

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th April 2013
in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance – The Clerk and Jane Wormald, Support Officer in the Neighbourhood Plan Dept at Hereford Council.

Apology – An apology for inability to attend the meeting due to a business commitment was received and approved from S. Davies.

Declaration of Interest – Both Chair and KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by Chair on a proposal by KN seconded by TLJ and carried.

Guest Speaker – Attending the meeting was Jane Wormald who commented on the many advantages of the Parish Council adopting a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and advised that although the Parish Council's Parish Plan had been adopted by Hereford Council, planning officers would not necessarily have to take this into consideration as a NDP would supersede this. She urged the Parish Council to comment on the draft Core Strategy in the first instance and once this had been finally adopted, Councillors should consider a NDP which would result in all planning policies written into the NDP by the Parish Council being obliged to be considered by planning officers when deciding on applications, and which can be refused based on the policies written within the NDP. In addition, the Parish Council would be in a position to allocate land where they wish any development to take place.

She advised that in the Core Strategy seven areas across Herefordshire had been designated to provide proportionate growth, in which Cradley was targeted to provide about 60 dwellings up to the year 2031, resulting in about five properties a year adding that any development after 2011 would be taken into account. Adoption of a NDP would enable the Parish Council to decide where they should be built, the design and all planning related matters including a change to the settlement boundary if the Parish Council thought this appropriate.

She further advised that both Leominster and the Golden Valley have already started looking at a NDP which on average would take about eighteen months after the Core Strategy has been adopted in the Spring of 2014. In the event of the Parish Council deciding against an NDP she advised that Herefordshire Council would consider the Cradley area and although they would work with the Parish Council they would take the lead with the Parish Council obliged to follow their lead.

Jane Wormald also reported on the various costs involved with an NDP and advised on who would be obliged to meet various costs. Before leaving the meeting Councillors advised that they would in the first instance comment on the Core Strategy then consider whether to adopt an NDP and advise her of the decision in due course.

Update Reports

1. Affordable Housing – The Clerk produced a Report obtained from West Mercia Housing which contained very little information and appeared to indicate a very minimal need for any development in the area and confirmed that both Tina Wood and Kat La Tzar would be attending the Council meeting in May to report on their findings following the Consultation.

2. Cluster Group – WH reported on the meeting held on 13th March 2013 and advised that only about six parishes felt they had any concern over traffic issues in their Parish and it had been agreed that the requests would be costed out. Although Cradley had mentioned installation of a SIDS which could be quite expensive, it had been thought that the cost of this could be shared between parishes within the cluster group to make them more cost effective. Also discussed at the meeting was tourism with a Mormon connection and possible issues for the future would include housing, the Core Strategy and public transport. It was agreed that BG would put forward the Council's concerns over the HGV problem on the Bosbury Road. The Clerk confirmed she had written to Herefordshire Council about this problem.
3. Rectory Lane – KN advised that replies have been submitted advising that the Parish Council, the Church and the Village Hall support the findings of the Report by Amey concerning Rectory Lane and recommend that the Report should be accepted. The Report should be finalised by 25th April 2013 and KN agreed to continue pressure in the hope that this matter could finally be resolved after that date.
4. HGVs on Bosbury Road – Clerk advised she had written to Herefordshire Council asking that the sign at Stoney Cross (Prestons Cross) should contain an indication as "unsuitable for HGVs" and that large vehicles for Ledbury should be directed over the hill taking the turn at the cross roads at the bottom of Fromes Hill on the Hereford side.
5. Parish Meeting – Agreed for 23rd April 2013 in Storridge Village Hall and it was agreed the Chair would contact Andy Laney from The Red Lion Pub to propose a vote of thanks to the various Speakers.
6. Parish Council donations and Clerk's salary – AE and EM reported on Finance Meeting held recently when it had been proposed that the Parish Council continue to support the Malvern CAB with a donation of £100. per annum as their service was of a benefit to the community. It had also been proposed that the donations to the Parochial Church Councils for the upkeep of the three churchyards should continue but be put on a more formal footing. This should include the Parish Council obtaining Quotations from an independent Contractor thus enabling the Parish Council to allocate funds and advise what they are prepared to donate rather than the individual PCCs telling us what they have spent.
RESOLVED – On a proposal by Chair it was suggested that the Parish Council continue with the donations and that the Finance Group will obtain an unbiased Quote at a cost of not more than £100 for the work required. This was seconded by LG and carried.
With regard to the Clerk's salary, as the allowance for the use of the Clerks own telephone, computer and home was now taxable to HMRC, the monthly allowance should in future be added to the standing order for her salary at the Bank, and that the Clerk would in future claim the costs of out of pocket expenses including postage and travel on a three monthly basis under individual items for payment.
RESOLVED – On a proposal by Chair seconded by GF and carried this was carried for the future.

Items for consideration –

- (a) Play Equipment at Buryfields – At a meeting held the previous week, it had been agreed to add an additional piece of play equipment for Buryfields at a cost of £1,100 plus VAT utilising the funds from Old School Close and Finchers Corner which Herefordshire Council at present hold.
RESOLVED – On a proposal by AE seconded by TLJ and carried it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the Log Swing from Sovereign play equipment – Clerk to raise funds from Herefordshire Council.
- (b) Chapel Lane Adventure Zone – Councillors were shown a drawing for the future development at Chapel Lane, again utilising funds held by Herefordshire Council. This project included the replacement of the existing surface matting which was urgently in need of renewing.

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RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by LG and carried, it was agreed to go ahead with the recommendations as drawn up by a meeting on the 8th April 2013. Clerk to raise funds from Herefordshire Council.

- (c) Vinesend Lane sign – Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council to replace sign on the A4103 at Storridge which had been taken down by them but had not been returned/replaced.

Finance – the following Accounts had been received for payment

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| • Clerks & Councils Direct, subscription renewal | £12.00. |
| • Local Council Review subscription | £16.00. |
| • CVH Management Committee, hire charge | £6.00. |
| • Viking Direct, stationery | £59.04. |

RESOLVED – On a proposal by EM seconded by FB and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

Reports from Committees and working parties –

Planning – The Chairman (TLJ) reported that the following planning applications had been received for consideration earlier that evening -

Application 130516/F – land adj Dragonwyck, Bosbury Road, WR13 5LT – replacement of existing bungalow and erection of 7 no. new dwellings (two to be affordable) – ***we think this is an incorrect application as the number of properties being applied for is eight. If the drawing is correct, we would have expected some commitment to achieving a minimum of Code Level 3 or 4 in accordance with our Parish Plan. We repeat our comments on the original application regarding the access to the site and trust that some solution will be found regarding the formation of a cross roads with the access to Oaklands which is immediately opposite the site with traffic emerging onto a very busy road.***

Application 130346/FH – Walnut Tree House, 3 Kings Orchard, Cradley, WR13 5LJ – proposed side extension to form ground floor annex for family member with en suites over existing bedrooms and storage – ***objections – we repeat our previous comments. This represents a vast over development of the site and has a huge impact on the neighbouring property.***

Application 130438/FH – Shrapnel Cottage, Crumpton Hill, Storridge, WR13 5HE – proposed detached two storey garage with storage area above - ***we understand permission is not required.***

Application 130599/FH – Bandini, Cradley, WR13 5LQ – remodel existing front porch and balcony. Remove existing timber cladding and timber/render – ***no objections.***

Application 130533/FH – Parkland, Cradley, WR13 5NP – proposed extension to bungalow to form additional accommodation relating to care of a dependent relative – ***no objections.***

The Chairman reported that the following applications had been approved with conditions “Timbers”, The Haven, Crumpton Hill and development at Pilgrims. She also advised that the kitchen extension at Primrose Hill had been granted but the application for the garage had been refused.

Environmental & Footpath – Following a complaint regarding numerous bags of dog faeces being dumped in Sandy Lane along with various cans, bottles and a small contained of nail varnish, Chair had spoken to Environmental Health to take the matter up and the Police had also agreed to inspect the site.

Churchyard Committee – nothing to report.

Recreation Area Committee – nothing to report.

Editorial Group – nothing to report.

Correspondence received –

- Letter from Cradley Village Hall advising that they are holding an open day on 6th July 2013 from 11-5pm and offering the PC a table so that we can publicise what we do, raise money for ourselves and encourage members to join.
- Letter, Cradley Chapel thanking the PC for the donation for graveyard maintenance.
- E-mail Wynne Harries and photo of dog fouling in Sandy Lane.
- E-mail regarding yew tree at The Coach House (copied to all).

Literature received –

- Community First – leaflets about cheaper energy.
- Western Power Distribution invitation to stakeholder workshop with lunch to include draft business plan for 2015-2023.
- Advice that there has been no call for an election following the resignation of Michael Allfrey so the PC are now free to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

Newsletter items –

- Report on NPD and what is involved.
- Cluster Group.
- Rectory Lane confirmation that we agree to their report.
- Play areas,
- Vinesend Sign.

Councillor Reports – Chair discussed need to respond to Core Strategy (now available on website) before next meeting and whether the Parish Council should consider a Neighbourhood Plan which would hand more power to the Parish Council and the Community. It was agreed to hold an ExtraOrdinary meeting on the 30th April 2013 to decide whether to go ahead with a NDP following consideration and reply to Herefordshire Council regarding the Core Strategy.

A request had also been received regarding whether parking could be provided adjacent to the phone box at Finchers Corner with parking on the grass verge.

Clerk to report potholes on Cowleigh Road at Storridge and also Chapel Lane. Chair will talk with G. White regarding some trees down over a footpath.

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

At the request of the Clerk, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will now take place on 7th May 2013, one week earlier than normal. The Annual Parish meeting is to take place on 23rd April 2013 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 7th May 2013
Chairman

