

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held in Cradley Village Hall on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 commencing at 7pm

**Present** – Cllrs. K. Nason (in the Chair – KN) G. Thomas (GT) W. Harries (WH) F. Beard (FB) A. Carver (AC) A. Eldridge (AE) D. Pye (DP) D. Scully (DS) G. Fielding (GF) C. Lambert (CL) S. Davies (SD) and T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) who arrived at 7.45pm.

**Also in attendance** were County Councillor P. Morgan, R. Stoddard, several members of the public including Mr. & Mrs. Forsyth and the Clerk.

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting** had been received and were approved from C. Lowder and K. Welford.

**Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda** were received as follows

- KN – Payment to Cradley Village Hall.
- AE & WH – NDP/HOV.
- C. Lambert – Lengthsman scheme payment.

**Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**County Councillor Report** – Cllr. Morgan advised that work continued on the County Council Budget (to which Parish Councillors had received an Invitation to attend) and she reported on a meeting with KN and M. Hames regarding Rectory Lane advising that she had updated the County Council on her findings and would report back to us in due course. She also advised on modifications in the Core Strategy regarding wind turbines and that it was hoped the final document would be approved in September/October 2015.

**Planning applications** received for consideration –

- Chockbury Cottage, WR13 5NA – proposed two storey rear extension to provide garage, home office, bathroom and en-suite bedroom above – **no objections raised.**
- The Grove, Chapel Lane, WR13 5HX – proposed single storey extension – **no objections raised.**
- Cradley PO & Store, WR13 5NF – Proposed amendment to existing approved scheme for the change of use from ancillary building to single dwellinghouse including associated works (part retrospective) – **the Parish Council feel that the building should stay as ancillary to the main building and not be classed as a stand-alone house.**
- Land at 6 Buryfields – proposed erection of detached dwelling and demolition of flat roofed single storey boot room/store extension – **no objections raised.**
- Hope End Farm , Ridgeway Cross – proposed conversion of redundant store shed into two holiday cottages – **the Parish Council are happy for them to be holiday lets but want them to remain ancillary to the business.**
- Byefield Farm, WR13 5ER – proposed renovation and replacement windows and structural repairs to frame and windows – **Parish Council support this work.**

The Chairman advised that the applications for erection of a three bed single storey passivhaus on land to the north of Hope End Farm and the erection of three two storey dwellings on land at Queenswood were due for consideration at the next Planning Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**Matters for consideration –**

- (a) PC to acquire Morgan's Field as a Community Asset – GF reported that he had been requested to put this matter forward for consideration and if approved in principle, then due consideration would be vital about how the Parish Council could go forward with this. KN reminded Councillors that in September 2014 following discussion on this matter the PC had agreed that the Council would take steps to achieve custodial ownership of the field as soon as possible on behalf of the Community and that the Parish Council could not pay off any sitting tenant on the land, and further, that at the meeting in October 2015, ex councillor Sarah Herriot had then commented that "money would be available within the Community to pay off the existing Tenant of Morgans Field at a figure estimated to be about £12,750". KN commented that whilst the Parish Council have made this resolution, it cannot be pushed forward until we hear from Mrs. Morgan whether she was in support of the Parish Council or the HOV group acquiring the field; AE stating that the HOV group had worked extremely hard on the HOV project and commented that the current situation by the PC appeared to be an attempt to block their way forward.
- RESOLVED – TLJ proposed that a Group consisting of the Chairman, WH & GF arrange a meeting with Mrs. Morgan to ascertain her precise wishes regarding the future of Morgan's Field, ***this group to attend solely as representatives of the Parish Council (not the HOV).***
- (b) Planning future, full Council, Committee, working party visits, applications etc – It had been noted during the recent training that the HALC representatives had quoted "good practice" rather than "best practice" when discussing the recent abandonment of the Parish Council Planning Committee in favour of full Council members meeting to discuss planning applications. The Chairman sought views around the table on the current situation (resulting in an almost split decision) and it was proposed from the Chair that for a trial period of three months a small planning committee (with a Planning Committee Chairman) should look at the planning applications, do all the work and bring their recommendations and decisions to the Parish Council for ratification or otherwise and discuss any amendments Councillors wished to make. This was seconded by AC and carried with ten Councillors in favour, one against the decision and one abstention. Planning Committee to consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, D. Scully, C. Lambert and W. Harries. A separate Planning Committee Chairman would be appointed.
- (c) Amendment to Standing Orders under DPI declaration – it was agreed to amend the existing Standing Orders to the effect that a member declaring a "discloseable pecuniary interest" must leave the room and not take part in any vote.
- (d) Neighbourhood Watch – GT proposed that this be included in the Newsletter stating that the PC are interested in resurrecting the scheme and asking for volunteers.
- (e) Feedback on local housing issues meeting with Housing Officers/Police – Unfortunately the representative from Kemble had not attended the meeting. Police have reported they have seen a dramatic drop in crime in the area. It is proposed to carry out a "satisfaction survey" to enquire how Tenants perceive their surroundings provided the other Housing Association come on board. Another meeting to take place in approximately three to four months although not date fixed at the present time, and would obviously needs the results of the survey to be available before the meeting. KN advised that the County Councillor was interested in attending the next meeting.
- (f) Training feedback – felt this was very beneficial to all who attended and the Clerk had distributed the "Inhouse Training pack" to members who had been unable to attend. New Councillors found it beneficial and realised how much there is to take on board. KN commented that regardless of decisions which are made by this Council for the Council, they are our decisions to make and the Parish Councillors must be prepared to take on the responsibility.

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**Progress Reports –**

- (1) Gates entrance to Village - GF advised he is meeting with our Locality Steward for a site visit, after which contact will have to be made with Balfour Beatty for a site visit with them to determine the best location. However, in the first instance, we have to apply for a permit to Hereford Council for a Licence for the erection of gates, situation, height etc. all to be determined. FB felt the gates for Storridge should be by The New Inn on the A4103, and TLJ advised she would ask the Village once the necessary information has been obtained.
- (2) Adoption of phone box – KW not attending the meeting so deferred until next PC meeting in August.

**Finance** – The Clerk advised the following Accounts had been received for payment –

➤ Inland Revenue, PAYE	£150.00.
➤ Carly Tinkler for landscape presentation	£225.00.
➤ G. Fielding, Lengthsman expenses	£124.58. (prior to Account being opened).
➤ County Building Supplies	£87.16.
➤ R. Lambert, Lengthsman duties	£487.50.
➤ HALC – training fee	£257.82.
➤ Clerk expenses	£162.13.

On a proposal by TLJ seconded by AC and carried, these accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

**FB took the Chair** and sought approval for payment of £93. to Cradley Village Hall for hire fees.

On a proposal by GF seconded by DP and carried, this Account was also approved for payment and a cheque signed.

**Reports –**

- (i) NDP – TLJ advised of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July to work through Questionnaire, which had been circulated at this meeting giving no real opportunity for Councillors to study it, raise concerns including those raised by an ex Councillor which had been sent to the Chairman direct and which needed to be resolved. Both GT and AC unhappy about the timing and felt that the document should be presented to full Council as a completed document so that an accurate vote can be taken on the contents and TLJ felt that the NDP Group should finalise the Questionnaire as soon as possible and arrange an Extraordinary meeting to hopefully achieve the full support of the Parish Council. AE reported he had spoken to Linda Wilcox from HALC who advised that the subject of wind farm developments should also be included in the Questionnaire. In the meantime an advertisement for volunteers will be included in the Newsletter to ensure accurate distribution of the final document.

***The Chairman then opened up the meeting to the public***

Attending the meeting were Mr & Mrs. Forsyth who had also attended the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July to raise their unhappiness about the settlement boundary which seriously affected their property and they asked that the Council should take into account this evidence and give their support when drawing up the NDP and settlement boundary. Copies of correspondence and plans had been circulated to all Councillors on the day of the Parish Council meeting, which again had not given all Councillors time to look at the evidence presented to them (**documents on file**). TLJ advised that the NDP group will take this on board and if Mr. Forsyth was unhappy with their decision, it was suggested that he comes

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back to the full Council for further consultation as it was agreed that this was an opportune moment for the parish boundary at Stoney Villa to be clarified and finalised on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Forsyth.

Also attending the meeting was a resident from Pixiefield enquiring the present position regarding the proposed development of up to sixty houses by Persimmon. She was advised by the Chairman that to date the Parish Council had not had the opportunity to meet with their Agent for an initial consultation but she was assured that the Parish Council would push for a public meeting with the Builders so that everyone had the opportunity of discussing the matter with the Developers in due course.

#### **The Chairman closed the public meeting**

- (ii) Environmental and Footpaths – GF reported meeting held earlier in the month to establish a working group consisting of eleven members and that Jeff White was taking the Minutes of the meetings. They had agreed to put forward projects including flood prevention, wildlife, trees which were affected by TPOs, dog bins, community orchards and allotments and draw up a database for guidance/information. They would meet four times a year in the long term but in the first instance it was proposed to meet on a monthly basis and GF agreed to report back at Parish Council meetings by sending a report to the Clerk for distribution with the other relevant paperwork.
- (iii) Lengthsman Scheme – full report had been circulated by the Clerk on the new "Information Sheet". The full working kit has now been obtained and KN suggested that he should if at all possible take pictures of "before and after the work" so that members of the public could see the progress being made. GF also advised that he was meeting with the Locality Steward to discuss access problems at the Doctor's surgery, traffic calming measures requested by Storridge residents on the Cowleigh Road near to the junction of the A4103 and also carry out an inspection following a "near miss accident" which had been reported on the Bosbury Road.
- (iv) Churchyards Committee – KN advised that the Chairman had advised him there was nothing to report.
- (v) Recreation area – KN advised the "mountain" had been strimmed, fencing all around football pitch was in place but that the grass is growing well and the land drains are working. SD enquired when it would be possible to use the football pitch in view of the forthcoming school holidays and he agreed to look at it and make a decision. In the meantime he will get a price for a smaller set of goal posts suitable for younger children.
- (vi) Editorial Group – Chairman advised nothing to report.

**Literature & Correspondence** had been distributed under the "Information Sheet" attached to the Agenda as recommended by HALC at the recent training event.

**Newsletter items** to include County Councillor report on Rectory Lane, volunteers requested for Neighbourhood Watch scheme and noting report of reduced crime in the area as reported by local Police, recent training for Councillors carried out by HALC, it was hoped the NDP Questionnaire would be finalised soon and seeking volunteers for assist in the distribution of the document. The Footpaths and Lengthsman schemes are now up and running and off to an excellent start which would also appear on the website, road safety issues being looked into on various local roads including the entrance to the Doctor's surgery on the Bosbury Road. Finally the play area in Chapel Lane continued to undergo clearance work following the levelling of the football pitch which it was hoped would be available for use during the forthcoming school holidays.

**Councillors Reports** – none received but Chairman advised Councillors that the Clerk needed to receive Agenda items in good time to enable the necessary paperwork to be distributed in accordance with HALC recommendations.

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

Next meeting to take place on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 but it was considered that it may necessary to hold an ExtraOrdinary meeting for full Council to finalise the NDP Questionnaire before distribution of the document.

Signed..... C. Lowder ..... Dated..... 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015.  
Chairman.