

**MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2013
in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm**

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair – Chair) T.Lloyd Jones (TLJ) K. Nason (KN) A. Eldridge (AE) C. Lambert (CL) W. Harries (WH) F. Beard (FB) G. Fielding (GF) S. Davies (SD) and B. Gordon (BG).

Also in attendance – Three members of the public, County Councillor C. Attwood (CA) and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from D. Woodward, L. Gamble, E. Moseley and A. Symondson.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – none declared.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – CA advised that he had met with planning officer N. Banning but had nothing further to report about the planning application for change of use at The Post Office. He advised that concerns about the running cost of the proposed waste incinerator at Hartlebury had been raised, and was asked by Councillors to pass back positive comments about the weekly collection in the Village.

Public Question Time – Harold Armitage in attendance commented on the proposed incinerator and the level of service received during the weekly collection.

Update Reports –

- 1) Cluster Group – BG advised nothing to report but that a further meeting was taking place on 11th September 2013.
- 2) Rectory Lane – KN reported on e-mail exchanges with Chris Chillingworth about the registration of Rectory Lane but advised that there was no progress to report and that, to date, Balfour Beatty did not have access to Amey records.
- 3) Renovation of Notice Boards – KN advised he had been unable to secure any further Quotations for the proposed work to the notice boards in the area. It was agreed GF would ask someone he knew to contact KN and Chair also agreed to endeavour to obtain a Quotation.
- 4) Shop Closure/change of use – Clerk to enquire from Planning Officer N. Banning when he thought they would be in a position to advise whether the application for change of use had been successful, as until the outcome of the planning application was known, it was difficult for the Parish Council to seek a constructive way forward and decide how this can be achieved. AE expressed concerns that at the present time there did not seem to be any “heart of the Village” and he considered this would perhaps be an opportune time for the Parish Council to seek an alternative site to accommodate a new shop/post office. The Chairman suggested perhaps some affordable housing and also to provide an alternative site for the Doctor’s surgery thus ensuring that the community grows for the future. The Chairman suggested that this should be included in the forthcoming Neighbourhood Development Plan Questionnaire with the Parish Council taking an enabling role and enabling the Parishioners to consider and approve this over this type of project. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to further pursue the provision of post office facilities in the Parish, and it was hoped a Representative would attend the Parish Council meeting in October.

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Items for Consideration –

- A) Appointment of new Councillor – The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was still a vacancy on the Parish Council. Chair also advised that unfortunately Cllr. L. Gamble would not be in a position to attend Council meetings for several months for health reasons.
- B) Request for Donation to Storridge Village Hall – The Clerk produced a letter requesting a donation of £928.90 and on a proposal by Chair seconded by AE and carried it was agreed a cheque for this amount be presented for payment at the October meeting.

Financial Matters – The following accounts had been received for payment –

- Inland Revenue, PAYE £157.55.
- Shaw & Sons, accounts book £70.80.
- Mark Philpotts, digger driver @ C/Lane £168.00.
- Grant Thornton, external audit £240.00.
- MCB Landscapes, June grass cut £336.00.
- MCB Landscapes, July/August cuts £246.00.
- Clerk, two months postage/travel £68.69.

Resolved – On a proposal by SD seconded by GF and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Annual Return – The Clerk advised that the Annual Return had again been approved as presented this year without the need for additional information by the External Auditors, resulting in a basic standard normal charge.

Reports

The Planning Chairman advised that the following planning applications had been considered at a meeting held prior to the full Council meeting –

- Application No. 132121/F – The Oast House, Cradley – conversion of a redundant oast house to provide a single dwelling – ***we have nothing to add to our previous comments which were that we have no objections as this building is considerably larger than many two bed starter homes and we feel that this would put an otherwise unused building to good use.***
- Application No. 132233/FH – 6 Pixiefields, Cradley – demolish existing garage and erect a single storey side extension and insert two new windows in front elevation – ***no objection except for the fact that there seems to be no allowance for off road parking which has been removed by this proposal.***
- Application No. 132140/FH – Parklands, Cradley – construction of a new pitched roof over garage and part of bungalow and construction of a small extension to form additional accommodation relating to care of dependent relative – ***no objections.***

The Chairman advised on previous applications which had been approved, refused or withdrawn. Clerk to take up the matter with Herefordshire Council that although comments had been made and submitted regarding applications for Old School Close and Broom Farm, it was reported on the website that “no comments had been received from Parish Council”.

Environmental & Footpaths – WH advised nothing to report but it was anticipated a meeting of the Group would take place hopefully before the next Parish Council meeting.

NDP – meeting to be held next week to finalise Questionnaire. At the present time there were only four members on the Group and GF kindly offered to join the group. It was also reported that the Footpaths Officer Geoff White was willing to join the Group – TLJ to make contact with him.

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Churchyards Committee – Clerk to obtain Quotations regarding anticipated expenditure to Churchyards during next financial year from Storridge, Cradley and The Chapel PCCs.

Recreation Area Committee – work will ongoing at Chapel Lane and it was agreed the old safety matting could be advertised for collection “free of charge” in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Editorial Group – KN advised new website up and running advising about NDP and that WH was assisting with the Newsletter.

Correspondence -

E-mail, Chairman to Jenny Wright concerning generator noise.

Letter, Storridge Village hall requesting donation.

Letter – Grant Thornton confirming no additional fees charged for Audit to 31st March 2013.

Letter – Herefordshire Council with closing date for Precept request for 2014/15

Letter, EON regarding how to save money on highway lighting without the outlay.

E-mail from Shaker of Malvern regarding village shop.

Herefordshire Council strategic housing land availability assessment form.

HALC – Information corner including training, funding for Parish Plan, AGM.

Literature – Clerk magazine, Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, Newsline from Community First, and Local Council review magazine.

Newsletter items to include conducting research into Post office, refurbishment of notice boards, vacancy on Parish Council, Neighbourhood Development Plan Questionnaire and availability of old safety matting at Chapel Lane.

Councillors reports and items for future Agendas – Clerk to invite Festival Housing to our Parish Council meeting in November and request the three PCCs for estimates of expenditure on Churchyard maintenance next year to enable figures to be taken into account at a Budget meeting in November.

The Clerk reported she had asked the County Councillors to become involved regarding the HGVs passing through the Village towards Ledbury and also that she had asked Balfour Beatty to set up a site meeting with the Chairman at Pound Bridge.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm. The next meeting to take place in Storridge Village Hall on 8th October 2013.

C. Lowder

8th October 2012

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman.