

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

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair – Chair) TL Jones (TLJ) K. Nason (KN) A. Eldridge (AE) C. Lambert (CL) W. Harries (WH) F. Beard (FB) L. Gamble (LG) S. Davies (SD) D. Woodward (DW) B. Gordon (BG) E. Moseley (EM) A. Symondson (AS).

In Attendance – The Clerk, Cllr. T. Johnson, Paul Esrich (AONB) and two members of the public.

An Apology for inability to attend the meeting had been received and approved from G. Fielding.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Guest Speaker – Attending the meeting was Paul Esrich, from MHDC AONB. Paul advised that the current Plan was under review with a consultation period until 5th August 2013 and reported how important it was for Parish Councils to comment and help guide them in their decisions. He reported on the loss of 28% of their funding with continued loss on a yearly basis. He advised on what they were able to help with and that they were at present working with Colwall Parish Council on their Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) who were also looking at their settlement boundary under the NDP and he indicated that he would be willing, if at all possible, to help Cradley steering group in their proposed NDP. A question/answer session followed during which he indicated that the AONB do have man power to deal with planning applications and also that they have powers to veto some applications but that the Local Authority were the principal powers for planning applications.

County Councillor Report –

The Chair congratulated Tony Johnson (TJ) on being appointed as Leader of Herefordshire Council. TJ advised that

(1) The Core Strategy will be presented to full Council on 19th July 2013.

2) That Balfour Beatty (BB) had been appointed to take over from Amey at the end of their Contract and that it was reported that BB were paying a £20m up- front investment which it was thought was going to be ring fenced for roads. Following a query he confirmed that BB would be bound to carry on with projects already in hand, such as Rectory Lane in the Parish.

3) Plans were in hand by him with regard to an excretionary budget meeting whereby if proposals were not already in hand for use of some budgets, he would propose to make some deep cuts, in addition to those already mentioned, with some services being reduced or stopped altogether. He also advised that with regard to adult social care, which used up to half of their discretionary budget, the Government were reportedly coming forward with some arrangements which would take the onus off local governments.

4) He reported that the development of the old cattle market site was proceeding well and that despite some reported problems over the Rotherwas site, things were progressing well with some new negotiations in hand.

Items for Consideration –

Closure of Stores & Post Office at Cradley – The Chair made a statement with regard to the status of this shop over the last two years and the fact that the services offered by the post office had been downgraded. Attending the meeting was Nigel Morris, Head Postmaster at Malvern PO which also covered the Colwall Post Office and he advised that the Cradley Post Office had also come under that umbrella.

July 2013/24

He advised on the various services which could be available to cover the closure of the Cradley Post Office should this prove necessary following the assessment of attendance figure at the end of the present restricted cover of three days three times a week. This could include the facility in an alternative property, if one could be found, or alternatively a mobile facility was available which Nigel reported did in fact offer a better service. KN advised that Cradley Village Hall were in the process of looking into offering this facility at the moment, but that various restrictions applied as they were a registered charity.

Various expressions of unhappiness were raised that the Parish Council had not acted before the actual closure had taken place, but Councillors were advised that both the business was privately run and premises were purchased by the present owners, so very little could be done until such time as the actual closure of the stores. In any event, this was not a Council business, and in addition, the Parish Council could not legally run a post office or stores and whilst there were charities that funded community shops, the Council would need to raise about £40K and then obtain about 50/60 volunteers to help with the shop on a regular basis.

It was agreed to hold a meeting to discuss what the Parish want for the future and it was hoped that both County Councillors would attend; Nigel Morris confirmed he would attend and this was agreed for 7th August in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Update Reports

- 1) Cluster Group – BG reported on meeting on 12th June at Wellington Heath with approximately 14 parish councils being represented, Although some of the proposed traffic measures had been put forward to Hereford Council, it was confirmed that there was no money in the Highways budget available for this. It was now hoped that money will be found on environmental grounds.
- 2) Rectory Lane – KN confirmed still awaiting final registration.
- 3) Kingsbridge SPS – The Chairman and Clerk reported that some repairs had been carried out, including interior work and that the roadside drain had been cleared. Area to be monitored during any bad weather.
- 4) Correspondent for Newsletter & Reporter – Chair advised that WH had kindly agreed to take over as correspondent for the Newsletter for a short while. It was agreed KN will do this meeting but WH would take over from August until the end of the year when the matter would again be reviewed.

Items for consideration –

Notice Boards refurbishment – It was agreed that separate notice boards were not required for display of Byelaws as it was hoped when the boards had been upgraded with lockable doors etc. this would solve the problem of vandalism.

Chapel Lane – Work taking place this week, tunnel on order with a hoped for delivery by the weekend, and also that the boulders had been ordered.

Finance – the following Accounts had been received and were due for payment –

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| • Inland Revenue, Clerk's PAYE | £157.55. |
| • Ken Nason, repayment fencing posts | £107.28. |
| • Clerk's postages and travel | £126.80. |

RESOLVED – On a proposal by FB seconded by EM and carried these were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

July 2013/25

The Clerk explained that whilst a budget for the fencing/posts at Chapel Lane had been agreed at £80., in addition to this sum there was a delivery charge of £7.50 plus VAT which increased the price to £107.28., but she advised that the VAT would be reclaimed at the end of the year.

Reports –

Planning – TLJ advised that two applications had previously been considered as follows –

- 8 Oaklands, Cradley – proposed single storey rear extension and internal alterations-no objections raised.
- Sundown Lodge, Cradley – remove dying conifer in hedge close to overhead powerlines, remove conifer which blocks light to raised bed vegetable garden, tidy and remove dead trees and shrubs from hedgerow and replace removed trees with fruit trees, all work to trees in conservation area – no objections raised.

Environmental/Footpaths – WH has kindly agreed to become Chairman of the group.

NDP – two meetings held to date with another planned for next week. Notices to be displayed by Herefordshire Council advising of plans for a NDP – Clerk to check up on these.

Churchyards Committee – Nothing to report.

Recreation Area Committee – Nothing to report.

Editorial Group – Nothing to report.

Correspondence –

- Letter from MCB regarding stones at Chapel Lane play area; Clerk to discuss with HALC.
- E-mails from both Peter and Rosemary Diamond regarding closure of The Post Office stores.
- Depreciation policy from Terry Robshaw for consideration by Councillors.
- Order acknowledgement for Poly Pull through tunnel from Wickstead.

Literature – Magazines from The Clerk, Clerks & Councils Direct, Local Council Review magazine and Parish and Community News offering 10% discount for Parish and Community Councils. In addition MHDC AONB building design guide draft for consultation April 2013 with appropriate pages for Cradley/Storrige copied to all Councillors.

Newsletter items – Wynne Harries had kindly agreed to be Chairman of the Environmental & Footpaths Group, report from AONB who also advised on budget cuts, Chapel Lane play area, Report from Cllr. T. Johnson, discussion on shop/post office and meeting on 7th August, Cluster Group, NDP, and the fact that work had been carried out at Kingsbridge SPS.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Next meeting to take place on 13th August 2013 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

K. Nason

13th August 2013

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

Vice Chairman.