

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – C. Lowder (in the chair – CL) K. Nason (KN) C. Smith (CS) E. Moseley (EM) T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) W. Harries (WH) A. Eldridge (AE) F. Beard (FB) S. Davies (SD) B. Gordon (BG) and A. Symondson (AS). Also in attendance were County Councillor C. Attwood (CA) D. Johnson and R. Gill.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from M. Allfrey and County Councillor T. Johnson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – CL & KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall. No prejudicial declarations were received.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR Report – CA reported on a meeting he and the Chairman had undertaken to look at flooding in the area and advised that our Chairman was now proposing to contact individual households asking them to indicate on maps where and how they were flooded. Herefordshire Council were looking at the extensive cuts imposed on them and how they could plan to meet vital services with what is a considerably reduced budget, these to include council tax, care funding and Carer's respite care. Following a circular submitted regarding Broadband, he advised that it was felt important for Herefordshire Council to put an extra £6m pounds into the budget as this was considered essential for long term strategic planning. He also advised that Amey were intending to complete for the Council contract when it comes up for renewal.

CLUSTER GROUP – BG advised he had attended a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 when P. Whitehead from Bosbury had been elected as the Chairman of the Group. Four meetings were proposed each year in different local venues. He advised that Herefordshire Council confirmed they do not propose to pass any additional work onto the Parish Councils but that the Cluster Group should put forward to them items of concern. Cradley Parish Council had raised concerns about the Section 106 payments.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKER – Due to travel delays unfortunately Andrew Anderson had been unable to make the meeting but it was hoped to invite him to either the October or November meeting.

UPDATE REPORTS –

Caravan parking outside School – It was confirmed that this was not a "travellers" problem and the matter had been resolved.

Co-option – The Clerk advised that Michael Brooksbank had resigned from the Parish Council due to business commitments and that she had notified the Electoral office of the additional vacancy on the Council.

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Grass cutting contract – It appeared that Cradley were not the only Council experiencing these problems. Quotations were being obtained for next year which might include a far more detailed specification resulting in a need for more funds to be allocated in the Budget/Precept. The Chairman confirmed that every attempt is being made to rectify the situation and that the Specification would be drawn up at the next meeting of the Recreation Group and then brought forward for consideration and approval by the full Council.

Rectory Lane – KN advised that he had hoped to hear the result of the various submissions submitted regarding the future upkeep of Rectory Lane but had unfortunately not heard anything.

Inspection at Buryfields – The Clerk confirmed she had obtained a Quotation from Wicksteed for a one-off inspection at Buryfields and, to comply with regulations, an order had been placed at a total cost of £88 plus VAT, considerably less than the “reduced figure quote of £300 plus VAT” quoted by Playquest who had installed the equipment. In future it was hoped that Wicksteed would carry out the two inspections on one visit.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Information evening for new Parish Councillors – it was hoped that this could be arranged once the three vacancies on the Council had been filled.

FINANCE MATTERS – On a proposal by EM seconded by SD and carried the following Accounts were approved for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE                        | £119.20. |
| • CVH Committee, hire fees                    | £22.16.  |
| • K. Nason, expenses re Reporter distribution | £116.00. |
| • Clerk’s allowances and expenses             | £128.65. |

ANNUAL RETURN – The Clerk reported that a clean bill of health had again been received from the External Auditors “Mazars” regarding the Annual Return to 31.3.2012.

#### REPORTS –

Planning – The Planning Committee Chairman reported that the following three applications had been considered earlier that evening –

- Bulls Head Cottage, Cradley – replacement windows – no objections raised.
- Birchwood Forge, Birchwood – amended plans for various works to stables for holiday let use – our previous comments and concerns were repeated and it was also noted that the comments from the Conservation Officer did not seem to have been addressed.
- Russett House, Churchfields – fell one ash tree in a conservation area – no objections raised but it was hoped that an alternative native type tree could be planted as a replacement.

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The Chairman also reported that the previous tree application at Russett House had been approved and the detached single storey garage at Hill View Barn had also been approved.

Churchyards Committee – CL advised nothing further to report, but Clerk to endeavour to obtain anticipated levels of expenditure for next year regarding the three Churchyards.

Playing Field Committee – Various items remained to be carried out regarding finalising Chapel Lane including soil promised by IE Developments. A meeting was proposed before the next Parish Council meeting in October. Following the resignation of Mike Brooksbank, it was suggested that perhaps Frank Hare might wish to join the Committee.

Editorial – New website and next edition of Reporter will be out shortly.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Dennis Johnson stated he had been upset about the item in the previous Newsletter about farmers not cutting back hedges and keeping footpaths clear and advised that it was illegal to do work of this nature between March and August. He also commented about the item concerning removal of debris washed onto the roads by heavy rain and the Vice Chairman assured him that this was not meant as a personal criticism about farmers.

#### CORRESPONDENCE –

- Letter of resignation from M. Brooksbank.
- E-mail report on HALC from M. Alfrey.
- Herefordshire Council request for order of sandbags and their proposed visit to flood areas in the Parish.
- E-mail from Frank Hare regarding Chapel Lane play area. The Chairman circulated a reply he had sent to Mr. Hare.
- Herefordshire Council – local transport plan consultation meeting at St. Katherines on 24/09/12.
- Letter from Nigel Jones seeking a mower to continue his valued work keeping the Maclean Memorial in good order.
- Audit Commission advising Grant Thornton as External Auditor to PC commencing next year.
- Wicksteed Customer satisfaction survey.
- Letter from HSBC concerning changes to our business banking services.
- Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding the new planning process.
- HALC training programme.
- Annual Return – clean bill of health regarding Audit to 31/3/2012.
- Numerous e-mails concerning The Old Hop Barn Enforcement Notice re caravan.

#### LITERATURE –

- Sustainable Communities booklet (handed to TLJ)
- Clerks & Councils Direct September 2012 magazine.
- Local Council Review Autumn 2012 magazine.
- The Clerk magazine.

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NEWSLETTER ITEMS – Cluster Group/Localism bill, Mike Brooksbank resignation, grass cutting, new website and advertisement for new Councillors.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS and items for future Agendas-

SD advised that the street light at Pixiefields was still not working.

The Clerk advised that she had reported the inadequate signage to the road works on Bosbury Road near the Ashvale Business Park and that although these had been in situ for several weeks nothing appeared to be being done. Pressure to be put on Amey to either clear the road or for improved signage to be put in place.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

NEXT MEETING to take place in Storridge Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 7.30pm.

C. Lowder

9<sup>th</sup> October 2012

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