

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT – Cllrs. C. Lowder (Chair) K. Nason (KN) W. Harries (WH) D. Scully (DS) A. Carver (AC) C. Lambert (CL) F. Beard (FB) D. Pye (DP) K. Welford (KW) G. Thomas (GT) G. Fielding (GF) A. Eldridge (AE) and S. Davies (SD).

**Also attending** were four members of the public, Cathy Berkeley, Locality Steward with Balfour Beatty and the Clerk.

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting** had been received and approved from Cllr. T. Lloyd-Jones and County Councillor P. Morgan.

**Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to one minor amendment concerning road numbering.

**Declarations of Interest** in items on the Agenda –

- KN & Chairman                                      Cradley Village Hall.
- Cheryl Lambert                                      The Lengthsman Scheme.

**Guest Speaker** – Attending the meeting was Cathy Berkeley, Locality Steward with Balfour Beatty responsible for the Bromyard area. She reported on her duties and advised that it was best to contact her on Herefordshire County website. She advised on the criteria for her duties as follows

- Emergency work- within 24 hours to make the problem safe.
- Non – emergency – within 28 days.
- Routine/non hazardous – within six months.
- Major Programme works – such as resurfacing – 18 months in advance. A programme of work was being compiled commencing April 2016 through to March 2017 although it was possible to bring matters forward up the list.

She also advised that there was no road widening schemes available due to budget restrictions and that she had been working closely with G. Fielding on the Lengthsman/P3 Schemes and also our footpath officer J. White. She reported that GF has been looking to come up with plans for traffic calming in the area, dealing with class “C” roads.

**The Chairman opened the meeting** to members of the public and concerns were raised about the number of serious potholes in the Pixiefield area and blocked gullies causing flooding in various areas in the Parish. Cathy Berkeley recommended they log their concerns on the website and that she will inspect and look into the problems. The Chairman then raised the question regarding information picked up by the Clerk. This consisted of an info-sheet from Herefordshire Council concerning the possible financial cuts in various areas, which included the Lengthsman/P3 schemes. The Chair commented that it seemed strange that Herefordshire had originally pushed the PC to take on the Lengthsman/P3 schemes only recently, yet was now considering cutting the funding.

**Planning** – C. Lowder advised he had been appointed as Chairman of the Planning Committee and that the following applications had been looked in to before the commencement of the full Parish council meeting. The Clerk read out to all Councillors the responses which had been decided regarding each of the applications, as follows -

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- Harrells Cottage, Storridge – External alterations notably demolish the porch and build a new one. Replace door to existing porch with a window. Erect a detached double bay garage and internal alterations – **no objections raised but the Parish Council felt that the glazed window as planned did not match with the rest of the cottage and suggested that it be redesigned. Concerns also raised about the height of the garage when built.**
- The School House, Cradley– proposed erection of single storey garage – **the Parish Council requested the status of the tree to be felled in a conservation area be looked into and raised concerns about the height of the building adjacent to the road.**
- 6 Pixiefield, Cradley – proposed rear conservatory – **no objections raised.**
- Netherley Hall, Mathon – proposed single storey extension to rear – **no comments.**
- Barretts Cottage, Cradley – extension to provide a dining room, new windows, new fence and shed, pentice boards and internal works – **The Council do not think the picket fence is in keeping with the cottage, but otherwise no objections raised.**
- The Elms, Cradley – fell larch and leylandii trees – **comments that these trees are in a conservation area and that the Council would be happier if they were only planning to fell one tree.**

The Chairman reported on the outcome of previous applications as follows –

- Chockbury Cottage – two storey rear extension - refused.
- 3 No. Houses at Queenswood - refused.
- Detached House at No. 6 Buryfields - approved.
- The Grove Chapel Lane – single storey extension – approved.
- Byefields Farm – renovations – approved..

#### **Matters for consideration –**

- (1) Formal complaint by Paul Kimberley – defer until next meeting.
- (2) Gated entrances to the Village – see report under Environmental & Footpaths by GF.
- (3) Adoption of phone box – KW advised nothing further to report.

**Finance matters** – the following Accounts were presented for payment –

✓ Inland Revenue, PAYE	£150.00
✓ G. Fielding, expenses re Lengthsman	£38.11.
✓ County Building Supplies, Lengthsman materials	£42.00.
✓ County Building Supplies – ditto	£420.21.
✓ County Building Supplies – ditto	£38.22.
✓ Rob Lambert – Lengthsman duties	£322.50.
✓ Rob Lambert, P3 duties	£210.00.
✓ Pricepoint Gardening, grass cutting (April/May)	£888.00.
✓ Cradley Village Hall, hire fees	£12.00.
✓ Pricepoint Gardening, grass cutting (June/July)	£888.00.

**On a proposal** by SD seconded by FB and carried these accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed. It was noted KN, the Chairman and CL abstained from voting having declared an interest.

#### **Reports –**

Environment & Footpaths – GF – advised there was a group meeting planned for the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and he would have a report available after that meeting.

He reported that the Group was also planning to deal with “traffic calming” issues under this heading and that he had made several enquiries concerning “gated entrances” to the Village, some positions were available, others not, and enquiries had revealed that the gated entrances work in combination with other traffic calming measures. Many speeding issues had been raised including by the Doctor’s surgery, the school, on the A4103 at Storridge and on the Bosbury Road and it was hoped the Group could achieve their objective in making the Parishes safe, although many

speeding traffic issues had been raised over many years without success in achieving a reduction in the speed limit.

**NDP** – In the absence of TLJ, the Chairman advised that the Questionnaire had been finalised for approval by the Council at a meeting of the NDP Group on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, this having been copied to all Councillors, but added that the format would be changed to enable KN to print it off for circulation. Comments were sought and KN queried the need for including the lengthy proposals of the various developers as he felt there was simply a need to ask four questions –

- 1) Do we want more housing.
- 2) Do we want a shop.
- 3) Do we want sports facilities for the youth in the Village.
- 4) Do we want any building on the "strategic gap".

**RESOLVED** – the Chairman proposed that the Questionnaire should be redesigned to simply ask the four questions indicated, as above, and not include the detailed proposals about the possible four developments. This was seconded by KN, **with AC, GF, DS, DP, GT, CL & FB** in favour of the proposal.

***Those against the proposal were WH, AE & KW.***

***Abstaining from voting were the Chairman and SD.***

**Lengthsman & P3 Schemes** – A report by the Administrator GF had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. A good quality strimmer had been purchased out of the funds, work was proceeding well, and he advised that there were plans for Huntingdon in the near future. The Chairman explained the position regarding the overhanging hedge at Barretts Cottage and that he had asked GF to clear this. A resident of Brookside, Mr. Kimberley, was extremely unhappy about the refuse being taken to Brookside and had raised a formal complaint.

**Churchyards Committee** – The Chairman advised nothing to report.

**Recreation Area** – KN advised new football pitch looking good, but was waiting for confirmation from the Grass contractor when it was felt suitable for use following the reseeding. It was noted the mound is supposed to be a wild area although it had recently been cut by James Burton who is a member of the recreation area group. The question of the replacement of the goal posts is in hand.

**Editorial Group** – KN advised nothing to report, next edition of Reporter due out in September.

**Correspondence & Literature received** – as per Information Sheet attached plus two letters from the Doctor's Surgery supporting (1) the traffic problems within the village and (2) advising that the surgery does not have the funds, staff or indeed room to create more space to serve a larger community with the service previously enjoyed by the patients.

**Newsletter Items to include** attendance by Locality Steward Cathy Berkeley, footpath and traffic calming, gates entrances, NDP Questionnaire to be simplified, the Lengthsman and P3 services (urging parishioners to report items through the website and the letters from the Doctor's surgery and the fact that the School had also expressed concern about how much more housing was proposed in the Parish.

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Reports and items for future Agendas – traffic calming, “Cradley” sign removed by the Butchers shop and update on various outstanding items.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Next meeting - in Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm following the Planning Committee meeting at 7pm if any items of planning had been received for consideration.

C. Lowder

8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

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

**Note: Blanked out area has not been resolved and will be discussed at the October meeting**