

MINUTES of a Meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th August 2011 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – C. Lowder (Chairman – in the Chair), R. Diamond (RD), T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) E. Moseley (EM) M. Allfrey (MA) F. Beard (FB) S. Adam (SA) S. Davies (SD) B. Gordon (BG) W. Harries (WH) C.Smith (CS) A. Symondson (AS). Also attending were District Cllrs. C. Attwood and T. Johnson and four member of the public.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from M. Brooksbank and A. Eldridge for business reasons and from K. Nason due to a holiday arrangement.

DECLARATIONS of interest in items on the Agenda –

- S. Adams Drainage – personal.
- C.Lowder CVHMC and Buryfields - personal
- A. Symondson & C. Smith Buryfields – personal.
- M. Allfrey Land adjacent to school – prejudicial.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2011 including the closed session were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR reports – Tony Johnson advised that

- Negotiations in hand with Amey regarding flooding problems near Ashvale.
- Negotiations in hand with the owner of Kingsbridge where incorrect windows had been installed.
- Hereford & Gloucester CC had received a grant of 14.5m each for Broadband facility and that public consultations were proposed to encourage use of the broadband facility.
- The new livestock market had opened in Hereford; the old one to be demolished and redeveloped and that Herefordshire Council had been short listed for a grant from the Enterprise Zone.
- New cancer unit opened in Hereford with hopes of a radiotherapy unit also becoming available.
- The bus service for Cradley not being cut but elsewhere cuts of £16m. to be bus service were proposed over two years.
- Loss of approx 230 jobs plus some Senior Officer jobs reduced and management costs being cut within Herefordshire Council.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – C. Attwood reported that a planning application had now been received for demolition of the house at Cottons Corner which would hopefully result in the road being fully opened up near Bosbury and the Clerk confirmed to him that she

had distributed his e-mail to all Councillors recommending the formation of "Cluster Groups" regarding the proposed Localism Bill.

PARISH PLAN – No Reports available.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING – The Clerk had circulated members with details regarding the house at Old School Close which was for sale on the open market with a rental of 65% and a purchase price of £82,500. Councillors queried whether the demand for this type of property was less than we had been given to understand and the information supplied and circulated from Kat La Tszar had not totally provided evidence that the applicants were specifically looking for housing in Cradley. Lengthy discussion followed and it was generally felt that given the new houses that we know are available and the ones which will become available in the future, Councillors were not fully convinced that there was a need for the number of houses which Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Housing Association say are required.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by EM, seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed that the Clerk contact Kat La Tszar and Tina Wood and request them to invite people who are looking for property in this area to attend a special meeting in October for public consultation to discuss their need for affordable housing and to roughly indicate the price band and rental cost which they could afford for this type of property.

A copy letter from Roland Close, Senior Planning Officer had also been circulated to Councillors which seemed to indicate that two Affordable Housing properties might become available on the Dragonwyck site, although to date, no definite planning proposals had been received.

UPDATE REPORTS –

Rectory Lane – The Chairman confirmed he had spoken to Will Steel at Herefordshire Council with suggested dates for a meeting on site to include previous members of the Parish Council in the hope that final proposals for Rectory Lane maintenance will be put forward.

Mobile Library – RD had ascertained that there were approximately twenty people in the Parish who used this facility and that assessment forms had been distributed to these people to see if they were eligible for the home delivery service. It appeared that the communal room at The Leys would not be available as it was kept locked and the Housing Association were looking into the possibility of converting this into a bungalow. Alternative sites were considered, and TLJ offered to enquire whether a drop-off site at the British Legion might be available.

Drainage at Sandy Lane – SA advised the matter had been put on hold whilst the issue of the broken drain in the footpath by the St. Katherines development is look into to avoid confusing matters. SA agreed to draft a letter to Martin Jackson to resurrect the matter.

Dog Fouling – The Chairman advised he had left a message for the Dog Warden to contact him. SA confirmed he was contacting M. Brooksbank with regard to the holders and fixings for the signs.

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Allotments – Questionnaires have been printed, some distributed and some available in the shop. It was hoped the remainder would be distributed once K. Nason returned from holiday. An e-mail had been sent from Frank Hare to Simon Davies regarding use of part of Chapel Lane play area for the provision of allotments, but the Chairman confirmed there was no covenant in the Conveyance of the land to the Parish Council to prevent this.

Play Area monies for Buryfields – The Clerk had received confirmation from Fran White at Herefordshire Council that the funds of £7,000 were available for play equipment and that the monies would be paid direct into the Parish Council bank Account. The Order had been placed with a delivery date of late September.

Clerk to look into the possibility of whether the £500. to “The three Villages Festival” was a grant or a loan to be repaid as it appeared the event had been a success resulting in a profit.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Road closure at Fincher’s Corner – The Developers had notified of road closure for a period to allow construction of new footpath, gas main connection, installation of BT duct, new electric cable and new connection into the foul manhole situated in the footpath. The Clerk had displayed the appropriate notices on the Finchers Corner notice board. It had been confirmed that the broken drain under the footpath was nothing to do with the Developer of the new site.

Nomination to Playing Field Committee – Simon Davies was nominated onto the Playing Field Committee. Nominations were and Brian Gordon volunteered to join the Planning Committee.

FINANCE – The following Invoices were presented for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue PAYE for July | £116.00. |
| • Viking, drum for photocopier | £85.76. |
| • 4 Seasons Ground Care, grass cutting of play areas | £602.70. |
| • HALC training | £100.00. |
| • Playquest, deposit at Buryfields | £2,879.64. |
| • CVHMC, hire and copying charges | £64.05. |

- Clerk's expenses and allowances £163.77.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by FB, seconded by SD and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed with the exception of the CVHMC Invoice.

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by MA (as Chairman) seconded by TLJ and carried the account for the CVHMC was also approved for payment – CL abstained from the vote.

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REPORTS from various Committees –

PLANNING – RD reported that the following applications had been considered at a meeting of the Planning Committee –

Application No. DMN/111666/FH – Laurel Cottage, Birchwood, Storridge – proposed first floor extension – no objection but concerns that this is another house enlargement further reducing the number of small properties in the Parish. If this application had been included in the first extension, the Parish Council would have raised objections.

Application No. DMN/111801/L – Kingsbridge, Cradley – retrospective application to retain 8 UPVC windows to match other approved windows and conservatory and to retain UPVC French doors with side lights – The Parish Council wish to fully support the principles of Listed Building. We do not wish to allow or set a precedent for anyone else to change windows in listed properties without permission. We are sympathetic to the owner's situation but we do recommend solid wood double glazed units which would also retain the warmth at the property. We understand these windows have been in situ for about 8/10years.

Application No. DMN/111782/FH – The White Cottage, Birchwood – single storey extension to kitchen at rear, bay window to lounge and new workshop – no objections.

Application No. DMN/111546/FH & L – Shrapnel Cottage, Crumpton Hill – extension to side/rear of property – Under Lister Building Regulations we consider this new proposal may be over development of the original building. Yet again, a small building is being enlarged.

Application No. DMN/111739/F – Redwood, Batchcombe, Storridge – demolition of existing chalet bungalow, provision of new one and a half storey cottage with attached lean-to garage to include change of use of area of land from agricultural to domestic residential garden space – no objections, yet another small property being enlarged.

Pilgrims, Cradley – The Chairman advised that the planning application for development adjacent to this property had been withdrawn.

CHURCHYARDS – CL advised nothing to report.

PLAYING FIELDS – Nothing to Report.

EDITORIAL – CL advised latest edition of Reporter should be out to print early September.

HALC – MA advised at a meeting of the Executive Committee Nicky Carless had been appointed as Chairman. HALC should be consulted on Big Society by Herefordshire Council. Amendments to Constitution proposed with Hereford City having two representatives at HALC. MA also advised that the proposal for each Parish Councillor to pay £35. under the Data Protection Act was being put forward to NALC for consideration. It was confirmed that the Parish Council are registered under the Act.

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IT WAS RESOLVED to take up the offer of a Training Session for the Parish Council by HALC's Chief Executive Lynda Wilcox for the sum of £100. for a two hour session. A provisional date was fixed for 18th October and it was proposed to invite members from Colwall and Mathon to attend to defray the cost.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation

Attending the meeting were two residents from Buryfield who had been told that once the play equipment had been erected on the site they would be unable to walk their dogs on the area and it was confirmed that a Notice to this effect would be erected. They enquired whether a special area could be fenced off for the purpose of exercising dogs and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed at a meeting next week of the NCRA.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting

CORRESPONDENCE received –

- Letter re Offroad cycling on Sunday 21st August between 10am & 4pm
- Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding availability of Old School Close funds for play equipment.
- E-mail regarding households "eligible for affordable housing" who stated rent from a Housing Association as one of their tenure options.
- Letter, Leominster Shopmobility encouraging members and parishioners to hold fund raising event for them.
- Letter, Unity Trust Bank with offer of banking facilities for Parish Councils.
- E-mail Anthony Bush with Herefordshire Council funding update.
- Letter Herefordshire Council with Notices regarding road closure at Fincher's Corner.
- E-mail Tim Evans MD of IE Developments regarding road works during August.

- E-mail, Carl Attwood regarding Ledbury Locality Parish Councils "Cluster" group.

NEWSLETTER items – Reports by District Councillors, affordable housing and Dragonwyck site, mobile library, play area monies, road closure (albeit out of date) item raised during public question time and dog fouling.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –

A Report on the Three Villages Festival was to be sought.

Suggestions for 2012 celebration events for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year and also the Olympics. Mr. Allfrey offered a site for a beacon with suggestions for a possible barbecue and fireworks. A "fancy dress football match" was also mentioned.

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The householders of Bourne Villa in Chapel Lane reported that they had been approached by residents of the adjacent Chapel Orchard and threatened with wheel clamping. MA offered to take up the matter with both the owner of the property and Roland Close regarding the Developer's failure to supply rear access from Chapel Orchard into Bourne Villa.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35.

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 13th September 2011 at Cradley Village Hall.

C. Lowder

13th September 2011

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

Chairman.