

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 10th March 2015 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7pm

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

Also attending were County Councillors C. Attwood & T. Johnson, Derek R. Stoddard and the Clerk.

An apology for inability to attend the meeting had been received and was approved from A Carver.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda –

- The Chairman and KN declared a personal interest in the planning application for Cradley Village Hall.
- CL declared a personal interest in the proposed appointment of a Lengthsman.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to two minor changes regarding the application for a Ben Comm.

County Councillor Report – T. Johnson introduced County Councillor

Patricia Morgan, who would be our new Ward Member if elected at the forthcoming election in May. He agreed to let the Clerk have a copy of the amended list of road repairs and Councillors brought his attention to the fact that to date Rectory Lane had not undergone any major road works and was once again littered with potholes, which would not be satisfactory during the use of Cradley Village Hall at the forthcoming election. He also reported regarding ongoing problem concerning outstanding monies due to the Council from Amey. He agreed to check for clarification on work on the NDP during the election process, the Core Strategy and the date the new wards would come into effect which would presumably be immediately following the election.

Parish Councillors thanked both T. Johnson and C. Attwood for all their help and assistance and wished them success in the proposed ward changes and the forthcoming election in May.

Planning applications received –

- P150285/L – Columbine Cottage, Storridge, WR14 5EY – proposed single storey side extension – Councillors raised no objection to the proposal but commented that they would agree with any recommendations from the Conservation officer.
- P150496 - St. James Church, Rectory Lane, WR13 5LH – work to yew tree – no objections raised.
- P142358/FH – Rose Cottage, WR13 5NF – update on rebuilding of wall at cottage which appeared to be on the incorrect boundary line. The Clerk reported that following an inspection by the Planning Officer/Enforcement Officer, she had been advised that no action would be taken by Herefordshire Council to the boundary change.
- P143692/K – land adjacent to Pilgrims - update on “work to trees” application which had been approved despite the Parish Council seeking to retain the trees. Again the Clerk had been advised that no action would be taken by Herefordshire Council regarding the felling of the trees.

Matters for consideration

Donation towards pre planning expenses at Morgan's Field – AE advised on the four options under consideration by the HOV Group which were as follows -

- Land owned by R. Stoddard but this had not yet been submitted.
- Buying the Village shop, but no one was interested in looking into the purchase.
- Harrison's land but AE advised he did not think they were proposing to go forward with the proposal, and
- Morgan's Field which was the favoured option by the HOV for a shop & cafe and it was hoped that the Parish Council would consider a donation of approximately £200.00 towards the expense of obtaining the necessary pre planning expenses. It was agreed the HOV proposal needs to be considered in connection with the Neighbourhood Development Plan. KN commented that the Parish Council are allowed to put in an application for pre planning which does not involve the Council in any cost, but TLJ was unhappy about the Parish Council becoming involved in this way, and suggested asking Carla Johnson how this can be put through under the NDP option/funding. **Resolved** – FB proposed that we ask Hereford Council and HALC if we get involved with the pre planning application in the name of the Parish Council, whether we would then be obliged to get involved with the full planning application. This was seconded by DP with seven Councillors in favour, four against and two abstentions. In the meantime, AE advised he would continue with his proposals concerning the options available regarding Morgan's Field.

Play Area Inspections – With the ROSPA inspections due to take place, two Quotations had been received

- Wicksteed @ £45.00 per play area.
- Herefordshire Council @ £50.60 per play area, both subject to the standard rate of VAT.

Resolved – On a proposal by KW seconded by the Chairman, it was agreed this year to request Herefordshire Council to carry out the inspections. There was a split vote, the deciding vote being cast by the Chairman.

Progress Reports –

- (a) **NDP** – TLJ advised the steering group had met to discuss the Report from Carly Tinkler and the recommendations had been circulated to all Councillors. It was reported that additional funding was now available and this will be applied for. **Please see attached NDP Update Report attached (March 2015/10A)** which advises on the method Carly Tinkler had adopted with the various individual sites being ranked. It was agreed a Parish Meeting was required to discuss the various options which it was hoped could be held in April, but in the first instance, the Clerk was to ascertain how the NDP could be pushed forward in the Parish during the "Purdha period" commencing on the 23rd March when the Election will be advertised. TLJ also agreed to discuss the matter with Carla Johnson in the hope that NDP investigations can continue during this time.
- (b) Lengthsman/P3 Scheme – **Cllr. Cheryl Lambert left the room** – GF fielding reported on progress with the Parish Council joining both Schemes with effect from 1st April 2015. He advised he had advertised for a Lengthsman, five expressions of interest had been received, and he put forward his recommendation for approval that local resident Robert Lambert be appointed as Lengthsman for the Parish Council. KN raised concerns that the Parish Councillors had not had sight of the Balfour Beatty recommended Contract for the Lengthsman prior to any decision being made, but was advised that all paperwork on the proposed schemes were available by e-mail or on the website, and it was agreed that the Parish Councillors should check his Contract for their information.

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Resolved – On a proposal by GF seconded by SH and carried, it was agreed Robert Lambert be appointed as the Parish Council Lengthsman with effect from 1st April 2015, and

Secondly Resolved – that Cradley Parish Council authorise Robert Lambert and Geoff Fielding to attend such training courses as are necessary to become qualified to carry out duties relating to the administration and execution of the new schemes, all relevant course fees to be paid from the scheme funding provisions. Thanks were expressed to GF for his hard work in setting up these new schemes which should prove beneficial to the Parish Council. **CL rejoined the meeting.**

- (c) Ben Com – AE advised that the necessary paperwork for this had been lodged.
- (d) Planning applications – The Clerk reported that HALC recommended that “best practice” was for all Councillors to take part in planning application discussions, but the Chairman and some Councillors remained in favour of the previous arrangements whereby a small Planning Group was appointed, carried out site visits and reported to full Council on decisions reached regarding individual applications, although it was agreed that full consideration would be made to individual Councillors comments at full Council on any application. The Vice Chairman expressed concern that there was not an authorised Chairman of Planning under the existing arrangement.

Resolved – On a proposal by GF seconded by TLJ and carried, it was agreed the new arrangements whereby all Councillors were on the Planning Committee should remain in force until after the election and that it should then be up to the new Parish Council to decide on “best practice” and the way forward.

Finance – The Clerk advised the following accounts were presented for payment –

❖ Inland Revenue, PAYE	£150.00.
❖ Storridge PCC, donation as agreed	£420.00.
❖ Cradley PCC, donation as agreed	£2,000.00 (capped donation).
❖ Cradley Chapel, donation as agreed	£274.55.
❖ Clerk, expenses	£143.96.

Resolved - On a proposal by GF seconded by TLJ and carried, these payments and donations were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Reports –

Environmental and Footpaths – WH advised nothing to report.

Churchyards Committee – The Chairman advised nothing to report.

Recreation Area – KN advised grass contractor looking at the work to be done including clearing the footpaths and hedge cutting and that it was hoped to make contact with a man to deal with moles in the near future. He advised the Contractor had been appointed to level the football pitch at a cost of £3,510 plus VAT, price to include all necessary work. SD agreed to obtain a price for replacement goal posts. Some Councillors were unhappy about the proposal to clear out and replant the hedge and KN was requested to just get the hedge cut as soon as possible (three Councillors abstained from voting on this proposal). AE questioned whether this had ever been approved by Council and was assured it had.

Cluster Group – GF reported on latest Cluster Group meeting which had been attended by both himself and Councillor Ann Carver who was the Parish Council representative.

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Editorial Group – KN advised on new Website “Best Practice Regulations” coming into effect which will consist of a complete rehash to cover the Government’s requirements. He advised we have a list of what has to be included but added that Cradley already carry about 90% of the necessary information. He also advised that the next edition of the Reporter will include a report on the NDP and as it will be out before the cut off point for the Election it will hopefully include a list of those standing for election .

Correspondence received –

- Letter from Worcestershire County Council regarding publication of the statement of community involvement update February 2015.
- Notification of level of Precept from Herefordshire Council.

Literature – Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine Issue 98 for March 2015.

Public Question Time – no point raised.

Newsletter items –

- ❖ New County Councillor for our Parish Patricia Morgan had attended the meeting.
- ❖ Report on NDP.
- ❖ Planning issues including trees on land adjacent to Pilgrims and position of new wall at Rose Cottage.
- ❖ HOV – Morgan’s Field – Council to seek clarification on pre planning.
- ❖ Play area inspections.
- ❖ Robert Lambert has been appointed as the Parish Council Lengthsman from April 2015.
- ❖ Ben Com paper work has now been lodged.
- ❖ Levelling off of football pitch at Chapel Lane.

Councillor Reports and items for future Agendas – it was reported that there appear to have been several break-ins around the Village.

The Clerk handed out necessary paperwork for those Councillors seeking re-election in the May election and advised that it was important all paperwork was hand delivered to Hereford Council and should not be put in the post.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm. Next meeting to take place in Cradley Village Hall on 14th April 2015.

C. Lowder

14th April 2015.

Signed..... Dated.....

Chairman.

