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MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 8th June 2010 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – D. Creed-Newton (in the chair - DCN) M. Allfrey (MA) K. Nason (KN) R. Gill (RG) A. Eldridge (AE) F. Beard (FB) C. Lowder (CL) and M. Brooks bank (MB).

Also in attendance was Cllr. Roy Stockton (RS) who introduced recently elected Cllr. Tony Johnson .

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting had been received and accepted from P. Diamond and R. Diamond who were attending a Parish Plan Meeting, J. Edgar due to ill health and P. Stanley for family reasons.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

RG who declared a prejudicial interest in St. Katherine's field.

MA who declared a prejudicial interest in Cradley Sports field.

CL who declared a personal interest in Rectory Lane.

MINUTES - The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 4th May 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PARISH PLAN – The Chairman reported that a final meeting of the Group was being held that evening to review their documents which would be distributed no later than 17th June. The Chairman advised that before the meeting on the 22nd June it was important for all Councilors to read through the document as there would be insufficient time to go through this at the meeting. Following the meeting on the 22nd, the document will then go through to the relevant officers at Herefordshire Council with the date for publication on the 31st July 2010 with a Launch meeting in September.

PROGRESS REPORTS -

A4103 speed restriction – Confirmation received that this item is on the list for consideration by Herefordshire Council and will go forward in due course. New road signs up at Storridge for “Cowleigh” and Clerk to write asking for removal of the signs indicating Malvern at the junction of the Cowleigh Road..

Bromyard Road signage – E-mail circulated to all Councilors that Herefordshire Council are unable to do any further signage work at the present time.

Rectory Lane – The Chairman advised that Mike Hames hopes to have a complete report for presentation to Councilors at the next meeting. RS offered to look into the fact that Mike Hames had to resort to obtaining information under the Freedom of Information Act, adding that this should not have been necessary.

Notice Board - CL advised that, whilst they are unable to give any specific date for erection of this board, he has been assured by Vince Playdon that the matter is in hand. CL agreed to give the necessary information to RS to enable him to look into this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Pound Bridge – No meeting had taken place as David Osborne, Herefordshire Council unexpectedly called to a meeting in Oxford. New date for meeting will be agreed, with a full report available at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION -

Affordable Housing – Consultation meeting had gone well and was well attended, and generally considered that all questions were fairly and properly answered. Satisfactory response to survey and two suitable sites had been indicated.

St. Katherines – **RG left the room** – All notices which had been displayed indicated that the Parish Council had no fixed view on this proposal at this stage. It was considered the Consultation had gone well and that the Developers were very professional and answered questions raised in a fair and businesslike manner. The Group of local residents will be meeting shortly to consider their response to

the Consultation. *RG rejoined the meeting.*

Vacancies on PC – The Clerk confirmed that she had been advised there was no call for an election to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council –

RESOLVED – On a proposal by MA, seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed to publish a notice in the Parish magazine to see if any suitable applicants come forward for consideration. The Chairman also requested Councillors to put forward some recommendations if they knew of anyone who may be interested.

General Policy for Annual Meetings – On a proposal by DCN, seconded by MA and carried, it was agreed that we keep all Reports on the Agenda for forthcoming Annual Meetings.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

Accounts to 31/3/2010 – The Clerk had circulated copies to all Councillors prior to the meeting –

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG seconded by MB and carried, these were approved as drawn and were signed by the Chairman including a copy of both the Risk Assessment and Asset Register.

Annual Return to 31/3/2010 – The Clerk had circulated copies to all Councillors prior to the meeting -

RESOLVED – On a proposal by MA seconded by KN and carried, the Annual Return was signed by the Chairman.

Accounts - the following Accounts had been received for payment -

Wicksteed, inspection of play area	£83.43.
Storrige Village Hall hire fee	£14.00.
Den Horne, grass cut at play areas	£47.00.
Clerk, expenses/allowances/telephone A/c	£285.35.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by AE, seconded by FB and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment, cheques were signed and Invoices initialed.

REPORTS received -

Planning - The Chairman reported the following applications had been considered prior to the PC meeting –

4 Oaklands, Cradley – Single and two storey extension and additional parking area – Whilst it was reported that this application had been withdrawn, no official notification had been received, so matter was discussed and agreed to *raise objections, that we are concerned that the development is disproportionate and may impact adversely on adjoining properties, and also to the loss of the hedge. We also regret the loss of a four bed residence in favour of yet another larger property.*

Windrush, Cradley – Erection of detached garage – *Objections, gross over development of the site in a particularly attractive vista in the conservation area.*

The Hay Barn, Hope End Farm, Ridgeway Cross – proposed earth embankment for landscaping and supporting gable walls of barns – *No objections provided the Environment Agency are happy about the tipping arrangements.*

Shuttfield Cottage, Birchwood Lane, Storrige – demolition of existing garage and rebuild with office/study on first floor – *No objections.*

Archers Mill, Cradley – Change of mixed use single dwelling and adjoining agricultural land to single dwelling with health/wellbeing retreat utilizing existing buildings and new detached guest lodges – amended plans – *No further comments, our previous comments still stand.*

RS advised that he was aware of this application and reported that the planning authority were trying to get the owners to re-establish the mill.

Prancing Pony, Cradley – change of use from public house to domestic dwelling – *Objections – the owners of the Prancing Pony have, we feel, failed to provide the necessary proof that they have made every effort in proving the un-viability of the pub and by conclusion, the right to a change of use. Whilst they have offered the pub for sale, it is felt that there was no determined effort to actually attain the sale as a business. It has not been advertised through recognized licensed premises specialist agents where it would receive the greatest chance of success of sale, but rather through business agents where licensed premises are only a minor sector of their portfolio. The prices asked do not reflect the true value of the business as it is we feel, purposely inflated well above what the market value is, even at the recently reduced asking price. The value of the business has been further reduced by historical inability to attract customers. The recent successful re-opening of the neighboring Red Lion has shown that there is support locally for well run pubs under willing*

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licensees. The Parish Council would not support any further reduction of community facilities.

The Planning Chairman then reported on notifications from Herefordshire Council on items passed, refused or withdrawn.

The Chairman also brought to the attention of the Parish Council information received that residential caravans were in use at The Homend Farm on the main Hereford/Worcester Road.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by MA, seconded by RG and carried, the Clerk was to request the Enforcement Officer to visit the site and report back to us in due course.

Churchyards Committee - CL advised nothing to report

Playing Fields – The Chairman advised the Council should go into closed session to discuss Quotations for grass cutting – ***RS and TJ left the room*** – See confidential minute attached.

The Chairman declared the meeting back in open session.

The Chairman advised that, at the Playing Field Committee meeting on the 18th May, AE had been appointed as Secretary to the Committee. He reported that the Quotation from Wicksteed for repairs to the Chapel Lane play equipment had been discussed, and it had been decided to recommend to full Council acceptance of the Quotation.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by RG and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council accept Wicksteed Quotation for necessary work at Chapel Lane playing fields, but suggested that the Clerk endeavour to obtain a reduction in price in the first instance. It was unanimously agreed not to do any work on the aerial runway.

CL agreed to proceed with the planting of shrubs on the boundary with The Chapel as soon as possible. It was agreed to do away with the Inspection Book, as KN has created an inspection sheet which is easy to use on the web-site and he will put the rota on the web site for regular inspection by all Councillors in alphabetical order, with inspections to take place on a weekly basis.

JT had kindly donated his hose reel to the Parish Council and the Clerk was to write thanking him for his generosity. Further meeting of Playing Field Committee to take place on 8th July.

Insurance – The Clerk drew attention to an agreement in March 2004 when it had been agreed “that only the soft surfaces of the play equipment should be insured as the Parish Council were happy to take responsibility for the main equipment as it was very substantially built”.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by MB and carried, it was suggested the Clerk obtain an Estimate of how much it would cost to have the play equipment fully insured.

Editorial Group - KN advised that the cost of postal delivery had increased to outlying houses and sought an increased Budget for future deliveries.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by CL and carried, the budget was increased to £100. The next issue will be out in July, and whilst there had been a slight reduction in visits to the web-site, KN raised concerns about non use of The Forum.

HALC – The Clerk confirmed that the Nomination Form had not been received from HALC and was to chase this up. MA advised that the next meeting of the HALC Committee will be dealing with financial matters.

CORRESPONDENCE –

E-mail, Andrew Lee Jones regarding signage on Bromyard Road at junction with A4103.

E-mail –Jonathan Tudor that he is happy to donate his hose reel to the PC.

E-mail – Steve Hodges regarding Stiffords Bridge Defra flood protection grant application which has been unsuccessful, as the scheme was again massively oversubscribed and stating that Herefordshire Council has been allocated around two grants, this relates to some 25 properties in Cross Keys, Withington.

E-mail – Electoral Office regarding our request for repayment of expenses in displaying Notices regarding the election.

Letter – Amey – litter programme, as part of Amey Herefordshire’s commitment to

Improving the environment, they work actively to encourage community participation in combating the litter problems in the County. To further assist this they are able to provide on loan litter picks, high visibility jackets, gloves and bin liners to any community led litter picking event and that they will also

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take away the litter which has been collected by the use of this loaned equipment and stating that they are happy to work with each Parish.

Letter – Avonline, which is a cost effective solution to provide Broadband access to rural communities, stating Satellite Broadband is completely separate from BT and cable infrastructure and is available even in areas where no broadband service is present, and stating they would be happy to attend a local meeting with us to explain ways in which they might be able to help solve the Parish Broadband issues,

Letter – Worcestershire CC regarding preferred options on waste core strategy consultation.

Letter – Herefordshire Council stating they are gathering together statistical evidence on the state of the local economy and also surveying the opinions of residents, local businesses employers and our economic development partners.

E-mail – Michael Sheriff tendering his resignation from the Parish Council.

Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding the provision of salt bins in the Parish.

Letter, Electoral Office that there has been no request for an election to fill the two vacancies advised following the resignations of J. Tudor and E. Mikata.

Questionnaire Results from Affordable Housing Information Day.

Questionnaire supporting data for the multi-agency flood risk assessment for completion and return.

E-mail concerning damage to tree at 12 Oaklands.

Invoice – AE Brown, Alfrick for repair to playground equipment.

LITERATURE –

Clerks & Councils Direct.

Malvern Hills AONB new publication from Natural England and latest edition of “Outstanding”.

Bus and Train timetable.

Herefordshire Council “Energy efficiency grants and assistance 2010/11”.

”My Play” brochure play area care and repair letter.

HALC Information Corner.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS – report on Parish Plan, A4103, Mike Hames hopes to report at the July meeting re Rectory Lane, two consultation days, Accounts, Playing field committee, editorial group getting everything out to local areas, Forum on the web site.

It was agreed to mention the Parish Council vacancies as a separate item and also to mention the vacancies on the web-site.

ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA – salt bins.

NEXT MEETING – Extraordinary meeting on the 22nd June 2010 regarding Parish Plan.

Parish Council meeting on 13th July 2010 in Cradley Village Hall.

Signed – D.G. Creed-Newton
Chairman.

Dated – 13th July 2010.

