

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council
held on Tuesday 9th January 2013 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.40pm.

Present – Cllrs. C Lowder (in the Chair/Chair) K. Nason (KN) T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) A. Eldridge (AE) W. Harries (WH) E. Moseley (EM) C. Lambert (CL) F. Beard (FB) G. Fielding (GF) B. Gordon (BG) S. Davies (SD) and A. Symondson (AS).

In attendance – The Clerk, Denis Johnson, Roman Iwanczuk and County Councillor Tony Johnson.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from M. Allfrey and Cllr. C. Attwood.

Declarations of Interest – KN & Chair declared a personal interest in both the CVHM Committee items and the Honorarium payment to T. Robshaw.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time – Dennis Johnson advised that he had sought to convert an old farm building on his land into a house for his own occupation but had been advised that planning permission would not be given. He had therefore sought advice whether planning permission was required to repair the existing building for use as a farm building and reported that contradictory advice had been received from Herefordshire Planning. County Councillor T. Johnson in attendance advised that he would visit the site and take the matter up with the appropriate department and report back to both Mr. Johnson and the Parish Council in due course. It was confirmed that no reply had been received from Herefordshire Council about the responsibility for verges in Tanhouse Lane.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Johnson advised that Mr. Alistair Neale had been appointed as the new Chief Executive to the Council with effect from 1st April 2013. He further advised on the present situation regarding the County Council Budget and advised that council tax would be increased for 2013/14 by 1.9% adding that an increase over this amount would automatically trigger a referendum, the cost of which would not be recoverable. He also advised that over the last two years £21 million had been taken out of Council running expenses which included the loss of over 281 jobs and that it was also necessary to find another £10 million pound out of funding this year. He finally reported that in 2014/15 another loss of £5.5m pound from Central Funding would be necessary and advised that caring for the vulnerable accounted for about one-third of the total Budget. A Briefing paper would be forwarded to the Parish Council in due course.

Update Reports –

- 1) **Old Hop Barn** – Unfortunately the Parish Council Representatives had been unable to arrange attendance to inspect documents at Herefordshire Council within the limited time scale imposed by them and it would therefore appear that no further action could be taken regarding this long outstanding matter.
- 2) **Affordable Housing** – The Clerk had sought information regarding the proposed Consultation which both Herefordshire Council and the Housing Association had requested, and had been advised that at this point in time, they had made no arrangements for this to take place. The Parish Council awaited an alternative date for the proposed consultation.
- 3) **Rectory Lane** – Although KN had chased up some information about when this Lane was likely to be adopted adding that this had been promised before the end of the current month. We were now assured that a Report would be received in time for the February meeting.
- 4) **Donation to Cradley Village Hall** – KN produced a copy of the Receipts and Payments Account for the Village Hall as requested at the last meeting. These were discussed at length and it was finally resolved that the Parish Council would make the necessary donation this year, but it was also agreed that the Finance Committee should meet to discuss the position regarding all future Donations by the Parish Council and report back to full Council in due course.

January 2013/02

Items for Consideration –

- 1) **Kingsbridge SPS overflow** – Attending the meeting was local resident Dick Harris who advised that there were three SPS buildings in Cradley situate at Kingsbridge, Pound Bridge and Stoney Cross and he reported on his discussions with Sarah Tooze Service Delivery Manager from Severn Trent Water based in Malvern who is responsible for the SPS's, that it was Herefordshire Council's responsibility for clearing the drains adjacent to the sites and he reported that Sarah Tooze had commented that she had never been approached by Herefordshire Council Planning Dept about the effect on the sewerage problem as a result of any new developments in Cradley. Seven floodings had been recorded at the Kingsbridge site since April 2012. A series of comments were shown which included some very explicit photographs of sewage leaking from the site at Kingsbridge. Mr. Harris advised that it was important for all future events to be reported and he kindly agreed to deal with this matter on behalf of the Council – Clerk to let all Councillors have the phone number and e-mail address of both Mr. Harris and Sarah Tooze. Councillors thanked Mr. Harris for his attendance at the meeting and his and hard work over this ongoing problem and he then left the meeting.
- 2) **Pound Bridge/Lower Brookside flood damage and road condition** – this was deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Finance matters –

Payment of Accounts - the following Accounts had been received for payment –

• Inland Revenue, PAYE	£119.20.
• Donation to Cradley Village Hall	£2,975.72.
• HALC – Training	£42.00.
• T. Robshaw, honorarium	£75.00.
• Storridge Village Hall, hire fees	£14.00.
• SLCC membership fee	£127.00
• Viking Direct,	£90.54.
• Cradley Village Hall, hire fees & copying	£89.60.
• 4 Seasons Ground Care, grass cutting	£882.48.
• J. Harrington, replacement step @ Storridge	£30.00.
• Clerk's expenses & allowances	£170.79.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by FB and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn and signed

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by AE seconded by TLJ and carried, the Account from Cradley Village Hall totalling £89.60 as well as the donation of £2,975.72 were also approved for payment and a cheques drawn/signed.

Budget/Precept for 2013/14 – Following the meeting of the Finance Committee, the proposed Budget and level of Precept information were circulated to Councillors at the meeting for consideration. KN replied to questions raised on the proposals and how the various figures had been reached under each Budget item, and the level of Precept required.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by FB seconded by EM and carried, the Budget was agreed for 2013/14.

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by GF and carried, the Precept was agreed for 2013/14 at **£25,000**.

REPORTS –

January 2013/03

The Planning Chairman reported that the following items had been received for consideration this month –

St James Church, Cradley – fell 1 cherry tree and remove branches from 1 snake bark maple which are rubbing against church wall, work to trees covered by TPOs – ***we note the work has been done despite an extension of time and perhaps now all the trees which have been felled in the last five years which are/were covered by TPOs could now be replaced with native species trees.***

Churchfields House, Cradley – remove deadwood on 1 poplar tree, reduce damaged branch by 50%. Crown lift one variegated leylandii to 3m from ground level. Crown lift one spruce tree to 4m from ground level. Fell 25 mixed pine and spruce trees in woodland area, work to trees in a conservation area – ***no objections but consider appropriate alternative trees should be planted as replacements.***

Bandini Bungalow, Cradley – removal of four sections of hedgerow within the boundary of the property, work to trees in a conservation area – ***no objections.***

Post Office, Cradley – fell 2 x tulip trees, work in a conservation area – ***no objections but suggest native species trees be planted as replacements.***

Hope End Barns, Ridgeway Cross – proposed erection of a polytunnel for sheep housing – ***we object to this proposal on the following grounds***

- 1) With reference to the Herefordshire CC Special Planning Guidance (SPG) on polytunnels (2006) we would have expected a business case to be supplied with the application, and we would like to have sight of one to justify the structure and to confirm the proposed use for the polytunnel for the remainder of the year once lambing has taken place.***
- 2) We would prefer to see something more permanent rather than this plastic structure and from information to hand, there would appear to be other buildings on the site which would seem to be more than adequate for the use mentioned.***
- 3) Again, with reference to the SPG, we are concerned about the affect on the setting of the listed buildings in the area, and the potential overall visual impact on the AONB.***
- 4) If permission is granted, we feel strongly that the area should be well landscaped with full screening with fast growing native species trees.***

Churchyards – nothing to report but date agreed for meeting on 26th January 2013.

Playing Field Committee – meeting agreed on 16th January 2013.

Editorial Group – Design of new website up and running; although some information still required. Latest Edition of Reporter had been distributed.

Correspondence –

Herefordshire Council update on Neighbourhood Planning.

Herefordshire Council proposal to charge PCs £4 for paper copies of plans, to which most Clerks had replied raising concerns, adding that this should be a charge for the applicant.

E-mail regarding lettings by Festival Housing at The Leys in connection with Affordable housing project.

Survey of Parish Clerks regarding support received, weekly contracted hours paid and the amount of unpaid hours worked everyweek on average over and above contracted hours.

Literature – Clerks & Councils Direct November 2012.

Community Voluntary Action winter Newsletter 2012.

Local Council Review winter 2012.

Local Government boundary commission draft recommendations.

Newsletter – Report by County Councillor on Herefordshire Council Budget, appointment of new Chief Executive at Herefordshire CC, report by Dick Harris on sewage problems in the Parish and the approval of the Budget and Precept for 2013/14.

Parish Councillor Reports – BG reported that he had attended the second meeting of the Cluster Group – see Report attached and advised that the next meeting of the group would take place on 13th March by which date the Parish Council's proposals for traffic issues should have been advised to the Chairman of the Group.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should invite S. Banks to attend a meeting of the Council to report regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

We were also to invite Mr. Wilmot from Herefordshire Planning to attend a PC meeting.

January 2012/04

Clerk to write to Dennis Johnson advising him that his original letter regarding a vacancy on the Parish Council was in connection with the particular vacancy which existed at that time and that should he be interested in the vacancies which now exist on the Council, he should write in again to repeat his interest.

Items of concern were "yurts" in Batchcombe Lane and handrail at Pound Bridge.

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

Next meeting to take place on 12th February 2013 in Storridge Village Hall

Signed..... C. Lowder
Chairman

12th February 2013.
Dated.....