

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th October 2012 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – C. Lowder (in the Chair – Chair) T. Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) A. Eldridge (AE) F. Beard (FB) E. Moseley (EM) A. Symondson (AS) and B. Gordon (BG). Also in attendance were County Councillor C. Attwood (CA) and Dennis Johnson.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from M. Allfrey, S. Davies and K. Nason.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda – The Chairman declared a personal interest in the Cradley Village Hall Invoice for payment.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held in September were taken as read and amended on a request from CA with regard to Amey intending to compete for renewal of their Contract as and when it came up and the fact that it was the Parish Council Chairman who would be contacting individual households requesting them to indicate where and how they were flooded. The Minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR Report -

- CA advised that following recent flooding a member of Herefordshire Council had visited the area. Unfortunately neither he or Tony Johnson had been invited to attend with him so it had since been agreed that another meeting would take place when it was hoped the Parish Council Chairman and perhaps other Councillors would also attend. Chair proposed that a list be drawn up of areas and properties liable to flood as a guideline for the proposed visit.
- CA also advised that Anthony Bush proposed holding a meeting about speed limits in the County and it was agreed that Cradley representatives should also be included. At the present time Cradley did not appear to be on the list and CA agreed to advise A. Bush that Cradley should be included, particularly in view of our request for some speed restriction on the A4103 in the Storridge/Millbank area and a 20mph limit outside the school.
- CA also advised that at a recent Localities meeting, the Cluster Group in the area was considered to be extremely useful.
- With regard to the recent changes to Audit regulations whereby some Councils would not incur external audit charges, concerns had been raised that Herefordshire Council were taking the Adult Care overspend so seriously as the Auditors they felt it might be better to look at other areas in the Budget where savings could be made. Concerns were also expressed now that planning permission had been obtained for the waste incinerator site at Hartlebury on a joint venture with Gloucestershire Council that no evidence of how much it will cost to set it up, and even more importantly, how much it was going to cost to run the scheme had been provided but it considered that this project could have a very significant impact on Herefordshire Council budget.

PARISH PLAN REPORT – No reports available.

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UPDATE reports –

Vacancies on the Council – Chair reported he had spoken with someone and it is hoped he will join us at the next meeting.

The Old Hop Barn – The Clerk reported on numerous e-mails which have been exchanged between her and Sandy Kinnersley, the Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council and that a further request has been forwarded to them for information under the FOI regarding contacts between the owners of the caravan and the Planning Dept.

Dog Fouling in the Area – Chair advised he had been contacted regarding serious dog fouling issue on footpath at the back of The Farleys. It was agreed Chair enquire of previous Parish Councillor S. Adams if he could make some Notices which we can erect on the footpath crossing the field, the remainder of the field being the responsibility of the land owner.

Awards for all – A conditional grant offer had been received for £1,007. Various paperwork has been returned accepting the offer and it was agreed to discuss the precise details regarding the notice board at the next meeting.

Affordable Housing – Another meeting with Tina Woods and Trea Cannon was to be arranged to discuss this matter – those taking part to include Chair, KN, TL-J, AE and the Clerk, with a Report back to full Council at next meeting.

Rectory Lane – Although not present at the meeting KN had advised there was nothing to report.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Insurance on additional items at Buryfields – Chair advised that a meeting had been arranged with Wicksteed for them to carry out a ROSPA inspection at Buryfields. Although the new play equipment was included on the PC insurance, the pergola and picnic tables had not been covered. The Clerk advised on slight increase in renewal fee to cover these items and on a proposal by Chair, seconded by FB and carried, the increase of £5.28 was accepted and was added to the renewal premium due for payment.

Flooding at Finchers Corner/Oaklands – Unfortunately the photographs taken during recent flooding were not available. WH advised that part of the problem appeared to be that manhole covers were raised above the level of the road. It was agreed to add these problems to the list for discussion when members met with representative from Herefordshire Council.

Empty houses in Parish – All Councillors had been supplied with a copy of a leaflet received from HALC regarding Marches Housing Association project to bring empty homes back into use with the help of Government grants.

Parish Clock – Chair advised that the existing 3year contract with Smiths of Derby for maintenance of the clock had just expired and their offer to renew the facility was discussed, at a reduced price of £552. plus VAT. On a proposal by the Chair seconded by FB and carried it was agreed to renew the Contract but AE who had abstained from the voting said he would look into whether any alternative Company offered this facility for the future.

Funds from St. Katherines – The Clerk advised that Herefordshire Council had confirmed receipt of the sum of £2,262 which was available for play areas in the Parish. In view of the fact that the safety mats at Chapel Lane were in need of replacement due to wear and tear over many years, the Clerk was to enquire of Fran White whether replacement would be acceptable out of the funds in hand. It was also confirmed that funds remained available to the Council from the Old School Close site.

Renewal of Council Standing Orders following adoption of new Code of Conduct – The Clerk advised that Councillors should review the Parish Council Standing Orders following adoption of the new Code of Conduct, particularly with regard to interests other than pecuniary interests and whether during a meeting a matter arises which relates to any interest whereby the member must declare the nature of the interest and not vote on the matter and whether he/she may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting, and also whether it is necessary for them to leave the room.

Public Question Time – Attending the meeting was Dennis Johnson from Tanhouse Lane who reported on flooding problems around his property and advised that the Council had installed a new piece of plastic pipe underground. It was agreed the Clerk endeavour to obtain exact details from Herefordshire Council regarding responsibility for drains which are under private property and the legal situation regarding the road and verge which is Council property. Mr. Johnson also sought a private meeting with the Planning Committee Chairman on a planning issue.

Finance matters – the following Accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE | £119.20. |
| • CVHM Committee, hire fees | £25.92. |
| • Donation to Storridge Village Hall | £923.57. |
| • AON Insurance (including new equipment) | £538.42. |
| • Clerk – expenses and allowances | £162.30. |

On a proposal by TLJ seconded by AE and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment. On taking the Chair, FB sought approval for payment of the Invoice from CVHM Committee which on a proposal by AE seconded by AS and carried was also approved for payment and cheques were signed accordingly.

REPORTS from various Committees and Working Parties –

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Planning – TLJ advised that only one application had been received regarding a proposed new dwelling to replace existing accommodation at The Greenhill, Cradley to which the following reply was to be submitted **"we recognise the property is unlikely to have any impact on neighbours. Although we are aware that PPS3 Housing is now superceded by the NPPF we consider that the principles relating to discouraging "garden grab" where possible should still apply and should be a consideration when deciding applications in the Parish"**. The Chairman also advised that the replacement windows at Bulls Head Cottage had been approved.

Churchyards Committee – Chair advised nothing to report.

Playing Field Committee – Chair advised that Frank Hare was not interested in joining the Playing field Committee. With regard to grass cutting, four Quotations had been received for cutting the play areas during 2013 and were discussed at some length. It was also reported that IE Developments had delivered some soil to Chapel Lane site.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by AE seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed to accept the Quotation from MCB, the Clerk to advise accordingly, sending them a copy of the Specification and pointing out that we accept their offer on those terms.

Editorial Group – Due to ill health no report available, but Councillors were advised that there may be some slight delay in delivery of the Reporter.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- Email from Trea Connon regarding affordable housing meeting.
- Smiths of Derby regarding renewal of Service Agreement.
- Numerous emails regarding The Old Hop Barn caravan.
- Quotation from 4 Seasons for grass cutting.
- Letter from Herefordshire Council about allowances to Councillors (copied to all).
- Email regarding St. Katherine's funds.
- HALC guide to new Code of Conduct.
- Email re increased premium for equipment at Buryfields for the sum of £5.28.

NEWSLETTER items – flooding inspection including Tanhouse Lane, Council vacancies, affordable housing meeting, grass cutting contract and replacement of safety matting at Chapel Lane.

COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – None received.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Next meeting to take place at Storrige on 13th November 2012.

C. Lowder

13th November 2012

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

Chairman.