in F. 140. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** Subject to the following amendment it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2000 be confirmed and signed. F.110 - The Clerk withdrew from the meeting for this item. **MATTERS ARISING** F.126 - Election Expenses - Ref.Min.F.108 A letter had been received from Mr S Oram, Registration Services Manager at Herefordshire Council stating that Section 36(5) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 permitted Herefordshire Council to charge for any election costs incurred on behalf of Parish Councils. The Chairman advised members that he had tried, without success, to contact NALC and HALC before the meeting to ascertain the Parish Council's legal position in respect of the charges. In the ensuing discussion it was unanimously agreed that a holding letter should be sent to Mr Oram and that the Chairman should contact the Associations for advice before any further payment is made. Mr Hames arrived during the discussion. F.I 27 - Malvern Hills CAB - Ref.Min.F.112 A letter of thanks had been received from the Manager, Liz Puzey, for the donation of 100.00 towards the cost of running the Bureau. This was noted. F. 128 - Wildlife Trust - Ref.Min.F. 114 The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had obtained a list of landowners which had been forwarded to the Trust. F.I 29 - Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan - Ref.Min.F. 119 It was reported that the 'Gating' on the A4103 at Storridge listed in the Plan referred to the larger speed limit signs that had been erected. F.130 - Boundaries Review - Ref.Min.F. 121 The Clerk reported that Mr S Oram of Herefordshire Council had informed her that the Review was not for public perusal and that Parish Councils would have a chance to comment when the proposals had been published. Cllr. Mills said that he had now received a report and the dual ward of Hope End was unaffected. F.131 - Cradley Clock - Ref.Min.F. 122 Mr Rowe advised members that the clock had now been repaired. In reply to members' questions Mr Rowe said the bells were now slightly lower than the aperture and were not, therefore, audible at a distance. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the PCC expressing members' sadness at this. F.132 - The Farleys - Ref.Min.F. 105 Cllr. Mills advised members that he would continue his enquiries and added that the Enforcement Officer had agreed to inspect the site with regard to the reported rubble and would instigate enforcement action if necessary. F.I 33 - Church House. Rectory Lane. Cradley - CLEUD Application. The Chairman referred to a matter from previous minutes and read a letter from Russell Pryce, Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council which had stated that the owner had supported his application with further evidence that the pavilion had been occupied for a period of in excess of four years and therefore the Certificate of Lawful Use had been approved. Following a discussion it was agreed that a copy of the letter should be forwarded to the Treasurer's department as it appeared that council tax on the pavilion had not been paid. It was further agreed that the Clerk should furnish, Cllr. Mills with correspondence relating to the history of the pavilion to enable him to follow the matter up. F.134 **PLANNING MATTERS.** Miss Pilling reported on two meetings held on the 14th November and 7th December 2000 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2000/2937/F No objection was raised to the application for the erection of conservatory extension at Glebe House, Cradley. NE2000/2927/F No objection was raised to the application for a proposed kitchen extension at 2 The Gables, Bosbury Road, Cradley. NE2000/2010/F Members raised strong objection to the amended application for the conversion of two barns on land adjacent to Mill Bank, Storridge because it was felt that the proposed visibility splay was inadequate for that particular stretch of road and requested that the access be moved

further up in the Worcester direction. NE2000/3209/F No objection was raised to the application for a proposed conservatory at The Haven, Crumpton Hill Road, Storrige. NE2000/3067/F Support was given to the Planning Committee's previous comments that Condition 5 - obscure glass on all first floor windows to west elevation at High Green, Cradley - should remain. NE2000/2770/L No objection was raised to the application for the replacement of metal windows by wooden ones and repair of dormer roofs at Tudor Oaks, Bosbury Road, Cradley. The Chairman of the Committee informed members that the Planning department had since refused the application. NE2000/3034/F Members agreed to raise no objection to the application for a new detached garage at Briardene, Westfields, Cradley provided the overall height was reduced by two and a half feet and that usage was restricted to domestic use only. NE2000/2880/L No objection was raised to the application for the erection of stone boundary walls and alteration to existing site access at the Crown Inn, Bosbury Road, Cradley. NE2000/2969/F Members strongly opposed the application for a bedroom extension at The Gatehouse, Bearswood Common, Cradley on the following grounds:- a) over development of site b) erosion of rural environment c) members previously raised objection to the tie being removed which would allow further development. The Chairman of the Committee read a letter of protest about the removal of the tie which had been written to the Planning Officer by a member of Bosbury Parish Council. The Chairman of the Committee reported that no permission had been granted for the use of the summerhouse as a residential unit at The Elms, Rectory Road, Cradley and said the Enforcement Officer had written to the owner to request that a planning application be submitted to regularise the use. In reply to a question from Mr Rogers, the Chairman of the Committee said the Planning Committee had upheld the view of Herefordshire Council that the glass in all first floor windows to the west elevation at High Green, Cradley should be obscure. Mrs Hurle expressed appreciation to Miss Pilling for her leadership of the Planning Committee and for the way that she, together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, had applied themselves by visiting the sites of proposed developments thus providing the Committee over the past & month with additional necessary information not revealed in the plans. Miss Pilling, in turn, thanked Mrs Hurle for her comments. At 8.20pm the Chairman gave members permission to leave the meeting for five minutes so they could watch the total eclipse of the moon.

F. 135 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Mr Rogers, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment: MHDC - Reprographic Charges (Oct) £6.39 Herefordshire Council - Reprographic Charges (Sept and Nov) £11.70 Administration Costs for 3 months £9.10 Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months £30.37

F. 136 BANK ACCOUNT. It was agreed that the item be deferred until the February meeting.

F.I 37 MILLENNIUM PROJECTS. Mrs Hunt brought to the meeting the Millennium Book which was circulated to members for their perusal. Members all agreed that the book had been superbly put together and bound in green leather. The Chairman congratulated Mrs Hunt and her committee for the work they had put into the book and members agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of appreciation to Paul and Wynnell Hunt for writing the history and organising the maps and to John Drummond for taking the photographs. The Chairman also thanked others who had an input in the book and said he thought the surplus photographs should be placed with the book for posterity. It was further agreed that a letter of appreciation should also be sent to the binder on receipt of his invoice. Following a discussion it was agreed that Mrs Hunt should be responsible for the book until it was decided where it should be stored and that she should keep a record when it was on loan. It was further agreed that quotations should be sought for a fireproof storage box for discussion at the next meeting.

Mrs Hunt informed members that the following invoices relating to the Book had been received and on a proposal by Mr Beard, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was unanimously agreed that they be approved for payment:- Robson Miller Designs - acid-free paper £20.00 D. Creed-Newton - requisites for printing photos £53.00 Mr Rowe reported that the seats had been delivered and were in temporary storage. The favoured sites for the seats were opposite Queenswood and opposite the butcher's shop in Bosbury Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain ownership of the land from the Highways department to enable Mr Rowe to seek permission for their installation. The Chairman reminded members that it had previously been agreed that cheques up to each project's

budgeted amount could be drawn between meetings and in this respect the following cheques had been paid:- Mrs Wynnell Hunt - reimbursement for maps £39.00 Glasdons (UK) Ltd - payment for seats £782.92 Mr Edgar advised members that he hoped to have a plan and a budget figure for the CD Rom project within the next four weeks. F.I 38 PROPOSED GATING - B4220 BOSBURY ROAD. A letter had been received from Mr T Cahill, Projects Engineer at Herefordshire Council with attached plan and proposals for gateway features on the road which he would attempt to implement before the end of March 2001 subject to DETR approval. Following a discussion it was agreed that the 30mph terminal roundels should be situated at the entrance to the village just before Ashvale and not as outlined on the plan and the Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Cahill accordingly. F.I 39 CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL CONSTITUTION. Notification had been received from Dorothy Coleman of a meeting with HALC on Monday, 8th January 2001 in the Shire Hall, Hereford to discuss the Council's options for political management. This was noted. F.I 40 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer: Car Parking Charges, Services Update, Green Gate, Genetically Modified Crop Trials, Planning Bulletins^ Local Area Forums and Herefordshire in Print. The Chairman left the literature on the table for members' perusal. F. 141 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. A letter had been received from Mr Ian Culley, Forward Planning Officer at Herefordshire Council, stating that additional areas for consideration had been received and that any further comments from the Parish Council should be sent to him before 16th February 2001. The Chairman then read a letter from the CPRE outlining its aim to try to ensure that the Plan produced the best outcome for those who lived and worked in the rural parts of the County and asked for this Council's reaction to the proposals. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Culley reiterating members' previous comments and that a copy of the letter should be forwarded to the CPRE. It was further agreed that a Village Design Statement should be discussed next month. F. 142 PROTECTED TREES IN CRADLEY. A letter had been received from Mr D Bristow, Assistant Conservation Officer at Herefordshire Council stating that a TPO had been placed upon trees at The Leys in 1969 which included the Acer and an extract of the plan showing the protected trees had been enclosed. Mr Bristow asked for the precise location of the Chestnut tree at Mill Bank to enable him to identify the tree and in this respect it was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Hames would provide the Clerk with maps indicating the location of both trees. Members questioned whether a Tree Warden should be appointed. However, it was reported that Mr Guy Jenkins of Oaklands had been appointed some three years ago and the Clerk would find out if he still held the position. F.I 43 DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT. A letter had been received from Mr A Lee-Jones, Lead Engineer, advising that Herefordshire Council was considering the adoption of decriminalised parking throughout the County which would enable enforcement of on-street parking, as well as off-street (car parks) already operated by the Authority. The scheme would improve safety, flow of traffic and provide resident parking. This was noted. F.I 44 WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY. A Summary Performance Plan had been received together with a letter stating that the Joint Policing Plan would be available in mid-January and would provide detail behind the summary. This was noted. F.145 FLOODING AT COTTAGES ADJACENT TO A4103 STORRIDGE. The Chairman informed members that he had received a letter from Cllr. Peter Harling stating that a scheme had been prepared by the Highways department which would be actioned if funds permitted. The works would overcome the lack of capacity in the current piped drainage system that had caused flooding at the cottages. F. 146 DRAIN AT STORRIDGE CHURCH. Cllr. Harling also stated that subject to confirmation that the blocked drain was the responsibility of the Highways department, an order for the work would be actioned before the next meeting of the Liaison Group. This was noted. The Chairman pointed out that the drain in question was by the gateway to the church and not at the end of the lay-by and asked the Clerk to inform the department accordingly. F. 147 LAFF MEETING - TRAFFIC CALMING ON A4103 STORRIDGE. The Chairman informed members that he had questioned the discrepancy in the quotation for a roundel. In reply Cllr. Harling said that Mr Lee-Jones had told the Clerk the figure of 238.00 was only a guide and that if the Parish Council required roundels it

would have to make a contribution to the costs. The Clerk said she had not spoken to Mr Lee-Jones, she had actually liaised with Mr Rob Wood and that he had quoted exact costings. Furthermore, the Clerk had been advised by John Colyer, Transportation Manager, that if the Parish Council required a roundel it would have to fund the whole cost as Herefordshire Council did not have funds in the current financial year. The Chairman informed members that he would invite Cllr. Harling to meet him on site to discuss traffic calming measures. F. 148 POTHOLES. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Highways department with regard to repair work required to various potholes in the parish. F. 149 GRIT BENS. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for grit bins/tumps to be left at the top and bottom ends of Pontic, the bottom of Vinesend Lane and at Grittlesend. F. 150 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. It was reported that there had been a break in power during both Boxing Day and New Year's Day and was believed to be have been caused by an underground fault. F.I 51 CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELD. It was reported that the fencing between the chapel and the playing field had been damaged. Members agreed that arrangements should be made for its repair. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10,14 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 13th February 2001 at 7.30 pm.**

present:- Mr FAC Beard, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr J F Rowe (Chairman for the meeting), Mr J C Thomas, Ms K E Turnbull, Cllr. R Stockton (District Councillor) with the Cleric in attendance.

Apologies:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mrs D Cale, Mr W M J Hames, Mr M J Rogers.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2001 be confirmed and signed. MATTERS ARISING F.152 - Local Government Commission's Periodical Electoral Review of Herefordshire - Ref.Min.F.130 A letter had been received from Mr S Oram, Registration Services Manager at Herefordshire Council together with a schedule summarising the Commission's draft recommendations that considered each Councillor on a Principal Council should represent, as near as possible, the same number of electors. The proposals would result in the boundaries of 40 existing wards being modified, resulting in a reduction of 10 wards, and a reduction of council size from 60 to 58 members. Mr Oram had asked if the Parish Council wished to comment on the proposals. However, as Hope End Ward was not affected it was agreed to take no action. Notification of a Special Meeting of the Ledbury Area Forum to discuss the Review had been received from Dorothy Coleman at Herefordshire Council and would take place on Monday, 19\* February 2001 at 7.15pm at Colwall Village Hall. F.I 53 - Cradley Clock - ReMin.F.131 It was reported that measures were being looked into with a view to improving the loudness of the bells which had been hung lower than the aperture in the tower. F.154 - Millennium Seats - Ref.Min.F.137 A letter had been received from Clive Hall, Senior Technician at Herefordshire Council stating that the Highways department would have no objection in principle to the siting of the seats at the agreed sites and requested that a plan marking the exact location be forwarded to him. He also said that the Planning department should be consulted to ensure planning permission was not required. The Clerk reported that she had furnished Mr Hall with the maps and had ascertained that the Area Supervisor would visit the sites prior to installation to ensure the seats would not create a hazard to the highway user. Furthermore the Clerk had established that no planning permission was required. F.I55 - Unitary Development Plan - Ref.Min.F.141 An acknowledgement had been received from I M Slater, Head of Planning Services in respect of the Parish Council's comments which would be considered during the UDP process. The first deposit draft of the Plan was expected to be published in the Autumn 2001. This was noted. A letter had been received from the CPRE together with a summary of the views of other Parish Councils in villages which had been selected for further housing. This was noted. The Clerk had forwarded members' views following the January meeting. F.156 - Protected Trees in Cradley - Ref.Min.F.142 The Clerk had received a telephone call from Trevor Boulton advising that he thought the Acer tree at the Leys was protected by an Order which covered 5 trees in the proximity but would visit the site and report back to the Council. With regard to the Chestnut tree at Mill Bank, Mr Boulton said that any planning permission would override a TPO but if the Planning Officer felt the tree worthy of protection, a condition on the planning approval would be made to this effect. Miss Pilling stated that Condition 8 had indicated measures for trees and hedgerow protection. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a copy of the Conditions should be sent to Mr Boulton. It was further agreed that a map of the protected trees should be obtained and forwarded to Guy Jenkins, Tree Warden. Mr Knight said that he had spoken to Mr Jenkins and although he had been busy of late, he thought he was prepared to continue as warden but said he would contact him again for confirmation. Members discussed the possibility of paying a retainer for a Tree Warden and agreed that the Clerk should make further enquiries about paid employees and report back at the next meeting.

F.I 57 - Drain outside Storridge Church - Ref.Min.F.146 Members were informed that the drain was still blocked with silt some 18" below the grating and required jetting rather than rodding. The Clerk was asked to report it to the Highways Authority again. F.I 58 - Grit Bins - Ref.Min.F.149 It was reported that grit bins had been installed the day after the meeting. F.159 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting held on the 9th January 2001 when the following application had been considered:- NE2000/1272/0 No objection was raised to the application for revised access proposals at the site for the erection of two single storey dwellings and ancillary drive works on land off Chapel Lane, Cradley. F.160 BANK ACCOUNT. The Clerk circulated to members copies of various bank accounts which attracted a higher rate of interest than the 2.55% currently paid on funds in the Council's Business Reserve Account. Mr Creed-Newton reported on the various options including internet banking, although some members expressed disquiet about two unknown names and the security of internet banking. However, it appeared that both names were connected to major high street banks. On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed that further information should be obtained and that the item be placed on the Agenda for further discussion at the next meeting. F.161 ELECTION EXPENSES. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had contacted HALC to establish the Council's legal position regarding expenses charged by Herefordshire Council. She was advised to obtain a financial breakdown of costs from Mr Oram and to invite him to the Parish Council's meeting so that he could explain how the costs were calculated. It was also recommended that advice be sought from a solicitor familiar with Parish Council matters and who offered a free half hour appointment. Cllr. Stockton agreed to make enquiries whether the expenses were statutory and would report back. In the meantime members agreed that Mr Oram should be invited to attend a parish meeting. F.162 MILLENNIUM PROJECTS. It was reported that estimates for a fireproof box to store the Millennium Book had not yet been obtained but Mrs Hunt said it was protected, at present, in a cardboard box. It was agreed that Mrs Hunt should be responsible for the book until it was decided where it should be stored long term. Mr Edgar reported that the CD Rom project had generated a lot of interest around the village. The school, doctor's surgery and the scouts all wished to take part. A working party of four people had been set up and two sources of funding had been identified. Mr Edgar added that a business plan would be put together within the next two weeks. At the end of the meeting members were shown an illustrated CD put together by another village. F.163 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT. It was reported that Andrew Ford of West Midlands Planning Aid had offered to attend Parish Council meetings to give further information and advice on Village Design Statements. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should invite Mr Ford to next month's meeting. Cllr. Stockton said the Planners were obliged to look at design statements before decisions were made and suggested that the Parish Council prepared a statement without delay. Cllr. Stockton added that Colwall had a design statement and said he would ask one of their committee to contact the Clerk with further information. Miss Pilling agreed to arrange a meeting of the Planning Committee to put some ideas together. F. 164 EMPTY PROPERTIES. A letter had been received from Mr A L Thomas, Empty Property Officer, Housing Services Division at Herefordshire Council together with a booklet about bringing empty properties back into use. Mr Thomas stated that empty properties were an eyesore and attracted vandalism and owners who failed to bring the properties back into use could be subject to enforcement action. This was noted. F.165 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS. Notification had been received from Mr A Tector, that due to restructuring which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001, most of the Client Services functions, including Waste Management, Street Cleaning, Public Conveniences and Travellers had been moved under the management control of Environmental Health and Trading Standards. This was noted. F.166 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL. The following items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Liaison Officer:- Services Update, Public Rights of Way Best Value Review and Parish and Town Council Consultation Survey - Highway Maintenance Service. The literature was left on the table for members' perusal. F.I 67 HEREFORDSHIRE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT 2000 - 2002. A letter together with a complimentary copy of the Assessment had been received from Isobel Gibson, Principal Research Officer at Herefordshire

Council. The aim of the document was to provide a comprehensive overview of the County's economic position. This was noted.

F.168 CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE. An invitation to a Churchyard and Management Day had been received from Sue Cooper, Project Officer. The programme of events included talks, churchyard tour, displays and information and would take place at The Ale House, Colwall on Tuesday, 6th March 2001 from 10.15am until 3.15pm. It was agreed to pass the invitation to Mr Hames. F. 169

QUESTION TIME. Mrs Wynnell Hunt asked if the Parish Council would consider taking up membership with the CPRE as she felt the organisation would lend support against mobile telephone masts. Members said the Parish Council had agreed to terminate its membership some time ago but agreed the matter should be placed on the agenda for consideration next month. Mr Paul Hunt asked if there would be a consultation on the Unitary Development Plan. In reply Cllr. Stockton said there would be a public meeting in due course. F.170 SLIDE PHOTOGRAPHS,

AUDIO TAPES AND TRANSCRIPTIONS. A letter had been received from Mrs Wynnell Hunt asking if the Parish Council would like their collection of memorabilia included in a book she was writing on the history of Cradley. Members agreed to her request and further agreed that the Clerk should record the items on loan. F.171 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE IN PARISH. It was agreed

the Clerk should inform the Highways department of potholes and water at Birch Lane, a large pothole opposite Buryfields, blocked ditches causing storm waste and rubble on Birchwood Road at the junction of Merry Hill and Batchcombe Lane and the crumbling of the bridge at Kingsbridge. It was further agreed the Clerk should inform Elgar Housing Association of the potholes at Credenleigh. Cllr. Stockton said that Colwall Parish Council employed a lengthsman to carry out minor maintenance work in the parish and a grant to cover his remuneration was obtained from Herefordshire Council. The Clerk said she would contact Colwall's Clerk for farther information. F. 172 HEATING AT STORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL. Mrs Carver asked if the heating could be

switched on earlier as the hall was very cold throughout the meeting. Mr Beard said he would obtain a key to the hall and would switch the heating on two hours before the meeting. F. 173

CYCLE TRACK. Mr Knight said he had been approached by several parishioners asking if a cycle track could be implemented through Cradley village with the suggested route from Chapel Lane to Buryfields. Members wholeheartedly agreed with the idea and farther agreed that a map indicating the route should be sent to the Highways department with copies to the school and Cllrs. Rees Mills and Roy Stockton, Mrs Hurle said she would raise the matter at the school governors' meeting and Cllr. Stockton said a grant might be available from the Social Need and Economic Development Fund. There being no farther business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at 7.30 pm.**

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

Apologies:- Mr E J Edgar, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.I 83 and Ms Turnbull declared an interest in F.193.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2001 be confirmed and signed. The Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for chairing that meeting. MATTERS ARISING F.174 - Local Government Commission's Periodical Electoral Review of Herefordshire - Ref.Min.F.152 A letter had been received from Mr Neil Pringle, Chief Executive at Herefordshire Council, stating that his Council had considered its response to the Commission's recommendations on future electoral arrangements and had agreed to make a further submission to the Commission based upon a model that provided for fifty Councillors. This was noted. The Chairman reminded members that Herefordshire Council had originally proposed no change to Hope End Ward but in the fifty Councillor model Cradley would be grouped with Bishops Frome, Bosbury, Castle Frome, Evesbatch, Stanford Bishop and Acton Beauchamp. Mr Hames arrived during the discussion. F. 175 - Potholes - Credenleigh - Ref.Min.F. 171 Notification had been received from Elgar Housing Association that the road would be inspected and arrangements made for the repair of the potholes. This was noted. Cllr. Mills advised members that in April 2000 Herefordshire Council selected ten parishes to take part in a pilot scheme whereby a lengthsman would be engaged to undertake minor maintenance work in their respective parish. Works included hedge cutting and ditch clearance and he added that a grant was paid calculated on the miles of roads in the parish. He said the pilot scheme was due to come to an end later this month, but as it appeared to have been successful, Herefordshire Council would accept nominations from another twelve parishes to continue the project. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Stephen Oates, Head of Engineering, expressing the Parish Council's interest in participating in the scheme. In the meantime Mr Creed-Newton agreed to peruse the literature passed to him by Cllr. Mills and report back at the next meeting. F. 176 - Cycle Track - Ref.Min.F. 173 The Clerk reported that a map indicating the exact location of the proposed cycle track should be sent to Richard Ball, Lead Planner at Herefordshire Council. Mr Ball had advised that the track could be incorporated with the development of the new school and that grant monies were available for this type of project although the need would first have to be assessed.. Mrs Hurle advised members that the Education department and the Architect to the new school had both shown an interest in the scheme. The map was passed to Mr Hames who would ask the Footpaths Committee to mark out the proposed route. A letter had been received from Colin Palmer, Project Co-ordinator for Off-road Cycling, enclosing a map of cycle routes that passed through the parish. The Group had informed as many landowners as practicable of the routes passing over their land and asked if the information could be published in the parish magazine. The Chairman said he had telephoned Mr Palmer and requested a more detailed map. F. 177 PLANNING MATTERS. Mr Rowe reported on a meeting held on the 13th February 2001 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2001/0245/0 No objection was raised to the application for the erection of one dwelling on land adjacent to Myrtle Villa, Upper Westfields, Cradley. NE2000/2969/F Members raised no objection in principle to the application for a change of use and landscaping works to create a mountain boarding track, provided that no other schemes would be permitted in the future. Members did, however, have grave misgivings about the access proposals and requested that their concerns be communicated to the Planning Officer. The Clerk was also asked to obtain measurements of the exact area of the campsite. NE2001/0198/F No objection was raised to the

application for a single storey extension to provide physiotherapy room and conservatory at Windy Oaks Farm, Storrige.

NE2001/0049/0 No objection was raised to the application for a domestic extension at Crankey Cottage, Suckley. F. 178 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Beard, it was unanimously agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment:- a) Legal Library Services-Binding of Millennium Book £140.00 b) Playground Management Services - Annual Inspection £66.98 c) Clerk's Salary for 3 months £684.09 d) Clerk's Car Allowance for 3 months £33.17 e) IT/Telephone Allowance for 3 months £75.00 f) Administration Expenses for 3 months £17.01 g) Mrs E Hunt - Reimbursement of Costs for Box File £3.60 F. 179 BANK ACCOUNT. It was agreed that this item be deferred until next month to allow further information to be obtained. F. 180 ELECTION EXPENSES. A letter had been received from Mr Steve Oram, Registration Services Manager at Herefordshire Council, stating that steps would be taken if the outstanding balance was not paid. This was noted. It was reported that Mr Oram had declined the invitation to attend this evening's meeting. It was further reported that the Parish Council had been charged for the additional stationery and postage made necessary by an error by Mr Oram's department. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Oram stating that the Parish Council would be prepared to consider paying the outstanding balance of £491.65 after he had attended a parish meeting to explain how the costs had been calculated. F.181 SUBSCRIPTIONS C.P.R.E Members were reminded that the previous Parish Council voted against subscribing to the organisation in March 1998 as members felt that the organisation had not, at that time, supported a specific rural issue. However members agreed that the organisation had since lent its support to planning and conservation issues. On a proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Mr Hames, it was agreed, with 2 abstentions, that the Parish Council should take up membership again and the Clerk was asked to notify the organisation accordingly. N.A.L.C Notification had been received from NALC that the subscription for the Local Council Review was now due. The Chairman advised members that the previous Parish Council had agreed that only one issue per month should be received by the Clerk at a cost of £9.99 per year and added that if copies were sent to all members the cost would be £143.84 per year. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that, as previously, only the Clerk should receive a copy of the Review and that a payment of £9.99 be made to the Association. F. 182 REPORT OF THE CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE. The Chairman of the Committee, Mrs Hunt, reported on a meeting held on the 6th March 2001 when it had been recommended that the following grants be paid towards the maintenance of the three Churchyards in the Parish for 2000:- Cradley £500.00 Chapel £100.00 Storrige £300.00 On the proposal by Mrs Cale, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was unanimously agreed to accept the Committee's recommendations. As previously agreed at the full Council meeting in August 2000 the cost of the annual maintenance of the clock would be met by the Parish Council. With this in mind the Committee agreed that no additional contributions should be made towards its maintenance. F.183 TURNER'S OLD BOYS' SCHOOL (CRADLEY VILLAGE HALL). A letter had been received from Harrison Clarke Solicitors, together with a copy of the draft new Lease, stating that the Terms had now been finalised and that the completion of the grant of the Lease should be contemporaneous with the surrender of the existing Lease. The Solicitor requested a resolution be passed by the Parish Council to resign as the Custodian Trustee of the charity and surrender the existing Lease at the same meeting as the resolution to execute and complete the intended Deed of Surrender. This was noted. A letter had been received from Trevor Hewett of Hook Mason, with a copy of revised proposals for the alterations and extensions to the building prior to an application for Planning Permission being submitted. It was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting should take place on Wednesday, 21st March 2001 at Cradley Village Hall to enable members to peruse the planning proposals and discuss the surrender of the existing Lease. The Chairman informed members that a letter had been received that day from Mr Clarke of John Stallard, Solicitor, acting for the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a copy of the letter to members before the Extraordinary Meeting on the 21st March. F. 184 QUESTION TIME. In reply to a question by a parishioner the Chairman said he had spoken to Herefordshire

Council to arrange a site meeting regarding the drainage works in progress on the A4103 at Storrige. He said the drainage system had been left intact and an additional pipe had been installed to pick up the overflow pipes which would hopefully alleviate the flooding problems in nearby properties, although he felt the pipe should have been extended to Rose Cottage. Mr Beard said there had been some problems with the temporary traffic lights at the site which had been reported to the Highways department and there had also been a build up of litter around the site area. F. 185 ANNUAL OPEN MEETING. It was agreed that the next Annual Open Meeting should be held on Tuesday, 24th April 2001 at Cradley Village Hall and that Mr John Parsons should be invited as guest speaker. Ms Turnbull said she knew of someone who might be willing to give a talk about the Wetlands and flooding alleviation and would obtain more information. It was further agreed that posters and leaflets should be printed and the meeting publicised in the newsletter. F. 186 MILLENNIUM PROJECTS. Mrs Hunt reported that she had received an offer of local oak for a box to be made for the Millennium Book. A parishioner had offered to make the box and another had offered to carve out the inscription. On the proposal by Mrs Hunt, seconded by Mrs Carver, it was agreed the offers should be accepted and that Mrs Hunt should make the arrangements. F. 187 PARISH TREE WARDEN. It was reported that Guy Jenkins would continue as Parish Tree Warden. The Clerk had ascertained from Herefordshire Council that Tree Wardens were volunteers and in that respect could not accept payment. However, expenses could be reimbursed for telephone calls and motoring costs undertaken during the work as Warden and the Parish Council could also reimburse the costs of any course that Mr Jenkins wished to attend relating to the work. Notification had been received from Fiona Lickerish and James Bisset, Partnership Officers at Herefordshire Council, of three meetings that had been arranged to discuss and shape the future of the Tree Warden Scheme. However a subsequent letter from the Officers stated that the meetings had been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. This was noted. F. 188 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT. The Chairman informed members that Andrew Ford of West Midlands Planning Aid was unable to attend this evening's meeting but had agreed to give an illustrated talk to the Parish Council about compiling and producing a Village Design Statement on Wednesday, 21st March 2001 at 7,30pm at Cradley Village Hall. F. 189 DETR - CODE OF CONDUCT. A letter had been received from Mark Barnett, Team Leader, together with a draft Model Code of Conduct. The Local Government Act 2000 had established a new ethical framework for local authorities that was designed to secure high standards of conduct of everyone in local government. This was noted. F. 190 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE. Two letters had been received from Tessa Wildermoth, Area Rights of Way Officer, stating that site inspections, visits from Officers into agricultural areas and maintenance on public paths had been suspended until further advice had been received from MAFF. All Public Rights of Way in rural areas would be closed until further notice and she said Closure Notices should not be delivered by hand to farms. This was noted. F. 191 LEDBURY DISTRICT LIAISON GROUP MEETING. Notification had been received from Herefordshire Council that the LAF meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 7th March 2001 had been postponed until further notice as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. F. 192 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer: Schedule of Meetings, Press Releases, Planning Documents, First Issue of the Parks and Countryside Service Newsletter, Waste Collection Information and Older People's National Service Framework. The literature was left on the table for members' perusal. F.I 93 THE ANNEXE, CHURCH HOUSE. A letter had been received from Clive James, Taxation Manager at Herefordshire Council, stating that the matter of Council Tax liability would be fully investigated. This was noted. F. 194 HALC. A booklet giving details of courses throughout the year for Clerks and Councillors had been received from the Association together with a leaflet containing various items of information. These were left on the table for members' perusal. F. 195 GREEN FARM LAND. A letter had been received from Brian Harrison, a copy of which he had also sent to members, asking if his previous letter regarding the sale of his land had been discussed by the Parish Council and requesting the matter be a topic for the agenda at the Annual

Parish Meeting. The Chairman reminded members that the matter had been dealt with last year and the Clerk was requested to write to Mr Harrison informing him that the Parish Council did not wish to purchase the land. F. 196 STREET LIGHTING PATROLS. Notification had been received from Derek Powell, Street Lighting Manager at Herefordshire Council, that after dark street lighting inspections were being temporarily suspended due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak and requested that faulty lights be reported to Freephone 0800 7835675. This was noted. F. 197 PARISH FREIGHTER SERVICE. Information had been received from Melissa Law, Waste Management Section at Herefordshire Council, of the Freighter Service which would take away unwanted household furniture suitable for re-use. The cost of the refuse freighter was 33.00 plus VAT for 2 hours. Following a discussion it was agreed to take no action. F. 198 RURAL WHITE PAPER. Notification had been received from Worcester College of Technology that the Rural White Paper Seminar due to be held on Saturday, 17th March 2001 in the Shire Hall, Hereford had been postponed due to the Foot and Mouth situation. This was noted. F. 199 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE. A letter had been received from Alexander Bill at Malvern Hills District Council expressing an interest in the grounds maintenance at Chapel Lane playing field. Members were reminded that his Council had turned down the contract last year as it had taken on other work. However it was agreed to pass the letter to Mr Knight. Mr Beard said that the playing field was very untidy and littered with rubbish, leaves and weeds and said that the fence in some parts of the field needed repairing. He suggested that a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee be arranged. It was reported that the Contractor who was due to lay topsoil and re-seed the play area at Buryfields in the Spring had been taken seriously ill. The Chairman agreed to contact the Sub-Contractor, Mr George Day. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.41pm.

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

**Wednesday, 21st March 2001 at 7.30 pm.**

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

Apologies:- Miss Pilling, Mr Rogers, Ms Turnbull. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Thomas and Mr Edgar declared an interest in F.201. The Chairman reminded members that the meeting had been called to discuss the surrender of the Parish Council's Lease on Turner's Old Boys' School. He also advised members that the talks on Village Design Statements given by Andrew Ford of West Midlands Planning Aid came to an end on 31st March 2001. However, the Clerk had arranged for Mr Ford to attend this evening's meeting to talk to members of the Parish Council before the main agenda item. F.200 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT. The Chairman welcomed Mr Ford who spoke about the concept of a Village Design Statement and how it is compiled and produced. He said that VDS's were developed and written by local people to represent the views of the village community and added that its main function was to protect the character of the village by setting out design features and standards for those wishing to build or extend property in the area. Although local authorities endorsed, rather than adopted VDS's, they had been used to change aspects of planning applications and Mr Ford said that Statements should be prepared in consultation with Forward Planning. He said that both Colwall and Fownhope parishes had produced a VDS and suggested they be approached for further information. Following questions from Councillors and members of the public the Chairman thanked Mr Ford for his attendance. It was unanimously agreed that the subject be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion. F.201 TURNER'S OLD BOYS' SCHOOL. A letter from Mr Clarke of John Stallard and Co., Solicitor acting for the Parish Council, had been circulated to members before the meeting. In the ensuing discussion it was proposed by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Mr Hames, and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should surrender its current Lease and that the Deed of Surrender be signed by two members of the Parish Council in the presence of a witness. Furthermore, it was unanimously agreed that the Deed of Retirement and Appointment of Trustees be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council also in the presence of a witness. The Clerk had noted that item 6 in the Deed of Surrender had stated that the 'tenant' would be responsible for the legal fees of the Solicitor acting for the Diocese. As it appeared unclear if the tenant was the Parish Council or the new Trustees Mrs Hurle proposed that the fees, which would amount to approximately 80.00 plus VAT, should be paid by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr Creed-Newton and unanimously agreed. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, wished the new Trustees success with their project. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

**Tuesday, 10th April 2001 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:- Mr M R Allfrey (Chairman), Mr F A C Beard, Mrs A C Carver, Mr D G Creed-Newton, Mr E J Edgar, Mr W M J Hames, Mrs E A Hunt, Mrs P M Hurle, Mr S Knight, Miss J Pilling, Mr M J Rogers, Mr J F Rowe, Mr J C Thomas, Cllr. R Mills (District Councillor) with the Clerk in attendance. Apologies:- Mrs D Cale, Ms K E Turnbull. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Thomas declared an interest in F.204. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th March 2001 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2001 be confirmed and signed. MATTERS ARISING F.202 - Local Government Commission's Periodical Electoral Review of Herefordshire - Ref-Min.F. 174 Further correspondence had been received from HALC and a letter, together with a copy of Herefordshire Council's response to the Commission's recommendations for Herefordshire, had been received from Neil Pringle, Chief Executive at the Council. The Commission had indicated that its final recommendations would be published in the summer and as yet there had been no indication whether the recommendations would be based on the 58 or 50-councillor model. Cllr. Mills said that a vote taken in October 2000 had been in favour of the 58-councillor model but Councillors were advised that this model would be a disadvantage to the Council financially. Councillors were asked to re-think the matter and another vote was taken in March 2001 which opted for the 50-councillor model. The Chairman said he thought that once a vote had been taken it could not be re-voted on for six months. Members were advised that the new ward would comprise of Cradley, Bishop's Frome, Bosbury, Castle Frome and Evesbatch and that the proposed name for the ward was Hope End which was, in fact, nearer Wellington Heath. Following further discussion and on a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the name for the new ward should be Cradley and that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council accordingly. F.203 - Off-road Cycling - Ref.Min.F.176 The Chairman advised members that the map had now been received from Colin Palmer. It was noted the proposed route crossed the busy A4103 and encompassed the poorly maintained, winding Cowleigh Road. The Chairman understood that there had been no consultation with landowners in respect of the proposed route. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to the group stating that it was irresponsible to direct cyclists onto dangerous roads and a gross discourtesy directing them over people's land without first consulting the landowners. Mr Hames arrived at the end of the discussion. F.204 - Turner's Old Boys' School (Cradley Village Hall) - Ref.Min.F.183/F.201 Following a letter from Clarke Roxburgh Insurance Company the Clerk had spoken to Colin Bannister to confirm that the Hall would now be insured by the Management Committee and she requested that it be removed from the Parish Council's policy. F.205 - Annual Open Meeting - Ref.Min.F.185 The Chairman advised members that John Parsons was unable to address the meeting. However, Dudley Brook had agreed to attend and would give an illustrated talk on the history of the Malvern Hills. F.206 - Green Farm Land - Ref.Min.F.195 A letter had been received from Mr Bryan Harrison which the Clerk had circulated to members before the meeting. His comments were noted. F.207 - Potholes - Credenleigh - Ref.Min.F.175 Mrs Hunt reported that some of the potholes had been temporarily filled and understood from the Clerk that Tim Davies of Elgar Housing Association said the road up to the hammer head would be resurfaced once the wet weather had subsided. F.208 - Grounds Maintenance - Ref.Min.F.195 Mr Knight said that he had spoken to Darren Smith and had ascertained that his costs for grass cutting had risen to 15.00 per hour. Members were reminded that the Parish Council had been let down last year by MHDC and that Mr Smith had stepped in to cut the grass at the playing fields. Mr Knight also said that MHDC cut the grass throughout the season whether it warranted it or not, but Mr Smith would cut as and when required therefore, depending on the weather, the costs might be more reasonable. On a proposal by Mr Knight, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was agreed, with one abstention, that Mr

Smith should be asked to cut the grass at the playing fields for the coming year. The Chairman said he had spoken to George Day in respect of the Buryfields play area and would meet him on site once the weather had improved. It was agreed that the grass around the perimeter should be monitored and that a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee should be arranged to discuss responsibility for the grass cutting.

F.209 PLANNING MATTERS. Miss Pilling reported on a meeting held on 13th March 2001 when the following applications had been considered:- NE2001/0415/L Members raised no objection to the application for a conservatory at The Haven, Crumpton Hill, Storrige but recommended an apex roof running the same way as the house rather than the proposed flat roof. NE2001/0439/F Strong opposition was raised to the removal of Condition 4 of the recent planning permission to close the existing vehicular access on completion of the new access at Stone House, Cradley on the grounds that the retention of the existing access would be dangerous in the interest of highway safety and that the Parish Council supported the said Condition placed on the Approval Notice by Herefordshire Council. NE2001/0489/F Members raised no objection to the application for an extension to the existing 15m high mast to 20m, extension to compound and erection of new cabin and hoped that telecommunication companies would be encouraged to mast share. Mr Rowe reported that he had been approached by the owner of the Crown Inn in respect of the proposed footway opposite his property. It was understood that Herefordshire Council had approached three residents with a view to purchasing part of their land for the scheme.

F.210 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS. On a proposal by Mr Rogers, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was unanimously agreed that the following account be approved for payment:- Cradley Village Hall Management Committee - Hire of Hall 8.00

F.211 STATIONERY REQUISITES. The Clerk requested that approval be given to purchase stationery items at a cost of approximately 30-35. This was agreed.

F.212 BANK ACCOUNT. Following investigation of interest rates at various banks Mr Creed-Newton said that HSBC had given the best rate of interest. Some higher interest savings accounts were available but these were for individuals only. On a proposal by Mr Creed-Newton, seconded by Mr Rowe, it was agreed, with two abstentions, that the Business Reserve Account be transferred to HSBC. It was further agreed, with two abstentions, that the Current Account should also be transferred to the same bank.

F.213 ELECTION EXPENSES. The Clerk had circulated to members a copy of a letter from Steve Oram, Registration Services Manager at Herefordshire Council. He had reiterated his previous comments that his Council's current policy sought to recover costs running parish and town council elections. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that more than one error had been made by his department thus increasing administrative costs for which the Parish Council had been charged. Furthermore the Parish Council had been expected to pay for these errors. The Chairman advised members that Mr Norton of the Revenues Section had contacted the Clerk and said that if the balance of 491.65 was not paid, a pre-court letter would be sent. On a proposal by Mrs Hurle, seconded by Miss Pilling, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Oram stating that notwithstanding the inaccuracies in his letters the Parish Council was prepared to pay the outstanding balance under the strongest protest and would be asking its District Councillors to follow the matter up.

F.214 PARISH LENGTHSMAN SCHEME. Mr Creed-Newton said that he had received information about the scheme from Sally Everest at Herefordshire Council and had circulated copies to members. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed, with one abstention, to register the Parish Council's interest in the scheme and in the meantime further information should be sought from Colwall Parish Council who already operate the scheme.

F.215 VOTE OF THANKS. The Chairman said he had asked Mr Peter Shervington to give the vote of thanks at the Open Annual Meeting and was awaiting his response.

F.216 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should enter the competition if a volunteer could be found to organise it. The forms were passed to Mr Edgar with regard to the IT section.

F.217 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT. Following the recent talk by Andrew Ford of West Midlands Planning Aid, members agreed that an introduction about the Statement should be made at the Annual Open Meeting on 24th April 2001 to be followed by a public meeting at a later date to ascertain what parishioners want for the village. It was further agreed that if interest in the

document was shown at the Public Meeting a steering group should be formed to co-ordinate it. Mr Edgar agreed to peruse the information obtained from Mr Ford and report back at the next meeting.

F.218 QUESTION TIME. The Chairman welcomed a member of the public who said that he only wished to listen to the meeting.

F.219 H.A.L.C. An information circular had been received from Lynda Wilcox, Clerk to the Association. The Chairman pointed out that an item in the circular had stated that the Chairman, not the Clerk, should sign the Notice for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

F.220 CONTAMINATED LAND. A letter and extracts from a draft strategy for the inspection of contaminated land had been received from Miss P Day, Senior Technical Officer for Environmental Health and Trading Standards, at Herefordshire Council. The document outlined a five-year programme for the identification, inspection and remediation of contaminated land. In the ensuing discussion Mrs Carver and Mrs Hunt questioned whether petrol tanks and car batteries had been buried behind Mill Bank garage. In reply the Chairman said that anyone planning to build on the site should have a contamination survey and the land decontaminated if necessary.

F.221 HEREFORDSHIRE AIR QUALITY. The third stage Air Quality Review and Assessment had been received from M A Willimont, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Pollution), at Herefordshire Council. The report concluded that although Herefordshire's air quality was good, and would generally meet the national objectives, the report found that the nitrogen dioxide pollutant objective in Hereford City centre for the same period may not be met.

F.222 ROAD MAINTENANCE. The following replies had been given in a letter received from Andrew Culley, Divisional Surveyor (East), at Herefordshire Council:- Potholes The potholes which required attention in accordance with the Highway Maintenance Plan had been picked up during a routine inspection. Although an order had been placed for the repairs, the Contractor had not yet had time to programme the work. Ditches at Birchwood There were no ditches at that location. He said the problem came directly from the fields and that his client gang had already cleared the area four times this winter. However, he would take the matter up with the land owner to reach a permanent solution. Kingsbridge The matter had been referred to the Bridgeworks team who would respond separately. Mr Beard pointed out that the potholes in Cowleigh Road, and in particular outside Cowleigh Gate Farm, were extremely hazardous, especially for motorcyclists. The Clerk was instructed to draw these to the attention of the Highways department and to request a programme of works.

F.223 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. A letter had been received from Alan Johnson MP, Minister for Competitiveness, outlining the Department's recent initiatives launched in view of the continuing concern about the future of the post office network, particularly in rural areas. Mr Johnson stated that a factor in the increased rate of closures was that fewer people were coming forward to take on the role of sub-postmaster/mistress therefore the main issue was to encourage prospective new entrants to the network. Further details would be available in due course. This was noted.

F.224 PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/2002. A copy of the Plan had been received from Mrs Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community, at Herefordshire Council which had been published in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and would be subject to inspection by the District Auditor. A summary of the Plan would be delivered to all households and businesses in the County either as an insert in the free Journal or by direct mail. This was noted.

F.225 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence had been received from Dorothy Coleman, Parish Council Liaison Officer:- Services Update, Planning Bulletin, Schedule of Meetings, Greengate Network and Grass Roots Art Fund.

F.226 FLY TIPPING. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mathon Parish Council to draw their attention to the fly tipping at Hollings Hill.

F.227 FOOTPATHS. The Clerk was asked to contact Sam Beaton, Footpaths Warden, at Herefordshire Council for clarification of the footpaths within the village that had been closed due to the Foot and Mouth situation and to ask if they could be re-opened.

F.228 MILLENNIUM CD. Mr Edgar circulated to members a copy of a list of interested organisations and advised members that a working party had been formed to take the project forward. Mr Edgar asked members if they could give some thought to ideas for the CD. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.41pm.