

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th August 2012 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – K. Nason (in the Chair – KN) T. Lloyd Jones (TLJ) C. Smith (CS) E. Moseley (EM) A. Eldridge (AE) S. Davies (SD) W. Harries (WH) and B. Gordon (BG). Also in attendance was County Councillor T. Johnson (TJ).

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received, and approved from C. Lowder, M. Allfrey, F. Beard and A. Symondson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda were received as follows –

- CS Personal interest in Buryfields play area.
- KN Personal interest in Cradley Village Hall Management Committee.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2012 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman subject to one minor amendment regarding the printing of Byelaws for Chapel Lane play area.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

- TJ advised that C. Ball had now looked at the subject of local flooding in the area following his inspection. He also advised that as C. Ball was leaving at the end of October, interview procedures were now in hand for his replacement but despite the fact that the Council were attempting to reduce the wages bill, they might have to pay more for his replacement as part of Mr. Ball's existing salary package was paid by the NHS. This would not happen again and the Council will have to meet the whole salary package for his replacement.
- TJ further advised that the talked about ward changes might not occur following Government disagreements, that two Companies have now signed up for the Enterprise Zone and that only two final signatures were required before work could commence on the cattle market site. He also reported on a cut of 1.5m pounds in Council tax benefits.

PARISH PLAN REPORT – The Clerk had circulated to all members the Minutes of the latest Environment & Footpath Group held in July and TLJ advised that problems existed with land owners not cutting paths through their crops. AE reported he hoped the new footpaths notice board would shortly be in situ.

UPDATE REPORTS –

Parking outside School – Chairman not in attendance so no further information available but it was reported that a Camper van appeared to be parked on the lay-by outside the school on a regular basis. KN agreed to talk to the Headmaster of the School about this.

Co-option of new Members – KN asked Councillors to consider any suitable applicants to fill the existing two vacancies on the Parish Council.

Fencing Repairs – AE reported work had been completed by Jim Harrington and that the work was well done. The Invoice had been forwarded to the Clerk, and as it was agreed that the work had been authorised and approved at the last meeting, a cheque would be presented for payment under financial matters.

Oak Tree at Oaklands – TLJ advised that a provisional TPO had been placed on the tree pending the outcome of the obligatory consultation period. If there was no appeal from the land owner offering sufficient support, the tree will be permanently covered by a TPO. Pollarding work had been carried out by the owner prior to the provisional TPO being placed on the tree.

Rectory Lane – KN advised that all submissions from local Groups, the Church and the Hall have been sent in - these were submitted within the required period and confirmation has been received that everything is to hand. It is hoped a decision might be forthcoming by the date of the next PC meeting. Amey have approached the residents of the lane to obtain their opinion. As the lower end of the lane does not get used by cars, it might be difficult to obtain full support for this part of the lane, although it has been agreed residents do not want it laid to tarmac but would prefer it maintained as a Lane.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Verges, hedges and debris on roads following heavy rain fall – BG reported he had spoken with Amey regarding stones and gravel washed off driveways during the heavy rain several weeks ago and they have agreed to report back to us. The question of responsibility was discussed and it was suggested an item could be included in the next Newsletter asking land owners to cut back hedges fronting the lanes in an attempt to improve visibility for traffic. Clerk to chase up work where road signs have been displayed by Ashvale on the Bosbury Road.

Code of Conduct – The Clerk reported she had attended a training session given by HALC and the Monitoring Officer at Herefordshire Council and had circulated to all Councillors guidance on “Openness and transparency on personal interests”. The Clerk also reported that Herefordshire Council had adopted their Code of Conduct as drawn and HALC now recommended Parish Councils also adopt this Code, although Parish Councils were free to draw up their own Code if they so wished.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by EM seconded by AE and carried the Parish Council formally adopted the Herefordshire Council Code of Conduct.

Repayment of cost of materials for securing Pergola at Buryfields – The Clerk advised that the cost of materials for fixing the Pergola was £76.88. which had been paid by Stuart Knight - receipts forwarded to her. The Clerk confirmed that this cost did not raise the overall expenditure at Buryfields in excess of the half share of available funds.

RESOLVED on a proposal by TLJ seconded by SD and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council refund the monies to Stuart Knight and it was confirmed that the total overall cost at Buryfields for equipment on site was now £8,379.88 excluding VAT.

Grass cutting at Play areas – KN reported on problems with existing grass contractors and advised that he and the Chairman were working towards a full Specification for grass cutting and looking at alternative Contractors and advised that the matter will be brought forward for the next meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

The following Accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE | £119.20. |
| • SLCC – 8 TH Edition, Charles Arnold Baker guide | £64.90. |
| • Viking Direct – drum unit and toners | £233.92. |
| • CVHM Committee, hire fees | £34.80. |
| • Wicksteed inspection at Chapel Lane | £85.20. |
| • Jim Harrington, fencing at Buryfields | £100.00. |
| • Stuart Knight, expenses fixing pergola | £76.88. |
| • Clerk, expenses and allowances | £144.56. |

RESOLVED on a proposal by EM seconded by W. Harries and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment. TLJ took the Chair and on a proposal by AE seconded by EM and carried the payment to CVHM Committee was also approved for payment.

REPORTS –

Planning – TLJ reported on items received and discussed at the meeting held earlier that evening.

Churchyards – CL not in attendance so no report available.

Playing Fields – Report on lack of grass cutting in both areas and concerns raised regarding overgrown hedges near the footpath at Chapel Lane.

Editorial Group – KN advised new website would be completed by September and the next edition of Reporter was due out in September.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- Dept of Local Communities & Government – openness and transparency on personal interests guide for Councillors – copied to all.
- Herefordshire Nature Trust – ponds and newts heritage network project – Malvern Hills to Bromyard area.
- Wicksteed Report on Chapel Lane Cradley (sent to KN) at a cost of £71. excluding VAT.
- North Cradley Residents Association request for repayment of cost of materials to fix pergola into ground at Buryfields.
- Playquest Adventure Play regarding inspection at Buryfields at a cost of £300. excluding vat quoted as a “discounted price”. This letter was discussed **and Clerk requested to obtain an alternative Quote from Wicksteed in view of what was considered to be an excessive charge.**

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- E-mail from Herefordshire Council advising a TPO had been placed on tree at Oaklands until such time as a consultation period (28 days from serving of TPO) can be carried out.
- Minutes of Environment and Footpaths Group – copied to all.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS -

- TLJ reported on funding opportunity received regarding trees which had been considered for Chapel Lane Site but funding was for a quantity far in excess of requirements for Chapel Lane.
- Caravan at Hope End – Councillors were informed that the Enforcement Officer had advised that additional information had been received and had been forwarded to the Council’s Acting Principal Lawyer in Litigation for his consideration and guidance. Councillors requested the Clerk to ask for copies of this “additional information” to enable the Parish Council to submit a statement in reply to this alleged additional information obtained.

LITERATURE – none received.

NEXT MEETING - in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday 11th September 2012.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

C. Lowder

11th September 2012

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

Chairman