

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7pm (following a General Election on Thursday 7th May 2015)

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (CL) K. Nason (KN), A. Carver (AC), G. Fielding (GF) , G. Thomas (GT) D. Pye (DP) D. Scully (DS) A. Eldridge (AE) W. Harries (WH) S. Davies (SD) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) S. Herriot (SH) F. Beard (FB) C. Lambert (CL). Also present were four members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from K. Welford (although he called in whilst the meeting was in progress to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of office as a Councillor in the presence of the Clerk).

All Councillors in attendance signed and handed to the Clerk their Declarations of Office as Councillors before the formalities of the meeting commenced.

Election of Chairman – Two nominations were received and seconded for the position of Chairman for 2015/16 namely Geoff Fielding and Chris Lowder. A ballot took place, and following a split vote of seven in favour of each candidate, the ex Chairman cast a vote in favour of himself. He was duly appointed as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

Election of Vice Chairman – Two nominations were received and seconded for the position of Vice Chairman for 2015/16 namely Geoff Fielding and Ken Nason. A ballot took place, and again following a split vote of seven in favour of each Candidate, the Chairman cast a vote in favour of Ken Nason who was duly appointed as Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – the following declarations were received and Councillors signed the Declarations register –

C.Lambert	-	Lengthsman Scheme
C. Lowder	-	Cradley Village Hall & Planning No. 150962
K. Nason	-	Payments to himself, Innmentor & C/V Hall.
G.Fielding	-	Friend of N. Iskander.
A. Eldridge, S. Herriot & W. Harries	-	Planning application No. 150962.

Elect Members of various sub-committees and working parties (as per attached). SH suggested appointment of a separate Chairman for the Planning Committee plus a small group to carry out site visits . Cllrs A. Carver, S. Herriot, K. Nason and the Chairman agreed to carry out inspections for any applications received in June and then report back to full Committee, but any further changes were deferred until after the forthcoming training session which was being arranged with HALC and which should be attended by all Councillors and the Clerk.

Election of Internal Auditor – On a proposal by the Chairman seconded by FB and carried, Terry Robshaw was re-appointed as the Parish Council Internal Auditor for the coming year.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting on 14th April 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman on a proposal by AE, seconded by KN and carried.

The Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting on 20th April 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman on a proposal by AC seconded by GF and carried. Following on from the Extra Ordinary meeting, SH queried what Parish Councillors felt had been achieved following the meeting with Andrew Ashcroft, Assistant Director at Herefordshire Council Planning Department. and whether the Parish Council proposed to raise objections to the increased number of houses in the Core Strategy. It was agreed that by including the whole Parish there is more likelihood of windfall developments occurring. It was further agreed that SH would draft out a letter expressing the Parish Council's concerns over the proposed increased housing developments and once the wording had been approved by Councillors, would be forwarded to the Clerk for submission to Herefordshire Council on the Parish Council headed paper.

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Planning – The following applications had been received for discussion –

- No. 151105 – Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp – removal of condition 4 of DCSE2005/3838/F to allow the building to be sold separately from the Hidelow House holiday complex – **objections raised as the original consent was given on condition that this should not be sold off on the open market as a separate property.**
- No. 150542 – Home House Farm, Tanhouse Lane – proposed tennis court – **other than concerns that the proposal was encroaching onto agricultural land, no objections were raised.**
- No. 150962 – Land to north of Hope End Farm, Ridgeway Cross – proposed construction of a three bed single storey passivhaus, associated landscaping, bio diversity enhancement, access and flood prevention for adjacent listed buildings – **objections on a proposal by KN seconded by TLJ with nine members in favour of objection and one abstention "we cannot support the precedent of development in rural areas outside the settlement boundary and do not consider that this proposal satisfies the requirements as set out by Para 554 of the NPPF to allow the exception of development in open countryside. We acknowledge the positive elements of woodland planting and the proposed orchard but do not consider this sufficient to offset the potential impacts of development ie the property is visible from the AONB and footpath N. CD14 passes across the field in the valley where the proposed development would be fully visible".**

It was noted that during the vote SH left the table, but did not leave the room.

Feedback on Parish Meeting – it was generally agreed by all who attended that this had been a very successful meeting this year.

Public Question Time – attending the meeting were the applicants who had recently put in a planning application at Coombe Lane, and had taken an interest in how application No. 150962 above had been dealt with. They commented that they were pleased to note that those Councillors who had declared an interest in the application had not been allowed to vote on the outcome.

Items for consideration –

- (a) Sale of land at Rectory Lane – The Chairman advised that the owners of land in Rectory Lane were selling their property and moving. Four lots were up for Auction in June and Lot 4 was of special interest to Cradley Village Hall totalling approximately 3.6 acres with a price guide of £50K although it was thought that this was not a realistic price and could possibly raise up to about £80/90K. Some monies were available due to a benefactor and it was hoped that the Parish Council could facilitate raising additional funds down the Big lottery route, although one other owner had shown an interest in taking about one-eighth of an acre if the land could be obtained for the benefit of the Village Hall. It was agreed the land was not required for development, although it was felt that the existing building on the site could have many uses, and a small area of parking and turning facilities for vehicles would be extremely beneficial.

The Chairman invited input from around the table. **AC** commented that the land had been offered for sale many years ago for £3K. but had been turned down at that time as it was considered too expensive but she felt that a second opportunity to acquire beneficial land should not be missed. Various other comments were made, but in the whole, all Councillors felt that the possibility of acquiring the land for the Village Hall should be seriously considered, and although **AE** advised that the HOV group had themselves considered this land and felt that the barn could be used, he expressed some unhappiness in the fact that the Parish Council were now expressing an interest in facilitating the acquisition of the land in Rectory Lane but had not shown any real interest in acquiring Morgan's Field. It was agreed that the land should also be mentioned in the forthcoming public meeting with Carly Tinkler to discuss her Landscape Assessment Presentation when various other proposals for future development in the Parish would be displayed, including the HOV proposal for Morgan's field.

In the meantime GF would ask whether the owner has any particular number in his head which would enable him to take this particular Lot off the open market. Ten Councillors voted in favour of this, one against, and three abstentions. Both SD and SH expressed unhappiness about this proposal.

- (b) Adoption of BT phone box – As Kevin Welford had been unable to attend the meeting, this was deferred until the meeting of the Parish Council in June.

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Financial Issues-

Payment of the following Accounts –

• HMRC PAYE	£150.00.
• Marion Griffiths, payroll	£60.00.
• *K. Nason, barriers at Chapel Lane	£119.14.
• Local Council Review magazine	£17.00.
• *Cradley Village Hall hire fees	£30.00.
• Terry Robshaw, honorarium	£75.00.
• MHDC – AONB donation	£100.00.
• Storridge Village Hall hire fees	£70.00.
• *Innmentor, web hosting	£110.00.
• PJ O'Boyle at Chapel Lane (on account)	£3,027.60.
• Clerk, expenses	£141.33.

On a proposal by SD seconded by SH and carried, the above items were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Further proposed - FB took the Chair, and on a proposal by TLJ seconded by GF and carried the items above marked with an asterisk were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

- **Audited Accounts to 31st March 2015** – copies of the audited accounts prepared by Terry Robshaw had been sent to all Councillors and **on a proposal** by GF seconded by KN and carried these were approved as drawn and signed off by the Chairman.
- **Annual Return** – The Clerk circulated copies of the Annual Return to 31st March 2015 and **on a proposal** by KN seconded by TLJ and carried the Return was approved as drawn and signed off by the Chairman.
The Vice Chairman announced that the final figures in the Accounts were in line with Budget control which had been prepared for the year 2014/15 and thanks were expressed to the Clerk for the maintenance of the Accounts which had gone through without any queries being raised.
- **Approve future payment of fee to Carly Tinkler** – TLJ advised that an Invoice would be received for £225. following Carly's attendance at the forthcoming NDP meeting when she would present her Landscape Assessment Presentation to the Public and **on a proposal** by TLJ seconded by GF and carried, the fee was approved for payment on receipt of her Invoice.
- **Legacy of £1,000 from Mrs. Bibbings for Cradley Youth Group** – The Chairman advised that the cheque had been returned to the Parish Council as it appeared y the intended recipient Cradley Youth Group would shortly be ceasing to run. The Chairman agreed to enquire of Mrs Bibbings' relatives whether they wished to donate the legacy to another appropriate Group in the Parish.
- **Redemption of 2.5% Consolidated Stock on 5th July 2015** – The Clerk announced receipt of letter advising that the Government proposed redemption of the stock in its entirety, and it was agreed to request the repayment be made into the Parish Council "Business Money Manager" Account at HSBC.
- **Financial Report** – It was unanimously agreed to continue with audit of the Accounts in September every year followed by the annual audit at the end of our financial in March every year.
- **Cheque Signatories** – There was not considered to be any need for change in this arrangement, whereby two Councillors and the Clerk had to sign each cheque. Approved signatories are A. Eldridge, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk.

Reports on outstanding issues –

- 1) **NDP & Core Strategy** – TLJ reported on current position with regard to Carly Tinklers presentation on 3rd June of her Landscape Assessment Presentation, her fee for which had been approved for payment and that on the following day the various Groups would make their presentation regarding possible future developments in the Parish. TLJ also advised that the AONB had kindly offered to finance up to the sum of £500 towards the cost of a leaflet drop to advise Parishioners what was being proposed regarding the NDP.

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- 2) Lengthsman and P3 Schemes – On receipt of the documents from the Administrator GF, copies of the Contracts with both Herefordshire Council and the Lengthsman had been circulated to all Councillors and it had been hoped that these could be signed and sealed to enable our Lengthsman to commence work. However, unfortunately the paperwork was incomplete as no maps had been supplied and it was arranged GF would ask for immediate delivery of these documents, and once received, it was agreed he would obtain the signature of both the Chairman and the Clerk to enable work to commence without waiting for a further Council meeting

Correspondence – Letter from Computershare regarding redemption of 2.5% Consolidated Stock.

Literature –

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine,
- The Clerk magazine
- Adoption of BT phone box booklet (handed to Kevin Welford).

Items for Newsletter – to include

- appointment of Chairman, and Vice Chairman,
- report on ExtraOrdinary meeting and Parish meeting,
- welcome to new Parish Councillor, Derek Scully.
- sale of land at Rectory Lane,
- NDP meeting with AONB and public presentation on 3rd June,
- Geoff Fielding had now been appointed as an additional footpath officer with responsibility for administration of both the Lengthsman and P3 Schemes.
- Annual Accounts and Annual Return had been approved.

Councillor Reports and Items for next Agenda –

D. Pye reported sewerage problems at Crumpton Hill and Clerk was to request ST Water to attend ASAP.

Addition/extension of double yellow lines on the road passed the Doctor's surgery and around corner up to The Crown pub and look into possibility of "gated entrance" into Cradley similar to that existing on the entrance to Bosbury which it was thought might reduce the speed of traffic passing through the Village.

Various signs for "Cradley" seemed to have disappeared.

Grit bin at Grittles End was in need of repair or replacement.

Clerk to ascertain present position at Pound Bridge where work has come to a standstill.

Clerk to arrange new "training" date with Lynda Wilcox/HALC for end of June.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.34pm.

C. Lowder

9th June 2015.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman