

January 2014/01

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2014
in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) L. Gamble (LG), A. Eldridge (AE), K. Nason (KN), G. Fielding (GF), C. Lambert (CL), W. Harries (WH) F. Beard (FB), S. Davies (SD), A. Symondson (AS) and B. Gordon (BG).

Also in attendance – the Clerk, R. Gill and M. Hames.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from T. Lloyd-Jones, E. Moseley and D. Woodward.

Personal Declarations of Interest were received from the Chair and KN in connection with Cradley Village Hall and from KN concerning the Parish Council website.

Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – Neither County Councillor were in attendance but the Report from Cllr. T. Johnson had been circulated to all for information.

Public Question time – Rectory Lane - attending the meeting was Mike Hames who advised that he had received numerous complaints about the overall condition of Rectory Lane and queried why nothing had been done following his initial Report to the Parish Council about three and a half years ago which had clearly indicated that the County Council were responsible for this lane about 85yrs ago.

KN replied by reading a letter which he had sent from the Parish Council to the County Council requesting an update report with their re-assessment of the completion date, and he also advised that the Leader of the Council, Tony Johnson had personally added his support to our letter.

KN then reported on an e-mail received that day from Chris Chillingworth at Herefordshire Council apologising for the delay due to pressure of work and advised that he was now dealing with his manager's final suggested amendments to the two reports on the Lane following which he just needed to incorporate the illustrations of the historical material in the research Report which would then both be ready for submission. It was unanimously agreed that the delay in any work being carried out was far from acceptable.

R. Gill suggested that the Parish Council write to the Leader of the Council explaining that the delay of over three years is unreasonable and require that the Council commit to "adding the lane to the Council's List of Streets as a highway maintainable at public expense and making a Definitive Map Modification Order to upgrade part of footpath Cradley 34 to a BOAT and the rest of footpath Cradley 34 and part of Cradley 36 to a Restricted byway by July 2014, adding that if this is not achieved by that date then the Parish Council will begin proceedings in the County Court to enforce the Council's obligations under Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the Lane, and also consider going to the Local Government Ombudsman.

RESOLVED – This action was unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

Update Report – **Cluster Group** – BG reported he had attended a meeting on 11th December and whilst nothing had been done about the speed restriction at Storridge, proposals had been taken on board with some speed restriction being put in place in Bosbury. He also advised that rumours that Ledbury Police Station was closing are untrue and that Ledbury had an adequate supply of Police Officers. Any concerns regarding the road system should be forwarded to Insp. Paul Crumpton in Ross on Wye and he will get an officer to do some temporary control work. The meeting had also included discussion about Herefordshire Council finances and the fact that Ledbury Town Council have taken over responsibility from Herefordshire Council for the Church Lane toilets increasing their precept by 2% to compensate for this additional responsibility.

Balfour Beatty's hand over from Amey had also been discussed and advised that BB have £20 million to spend and must have their spending policy document to hand by February 2014 to include how they will spend the money (a copy of this document should be available to the Parish Council in due course). The next Cluster Group meeting to take place in Cutley on 13th March 2014 and it was hoped W. Harries would be in a position to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Commenting on the new Contract, the Chair noted that he had been advised that much of the old Herefordshire Amy team had simply been transferred to Balfour Beatty which he found surprising.

January 2014/02

Items for Consideration –

- (1) Parish Council web domain name – KN reported this was up for renewal on 9th February 2014 and reported on the three choices available. It was unanimously agreed to renew for a period of four years at a cost of £29.99 plus VAT.
- (2) Road mirror on corner above Old Post Office – following a request for a mirror on the corner to view traffic coming up the hill when approaching the corner from Buryfields, the matter was discussed and agreed that a mirror is not a practical answer to the problem.
- (3) Grit Bins – the Clerk reported on three separate requests for grit bins, two in Crumpton Hill Road and two on the Suckley Road just past Mill Bank garage. A request to Herefordshire Council had received a reply that there were no funds available for the supply of new additional grit bins and that the cost of new bins would have to be borne by the Parish. If Herefordshire Council approved of the placing of new bins and that the grit would be used on an adopted highway, they would include the refilling of the bin on their regular servicing. Prices had been obtained, and following discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council look into the purchase of four bins with an agreed installation cost of £100. Clerk to enquire regarding highway restrictions for installation and whether they should be installed within so many feet of the edge of the highway. A. Eldridge agreed to take over this matter once the Clerk had received the relevant confirmation from Herefordshire Council.
- (4) Donation to Cradley Play School – following previous approval for a donation to the Nursery Group (November 2013/36) a list of requirements had been supplied totalling £253.48. The Clerk was instructed to advise the Nursery to go ahead with the purchase and confirm that the bill would be paid by the Parish Council.

Finance matters –

Payment of Accounts – the following had been received for payment

- Inland Revenue £157.55.
- Cradley Village Hall hire fee £15.00.
- SLCC renewal of membership £116.00.
- MCB Landscapes, grass cutting £336.00.
- Clerk, two months expenses £121.62.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by LG seconded by FB and carried the Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Budget – The Finance Group had discussed and put forward Budget proposals for 2013/14 and these had been circulated to all Councillors.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by GF seconded by CL and carried, the Budget was approved as drawn.

Precept – The Finance Group had discussed and put forward a recommended Precept for 2014/15 totalling £25,000. representing no increase from the previous year.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by Chair, seconded by KN and carried, the Precept was approved at £25,000.

Reports –

Planning – In the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman, C. Lowder advised that only one planning application had been received for discussion concerning amended plans for land adjacent to Pilgrims. Whilst no objections had been raised, concerns were to be raised about the trees on the site which must be safeguarded in a Conservation area.

NDP – Meeting fixed for later in month with full update available to all at PC meeting in February.

Churchyards – Information on expenditure still not available from Cradley PCC or Storridge PCC. The details for The Chapel have been received.

Recreation Areas – Meeting due before Parish Council meeting in February.

Editorial Group – Website being used on a regular basis - next edition of The Reporter out soon.

Items for Newsletter agreed to include update on Rectory Lane, Cluster Group, problems getting Balfour Beatty to carry out work, grit bins, donation to Nursery School, the level of Precept remains unchanged, how to check on planning applications received and thanks to Ed Moseley for his valued contribution to the Parish Council and in particular to the improvement of the Chapel Lane play area.

January 2014/03

Correspondence

- Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding parish tax base and grant allocation.
- Letter – Worcs CC regarding Worcestershire minerals local plan, second stage.
- E-mail – planning advising on outcome of appeal at Barratts Orchard.
- E-mails regarding Rectory Lane.
- E-mails regarding lack of response by Balfour Beatty.
- E-mail requests for grit bins.
- E-mail resignation from Ed Moseley.

Literature

- Clerk magazine - January 2014.
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – January 2014.
- Local Council Review – Winter 2013.

Items for future Agendas to include update on notice board maintenance Quotations and Chair sought input from Councillors regarding commemoration of First World War.

It was also reported that the Cradley Doctors were retiring.

A.Symondson enquired regarding position of meeting with all the housing associations in the area and the Police regarding ongoing problems at The Leys. To be arranged).

Clerk to report dangerous pot-holes at Chapel Lane junction with the Bosbury Road.

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

Next meeting to take place at Storridge on Tuesday 11th February 2014.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 11th February 2014.

Chairman