

Minutes of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on  
Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7pm

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) K. Nason (KN) A. Carver (AC) G. Thomas (GT) C. Lambert (CL) D. Pye (DP) G. Fielding (GF) K.Welford (KW) W. Harries (WH) A. Eldridge (AE) F. Beard (FB) S. Herriot (SH) and T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ).

Also present were three members of the public, Jeff White (Footpath Officer) and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received from S. Davies.

Declarations of Interest – The Chairman and KN declared a personal interest in the payment to Cradley Village Hall.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time – attending the meeting were three residents from the Pixiefield area who advised that activities had taken place on the development site at Pixiefield and that a notice had been received on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 quoting development of sixty houses. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any planning application and it was thought that this might be in relation to the planning application for the drainage run off on the adjoining field and the Clerk was asked to enquire of the planning department.

Planning applications received for consideration –

- P143787/F – Land at Queenswood - **proposed construction of two 2 storey dwellings with associated garages and landscaping and new detached triple garage with annexe** – strong objections raised – land is outside the settlement boundary, within the AONB and in the conservation area. However, if Planning thought fit to approve the application, then the three car garage with office above must be retained as ancillary to the main house and cannot be used as a separate building.
- P150077/K – field boundary to Barratts Orchard – **removal of common hawthorn** – it was noted that the work had already been carried out, and that in addition work had been carried out to an oak tree opposite Penny Cottage as this had been deemed a danger to both the public and the cottage.
- P150195/FH – Field House, Tanhouse Lane – **proposed single storey rear extension with balcony over, new roof and wall finishes, new windows and doors and associated chimney alterations** – No objections raised.
- P143811/FH – Quarry Cottage, Halesend – **proposed demolition of existing cottage and outbuildings and construction of three bedroomed replacement dwelling** – no objections raised.
- Land at Birchwood Farm, Birchwood – **proposed installation of 25m high lattice tower mobile phone base – pre application consultation with the Parish Council** – no objections raised but applicants asked to ensure that residents within a half mile radius were made aware of the proposal.
- P150274/FH – Valley Farm, Cradley – **proposed internal alterations to bungalow and side extension** – no comments raised.

It was unanimously agreed the Vice Chairman will enquire of Herefordshire Council whether it was possible for them to send us a zip file appertaining to us for future applications, and thanks were expressed to Ken for his excellent presentation of applications for consideration by the Council.

It was also noted two applications had recently been refused by Herefordshire Council concerning Hope End (P143402/CU) and Vineyard Farm (P143538/F). It was also noted that Herefordshire Council no longer send Parish Councils lists of applications received and/or decisions made.

**Matters for consideration** –

P3 Scheme – GF and Jeff White, the footpath officer, reported they had that day attended a training session of Hereford Council/Balfour Beatty in connection with both the P3 Scheme and the new Lengthsman Scheme. GF advised on the benefits to the Council in joining the scheme which would result in receipt of a grant of approximately £3,245 on an annual basis enabling the Parish Council to maintain stiles, footpaths, small bridges etc. and that this scheme would run alongside the new Lengthsman scheme. The matter was discussed at some length and **on a proposal** by GF seconded by TLJ with ten Councillors in favour with three abstentions, it was decided the Council go ahead and join the P3 Scheme coming into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

Donation towards upkeep of three graveyards – the Chairman advised that details of expenditure had been received from both Cradley (£3,099.97 of which £2,993.40 was for mowing) and Storridge ( £600. for mowing, pruning and fixing headstones) although no figures were available from The Chapel. Based on previous recommendations, **it was proposed** by the Chairman that a capped donation of £2,000. be paid to Cradley and £420. for Storridge. It was also suggested that a payment of £274.55 be paid to The Chapel based on the previous year's figures. This proposal was seconded by GF and carried with eleven Councillors in favour, with one abstention.

***The Chairman commented that the Parish Council had previously voted in favour of getting outside bodies to look at what work was required to be done at the three churchyards and to give the Council a quotation. Two Quotations had been obtained and it had been agreed that the Council would base their donation offer on these individual Quotations rather than simply going along with the amounts claimed by the three PCCs. Although this had not been put into effect this year, KN proposed that the Council votes that in future all donations to PCCs will be based on these outside Quotations. This proposal was seconded by AC and carried.***

Annual Parish Meeting – Date fixed for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Due to poor attendance at these meetings over many years, AE proposed that once the usual business had been transacted that Councillors support the local public house for an informal chat between Councillors on the future proposals for the Parish Council. This was seconded by KW with eight votes in favour, three against and one abstention.

Planning applications views on new arrangements – SH queried how Councillors felt regarding the new arrangement for dealing with applications received which were now considered by all Councillors, rather than by a Planning Committee who then reported back to full Council. Although a site visit party had previously been agreed (Chairman, GF, WH and Tracey Iwanczuk) it appeared no site visits were taking place, although it was suggested individual Councillors were of course free to make inspections at their discretion. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from Lynda Wilcox about what is best practice for dealing with applications, and following the resignation of TI from the Council, SH agreed to take part in site visits as necessary, with the current system coming under review again after the Election in May and once HALCs recommendations had been received. It was generally felt that the old system had worked well for many years and that serious consideration should be given to reinstatement of the system dependent upon HALCs advice.

**Progress Reports** –

- NDP – TLJ reported receipt of advance copy of Report from Carly Tinkler. It is now planned that this will be studied by the Core Group with Carly Tinkler in attendance and a decision made on how best to use this information. Group will then present their recommendations to the Parish Council in March.

February 2015/07

- Lengthsman – GF reported on meeting that day attended by himself and Jeff White and advised on the great opportunity to the Parish Council in joining this scheme along with the P3 scheme as above. Under the extended Lengthsman Scheme, both “C” and “U” roads will be covered, GF agreed to act as Parish Council Administrator of the scheme and advised that he would draw up a plan within the next few weeks, and look into the appointment of a Lengthsman.

KN queried the difference between the old and new scheme, and SH queried the situation with regard to Rectory Lane which had been formally adopted onto Herefordshire Council Streets scheme in 2014, and which to date, had not received any substantial repairs and/or resurfacing.

**Resolved** – On a proposal by CL seconded by AE and carried with ten votes in favour (one abstention) it was agreed to take up the new Lengthman and P3 Schemes with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 on the strict proviso that Rectory Lane is not included in the roads which are to be maintained by the Lengthsman. In support of this proviso, KN advised that if satisfactory work was not carried out then the Parish Council would look at taking legal action as Herefordshire Council does have a statutory duty to maintain the Lane.

- Ben Comm – AE advised Ben Comm should shortly be in place, the web site has been updated following the January meeting, and that the group maintain regular meetings. They had also met with the Butchers and Richard Stoddard whose application for development is in preparation, although this proposal was not supported by the Group. Four options were being prepared to present to the Village and he stated that the Group were applying to the AONB for funding. On the question of funding AE enquired whether the Parish Council would consider contributing £200. towards the cost a pre application for development and in addition, £500 plus VAT for Architects fees to advance development on Morgans Field and he was advised that the Parish Council would require more information on this request and it was agreed to add this to the Agenda for the March meeting.

Finance Matters – The clerk advised the following Accounts were due for payment – AC took the Chair and sought approval as follows –

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|------------------------------------|----------|
| • PAYE Inland Revenue              | £150.00. |
| • HALC – training “risky business” | £30.00.  |
| • Cradley Village Hall, hire fees  | £6.00.   |

**Resolved** – these were unanimously approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

#### **Reports** –

- Environmental and Footpaths – WH advised nothing to report.
- Churchyards Committee – CL advised nothing to report other than as above regarding donations to PCCs.
- Recreation Committee – KN advised plans pressing ahead regarding levelling of football pitch, various quotes obtained and that he was meeting with another Contractor on the 13<sup>th</sup> February in the hope that agreement could be reached at the next meeting about which contractor to use so that work could commence as soon as possible. KN advised he was aware of the need for the hedge to be cut and that this could also take place soon.
- Editorial – KN advised slight delay in publication of the Reporter.

**Correspondence** received –

- E-mail from Carl Brace in response to our query regarding the Dragonwyck site and the ever increasing number of houses/payment of S106 query.
- Letter from Anne Scarsbrook accepting appointment as joint footpath officer.
- Letter from Hereford Council advising on election training which will be attended by the Clerk.
- E-mails from Lynda Wilcox with date schedule for the election
- Advice that Neil James is not yet back at work.
- HALC Information Corners for January and February 2015.
- Parish Newsletters from Balfour Beatty for December 14 and February 2015.
- Notification that weekly list of planning applications received and decisions made are no longer sent from Herefordshire Council and that it is now the responsibility of Parish Councils to sign up for alerts to the weekly list of applications received and decisions made.

**Newsletter** items to include Pixiefields issue, P3Footpath scheme to go ahead, annual parish meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015, NDP Assessment is to hand, Lengthsman scheme/Geoff Fielding acting as Administrator, HOV website updated with results of the meeting, football pitch being levelled and note about forthcoming Election.

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

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Storrige Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Signed..... C. Lowder ..... Dated..... 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015. ....  
Chairman.