

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10th November 2015
In Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee

Present – Cllrs. K. Nason (KN – in the Chair) D. Scully (DS) W. Harries (WH) T. Lloyd Jones (TLJ) C. Lambert (CL) S. Davies (SD) G. Thomas (GT) F. Beard (FB) G. Fielding (GF) and A. Eldridge (AE).

Also attending – Over 50 members of the public including R. Stoddard, B. Herriot, Mr & Mrs. Iwanczuk, County Councillor P. Morgan and the Clerk.

An apology for inability to attend had been received and was approved from C. Lowder and A. Carver.

Declarations of Interest – KN, GT & CL declared interests in items on the Agenda and signed the Declarations Register.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman following two minor amendments.

Vote of Confidence in the Clerk – On a proposal by KN seconded by FB and carried, a Vote of Confidence in the Clerk was agreed, in that ***“this Parish Council has complete confidence in their Clerk in carrying out her assigned duties for them to a high level of diligence and professionalism”***. Two Councillors abstained voting. The Vice Chairman explained that the Clerk is employed by the Parish Council, not Herefordshire Council.

County Councillor Report – P. Morgan reported on the proposed Community Governance Review and advised that the last review had been carried out in 1998. Basically Herefordshire Council are just collecting information to enable them to make decisions and any changes. She hoped to have the Budget review available at the next meeting, and agreed to let Councillors know if any decision had been made regarding the Lengthsman allowance for future years.

Co-option Request – Two applications had been received for the one vacancy which occurred following the resignation of Sarah Herriot. AE quoted from Charles Arnold Baker that the Chairman had acted “unlawfully” regarding the application by Bruce Herriot and Cllr. P. Morgan confirmed she had spoken to the Monitoring Officer at Hereford Council who also agreed that the Parish Council had acted “unlawfully”. The Chairman advised the Parish Council will look into these comments.

Resolved - A vote was taken and Anne Scarsbrook was successful in her application to join the Council and the Clerk agreed to let her have the necessary paperwork for signature at the next Council meeting.

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

No. 153056 – land adj. Cradley C of E school – proposed change of use of existing agricultural field to sports field including associated landscaping, car park and new vehicular access – ***no objections raised.***

No. 152280 – land at Queenswood – proposed outline application (some matters reserved) for construction of three detached open market dwellings and three detached garages (access and appearance not reserved) – ***the Council reiterate their previous comments.***

No. 152883 - Barratts Cottage, Cradley – proposed extension to provide a new dining room, new windows, new fence and shed pentice boards and internal work – ***the Council reiterate their previous comments.***

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No. 152954 – Travellers Joy, Storridge – proposed stripping of timber frame inside and out to investigate need for repair – **no objections raised.**

No 152685 – Land at The Clovers, Hereford Road – proposed material change of use of land from agricultural to a one family traveller site, including stationing of four mobile homes, four touring caravans utility blocks, hard standing, improved access and track and associated works – **Objections – (NOTE - Derek Scully declared a personal interest in the application)**

- 1) **The proposal is clearly visible within the AONB and in open countryside. Proposals for screening are immaterial as the desired screening will not be fully effective for many years. During that time the development will be fully exposed from a wide area.**
- 2) **The Parish Council fully support the objections which we understand have been raised by the Historic Buildings Officer because the site is adjacent to listed buildings.**
- 3) **Access onto the A4103 is clearly at a very dangerous point which experiences fast moving traffic and will add to the existing traffic entering and exiting the existing diagonally opposite public house.**
- 4) **Proposed alternative access onto Crumpton Hill is extremely undesirable because it is totally unsuitable to take extra traffic including the 4 HGVs as proposed to be housed on the land.**
- 5) **The design is sketchy at best with a distinct lack of detail regarding sizes and style of the intended mobile homes to be incorporated, materials to be used in the construction of the WCs and amenity block. The rough drawing of the amenity block is confused as it shows on two elevations what appears to be a line of a dormer in the roof but not on the other two elevations. The inclusion of "working areas" to each unit whilst desirable in the guidance, does nothing to alleviate either the traffic using the entrance or the visual impact of the site itself.**
- 6) **From local knowledge of the land, it is doubtful whether it can sustain the ability to dispose of water from the toilet and amenity block (especially in winter).**
- 7) **We would question the need for such a development here as there is an existing traveller site within 2km of this point, east along the same road, and one on the B4220 approx 7.5km from this one (2.5km from Cradley). As pointed out in the design and access statement supplied there is an alleged shortage of such family sites in Hereford and we feel that it is not conducive to the expected "peaceful integration" into local communities to concentrate them in one small area when the county is alleged to be lacking such facilities.**
- 8) **We would question whether there are any methods for assuring that such a site would indeed be for "family use" and how "family" is defined to assess this.**

As a footnote, the Parish Council meeting was attended by well over fifty residents from Storridge and Cradley who wished their unanimous objections to this application be made known to Cradley Parish Council in their response on this matter.

Tree applications –

No. 153013 – 15 Old School Close – work to oak tree and hazel tree in a conservation area – **no objections raised.**

No. 152914 – Bulls Head Cottage – removal of a conifer tree and removal of a silver birch tree – **No objections raised and welcome advice from owner that two replacement trees of native species will be planted.**

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No. 153207 – Poundbridge, Chapel Lane – proposal to remove two short runs of leylandii and replace with living willow hedge – **no objections raised.**

Matters for consideration –

- **Car parking at Dr. Surgery/British Legion** – Copy letter from the Doctors seeking PC assistance had been forwarded to all Councillors. The matter was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council arrange a meeting with the two parties in an attempt to reach an agreement suitable to all regarding future parking availability.
- **Governance Review** – Following the advice from P. Morgan, matter discussed around table and agreed the Council advise they would like to try to reduce the overall size of Parish Council numbers or at least have a more flexible attitude to Councillor numbers, and would definitely not wish to consider merging with any other Council.
- **Donation to Cradley Village Hall** – KN advised that the Village Hall Accounts are on the Charity Commission website and available to the public and members of the Parish Council should they wish to view them. On a proposal by the Chairman seconded by TLJ and carried it was agreed to make a donation for the sum of £2,246.67. There was one vote against the proposal and two abstentions.
- **Donation to Cradley Village Hall for insurance valuation** – On a proposal by FB seconded by SD and carried, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not make a donation to cover this cost which had been requested by the Village Hall Trustees.
- **Resignation by both K. Welford and D.Pye** – The Clerk advised that these vacancies had been published on the notice board at Finchers Corner with a closing date for **nominations of Thursday 19th November 2015.**

Progress Report – The Clerk confirmed the letter had been sent to Balfour Beatty requesting the resurfacing of Chapel Lane, a reply had been received advising that the request had been put forward to their programme team and highlighted for work in the draft proposal, which at present is only in draft format and subject to change.

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

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE – October, November & December | £450.00. |
| • Pricepoint gardening – grass cutting | £740.00. |
| • County Building Supplies - Lengthsman materials | £75.28. |
| • AONB Donation re NDP work, as agreed | £100.00. |
| • R. Lambert, P3 works | £165.00. |
| • R. Lambert, Lengthsman duties | £360.00. |
| • AON Insurance – annual renewal | £530.67. |

On a proposal by GF seconded by DS and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed – **it should be noted CL abstained from voting**

Approval of audited Accounts to 30th September 2015 – The Accounts prepared by Terry Robshaw had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting – some queries were raised and on a proposal by KN seconded by TLJ and carried, these accounts were approved as drawn and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Reports from committees and working parties –

- Environment & Footpaths – GF agreed to let Councillors have a Report for the next meeting advising that one meeting of the Group had taken place but another was proposed before the end of the year.
- Recreation Group – KN advised a meeting of the Group had not yet taken place.
- Lengthsman & P3 Scheme – Written report by Administrator, GF, had been sent to all Councillors with the Agenda for the current meeting.

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- NDP – draft document had been received from David Croft and sent to all Councillors along with additional paperwork in support of the document including flood risk report which was a major concern and other items including the settlement boundary and questionnaire results. Councillors were asked to comment on the draft document direct to David Croft - deadline for comments being 16th November 2015, thus enabling an additional Parish Council meeting to be held early December, attended by David to present the final document which would then be forwarded to Herefordshire Council for checking. There was unhappiness by some Councillors and members of the public that the draft NDP document did not mention the HoV project and it was pointed out by TLJ that the NDP was a policy document and did not mention ANY projects.

Correspondence & Literature received –

- 1) Co-option requests from Anne Scarsbrook and Samantha Roffe.
- 2) Lengthsman/P3 report from G. Fielding.
- 3) Letter from Tracey Iwanczuk that she had no confidence in the present Clerk.
- 4) Letter from Dr's surgery regarding parking availability at the surgery.
- 5) Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding Community Governance Review.
- 6) Letter – Cradley Village Hall seeking donation and to include cost of valuation for insurance purposes carried out by Andrew Grant.
- 7) Letters of resignation from both Kevin Welford and David Pye.
- 8) E-mail from Paul Crumpton regarding attendance at meeting to give brief input to Councillors on Watch schemes – arranged for January meeting.
- 9) Training programme from HALC – forwarded to all.
- 10) Update on foul water problem at Storridge as raised by D. Pye.
- 11) Balfour Beatty parish newsletter.
- 12) NDP Questionnaire comments, 2011 census key statistics and draft plan.
- 13) Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding local plan – Core Strategy adoption.
- 14) Letter querying the need for sandbags.
- 15) E-mail Anthony Bush on impact of flooding in the Parish and what actions need to be taken (we have a flood report).
- 16) Audited accounts from Terry Robshaw to 30th September 2015.
- 17) Renewal documents from AON Insurance.
- 18) Malvern Hills Agenda for meeting of AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

Literature including Clerk magazine, LCR magazine and Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Public Question time –

Bruce Herriot queried (1) about publication of draft Minutes on website, and (2) that to date, he had not received the promised apology from C. Lowder regarding seriously detrimental comments about Sara Herriot which were published in an e-mail and which he had circulated to everyone. The Chair pointed out that he had received assurance from C. Lowder that the emails were private and not assumed Parish Council business and, as such, should be resolved between the parties involved.

Richard Stoddard queried of TLJ regarding what documents would be published on the website regarding the NDP Questionnaire.

Roman Iwanczuk unhappy that no mention of the HoV had been mentioned in the draft NDP document.

Items for the Newsletter to include

- Travellers site on the A4103 which had attracted over fifty members of the public to attend the Parish Council meeting and which had also been commented on by County Councillor P. Morgan.
- Vote of Confidence in Clerk passed.

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- Co-option of Anne Scarsbrook.
- Two resignations from Parish Council, vacancies had been advertised at Finchers Corner.
- Parish Council hope to act as Arbiter in the problem regarding parking at the Dr's surgery.
- Chapel Lane is on list for resurfacing – hopefully in year 2016/17.
- NDP first draft has been received enabling Councillors to comment on the contents.
- Accounts to 30th September 2015 approved.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

It was confirmed that there will be the need for an ExtraOrdinary meeting of the Parish Council, hopefully in early December to receive the finalised version of the NDP and also to discuss and agree both the Budget and level of Precept for 2016/17.

K.J. Nason

12/01/16

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

Vice Chairman.