

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present – Councillors C. Lowder (in the Chair – Chair) K. Nason (KN) T. Lloyd Jones (TLJ) C. Lambert (CL) A. Eldridge (AE) F. Beard (FB) G. Fielding (GF) A. Symondson (AS) S. Davies (SD) B. Gordon (BG) D. Woodward (DW) and E. Moseley (EM).

Also present – County Cllr. T. Johnson and two representatives from Festival Housing Group.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from W. Harries and L. Gamble.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest received – CL and KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.

Invited Guests – Attending the meeting were Claire Greensall (Housing Manager) and Gay Lloyd (Housing Options Manager) who had kindly agreed to take part in a question/answer session regarding problems experienced at The Leys. The Parish Council had invited them to attend in conjunction with Herefordshire Council's wish for a site of Affordable Housing to be built in the Parish. A series of questions were raised and Claire & Gay replied as follows –

*When a property became vacant it was registered with Home Point at Hereford. Only new build properties could have the benefit of a Section 106 agreement on them registering them for local people, and advised that this could not be done retrospectively to cover The Leys, although it was felt that Kat La Tszar from West Mercia Housing had indicated this was possible. Festival Housing were very limited on checks that they could carry out on applicants, advised that no references were taken up and acknowledged that some applicants applied out of desperation for accommodation. Most lets were to people classed as "low banded" on the register at Home Point.*

*They confirmed that at this particular time they did not know how many evictions had taken place in the past, but confirmed that they were not dealing with any cases at the moment and advised that in order to obtain possession of a property, a Court Order had to be applied for.*

*They confirmed that although they maintained regular visits to the site in the mobile office, they had not received many complaints about unreasonable behaviour and in reply to this Councillors confirmed that many residents felt it was not worth bothering to complain as nothing was done about their complaint, and advised in addition, that many locals did not bother to apply for vacant properties at The Leys because of the troubles experienced with some residents.*

*Clare & Gay did recommend that residents build up an intelligence of evidence of problems and suggested that a further meeting would be beneficial to include Representatives from all Housing Associations with properties at The Leys and Buryfields, a representative from NCRA and the Police in an attempt to solve the problems experienced in the area.*

**RESOLVED** – *On a proposal by KN seconded by AS and carried, it was agreed to set up a special meeting in due course with Representatives from all Housing Associations with properties in and around The Leys/Buryfields.*

County Councillor Report – The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors the October Report from Cllr. Johnson in which he gave a report on the general financial position and school transport. He asked Councillors to encourage as many Parishioners as possible to take part in the current consultation about Budget proposals and advised that this was a problem experienced nationally. The main issue in the Consultation is the need to increase Council tax advised that it was proposed to increase this by 1.9% (***a 2% rise would trigger a referendum which in itself was costly and the cost would have to be met by local tax payers***). Cllr. Johnson further reported on school transport, the proposed waste contract with Worcestershire and some changes in Cabinet. A further update Report should be with the Clerk soon for submission to all Councillors.

November 2013/36.

Update Reports –

- 1) Cluster Group – BG advised nothing further to report.
- 2) Noise problem at Riley Hill Farm – The Clerk advised that it had been confirmed by Herefordshire Council that planning permission was required for the current level of use at the property and that an application or a pre application enquiry will be submitted in the near future for consideration, although it was confirmed that a pre application enquiry is confidential.
- 3) Donation to Cradley Play School – It was confirmed that a donation amount of up to £256. was on offer but full details awaited of how this money would be spent.
- 4) Balfour Beatty – The Clerk advised that although she had reported numerous repairs to the Company very little had been done in response. She confirmed that she proposed to attend a forthcoming meeting with BB at Hereford along with the Clerk from adjoining Mathon. KN reported on an e-mail from Chris Chillingworth about the current position with Rectory Lane and it was agreed that he should send a response to him pointing out various facts and the Parish Council's displeasure that at this particular time, the promised registration on the Streets List had not been achieved.

Matters for consideration –

- 1) Donation to Cradley Village Hall – It had been confirmed by the Treasurer of Cradley Village Hall that they had achieved a considerable saving in their Insurance costs resulting in a figure of £2,568.30 being payable this year. This was discussed and on a proposal by FB seconded by SD and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council make a donation to the Village Hall.
- 2) Donation to Cradley Play School – See above – donation of £256. available for the play school.

Financial Matters – The Clerk advised that the following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Inland Revenue, PAYE (two cheques signed as no meeting in December 2013 - £315.10.
- Cradley Village Hall, donation - £2568.30.
- Cradley Village Hall, hire fees, copying and sundries - £286.20.
- HALC training on NDP - £30.00.
- Clerk, two months postage and travel expenses - £106.77.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by FB and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed with the exception of the two items to Cradley Village Hall.

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by EM seconded by TLJ and carried, the two items to Cradley Village Hall were also approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – The Clerk had circulated all Councillors with a copy of the audited Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and replied to any queries raised.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by GF seconded by KN and carried, these Accounts were approved as drawn and were signed off by the Chairman.

Reports –

Planning – TLJ confirmed that two applications had been considered prior to the full Council meeting as follows –

- 1) Chapters, Cradley, WR13 5LQ – **reduce oak tree over stables by 30% to reduce the amount of deadwood in the tree, reduce silver birch by 30% and reduce prunus by 30%** - no objections raised.
- 2) The Cider Barn, Rectory Lane, WR13 5LH – **change of use to holiday lets of front of Cider Barn previously designated for office use** – the PC advised that this application was in contravention of the existing conditions which were quoted to be as “ancillary to the house” see planning application in 2004. Concerns also raised about existing parking problems in Rectory Lane and the fact that proposed change would further add to the problems and finally mentioned concerns about “creeping development at the site”.

Reported approvals included Batchcombe Lane, storage shed at The Stables Finchers Corner, The Dragon House and The Oast house.

NDP – TLJ advised that a Meeting was to take place with Herefordshire Council to advise how the PC can utilise their Parish Plan and that a new Support Officer from the Council had been appointed following Jane Wormald leaving for alternative employment.

Churchyards Committee – Estimate for 14/15 still awaited regarding The Chapel.

Recreation Area – meeting to take place early January to finalise plans for Chapel Lane.

Editorial Group – Nothing really to report – website up and running and it had been agreed to include an item on the NDP. Village Diary now on website.

Correspondence –

- Letter – R. Brett thanking PC for comments regarding conversion of The Oast House.
- AON confirming insurance has been renewed with advice on snow clearance, salting and gritting. (Clerk requested Councillors to inspect and let her know present situation regarding grit levels).
- Letter – Hereford CAB seeking donation.
- Letter – T. Robshaw regarding quotes for insurance renewal at Cradley Village Hall.
- E-mail advising that permission has been refused to fell oak tree at Orchard End, Credenleigh.
- E-mail advising that planning permission is necessary for Riley Hill Farm motor cycle racing.

Literature –

- Clerk magazine,
- Clerks & Councils magazine,
- Wicksteed Playscape offer on play equipment, and details from
- War Memorial Trust regarding maintenance of war memorials.

Newsletter items – Meeting with Festival Housing Representatives and advise that follow up meeting would be held to include police attendance, Report from County Councillor Tony Johnson on finances, upgrade of Rectory Lane appears to have stalled, Balfour Beatty not responding to Parish Council and problems with Pound Bridge, NDP update, sandbags available at Red Lion and salt levels in bins to be checked.

Councillor Reports – Smiths of Derby advise Village clock serviced and in good condition and Request by Head teacher at Village School to take children up to the War Memorial.

Items for next Agenda to include update on notice board maintenance, update on Post Office, use of large tractors through the Village and consideration to be given how the Parish Council can commemorate the War.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm. Next meeting to take place in January 2014.

Signed.....C. Lowder..... Dated.....14<sup>th</sup> January 2014.....  
Chairman.