

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday
12th August 2014 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) A. Eldridge (AE), K. Nason (KN) A. Carver (AC) G. Fielding (GF) T. Iwanczuk (TI) T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) S. Herriot (SH) W. Harries (WH) F. Beard (FB) D. Pye (DP) and A. Symondson (AS).

Also attending were Dr. K. Welford and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from S. Davies and C. Lambert.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – GF declared a personal interest in the repayment to him for expenses incurred during renovation of the parish notice boards.

Vacancy for Councillor – All Councillors had received details from Dr. Welford supporting his application to become a Parish Councillor. On a proposal from KN seconded by the Chair and carried Dr. Kevin Welford signed the declaration of office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting. GF abstained from voting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Update reports –

- 1) **Rectory Lane** – for the benefit of new Councillors KN gave a brief resume regarding the ongoing problem with Rectory Lane and advised that we were now waiting for Balfour Beatty Locality Steward for the Ledbury area to contact us with regard to a site meeting to discuss what work they were in a position to carry out to the Lane before the winter.
- 2) **Meeting with Police and Housing Association Representatives** – KN reported on the meeting and it was agreed by those in attendance that they felt some progress had been made. The Police had now circulated all residents at The Leys and Buryfields giving contact numbers to enable residents to report anything they had concerns about and it was planned to hold another meeting in October 2014 to see whether it was generally felt the position had improved.
- 3) **Heart of the Village** – All Councillors circulated with notes following meeting held in Cradley Church on 5th August 2014 which had been attended by roughly 200 local residents. AE advised that a field had kindly been donated by Mrs. Morgan and the Tenants had agreed to surrender their Lease on the field subject to an alternative agricultural field being available to them or the Parish Council coming to a financial settlement. Meetings were ongoing to find out all possibilities and it was also proposed to meet with some landscape Architects.

AE commented that the proposal for Chapel Lane had been very controversial but from the meeting on 5th August approximately 63% of those in attendance had voted in favour of the whole HoV idea, although a vote against the proposal had not been taken.

With regard to a Community shop it was reported that the Alfrick shop had proved successful and there was a need to investigate the possibility of a community shop/cafe in Cradley. TLJ queried whether it was possible to look into the community shop in isolation as she felt that there will be less enthusiasm once local residents know that the whole HoV project may involve considerably more housing development and she felt that we should tell residents the issues which will be compromised if the development goes ahead, particularly with regard to the "strategic gap" which was considered most important in both the Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement.

Lengthy discussion took place including overall fear of urbanisation, queries over ownership, whether the Parish Council take over responsibility for raising the funds and

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paying for the project and whether, in fact, the residents in attendance at the public meeting really knew what they were being asked to discuss and vote for.

GF commented that it was agreed at the last meeting that the Group would investigate and report back to the Parish Council. With regard to the impact on the NDP, he had spoken with Lynda Wilcox at a recent training meeting which he and TI had attended, and Lynda Wilcox felt it was in the best interest of the Parish to proceed with the NDP before the land allocation is settled and suggested they report back to the Parish Council to press ahead with the NDP, adding that if the current proposals are agreed within the next six months, these proposals can be incorporated into the Plan. The Core Strategy has been approved and is due to be signed off this year, it is ready and lodged with the Legal Department but it may well be another six months before it is legally signed off.

It was proposed that the Parish Council authorise the HoV Group to investigate and provide the Parish Council with as much information as possible regarding the financial aspect, what land they are looking at, what buildings are proposed, the overall viability and sustainability with specific research into a shop and cafe and report back to the Parish Council with as much information as possible to give Councillors a fuller understanding of what we can, and cannot legally do within the powers of a Parish Council. This was seconded by GF and carried.

Items for consideration –

- a) **Welcome pack for new Councillors** – TI commented that as a new Councillor she did not quite understand the powers of a Parish Council, and whilst this was a steep learning curve, she felt that a booklet would be beneficial for both new and old members. It was unanimously agreed this was a good idea, and she was authorised to look into this and come back to the Parish Council with her suggestions.
- b) **Overgrown hedges** – it was agreed that these were becoming a problem, particularly with the cutbacks by Herefordshire Council, but it was felt before formal letters should be sent, the personal approach might be more beneficial and various Councillors agreed to speak with land owners regarding the overgrown state of the hedges. ***(TLJ left the meeting at 8.55pm).***
- c) **Drainage at Chapel Lane** – GF reported numerous potholes when entering Chapel Lane off the Bosbury Road and that no surface water drainage was in existence. ***Clerk to write to Herefordshire Councils Highways asking them to send an Engineer to meet with GF and the Chairman to investigate long standing road hazard and require action with provision of surface water drain into surface water system.***
- d) **Change of Date for next meeting** – Clerk apologised for need to change date, due to the fact that the holiday date for August 31st was fully booked, so she had been obliged to take the holiday on 7th September. It was agreed the new date for the September meeting would be 2nd September. ***Clerk to advise S. Davies, T. Lloyd Jones and C. Lambert.***

Finance – the following Accounts had been received for payment –

• Inland Revenue, PAYE	£150.00.
• Smiths of Derby, Clock repair	£180.00.
• G. Fielding, repay expenses re notice board renovation	£45.08.
• Viking Direct, drum unit for printer	£91.16.
• Wicksteed, ROSPA inspections	£144.00.
• Clerk, expenses	£143.84.

On a proposal by CL seconded by KN and carried these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. ***Clerk to check insurance cover on the clock.***

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Reports –

Planning – AE reported that the following applications had been considered –

Application No. P141972/F – land adjacent to Credenleigh, WR13 5NB – proposed erection of three dwellings – ***the Council reiterate all their previous comments. In addition it is strongly felt that this should include additional payment under Section 106 agreement to take into account a development of this overall size, ie 10 houses, and that adequate infrastructure to support a development such as drainage and flood prevention must be included. With regard to the requested provision for wildlife, it is also felt that this should remain in perpetuity attached to the adjoining property to cover any future sale of the premises.***

Application No. P141902/L – Old Cider Mill, Halesend, WR13 5EW – proposed balcony on east elevation – ***the council feel in terms of local impact this will be minimal, but would totally agree with the comments of the Conservation Officer with regard to this application.***

Application No. P141902/L – Gaylea, Upper Churchfields, WR13 5LJ – provision of first floor accommodation within the roof space including new roof structure and erection of a single storey rear addition – ***the Council raise no objections to the proposed building. However, we feel we must draw your attention to the fact that there were no notices with regard to the planning application in existence on the property and under the circumstances, we do wonder whether the adjoining properties were aware of the application.***

AE also advised that the planning application for a single storey dwelling with detached double garage on land adjoining Stone House, Bromyard Road, Cradley, WR13 5JN had been refused.

Following a Planning training by HALC, GF advised that the Parish Council arrangement for dealing with planning applications was not considered to be best practice and on advice from Lynda Wilcox at HALC he proposed that in future the Council should not hold a separate planning meeting but that this should be incorporated into the full council meeting whereby all Councillors were given the opportunity to comment on applications. L. Wilcox had said that whilst our current way of dealing with planning was not considered best practice, she had also said that it wasn't unlawful. The Chairman and Vice Chairman both advised that this had previously been discussed at previous meetings and it had at that time been agreed that the present arrangement should continue. However GF asked for the suggestion to be included on the Agenda for discussion at the September meeting.

AE advised following his Chairmanship of the Planning Committee for the previous two months, another Councillor should now take over this role and KN agreed to take over this responsibility until Christmas 2014.

In addition, due to pressure of work commitments, AE advised he wished to resign from the Planning Committee with immediate effect.

NDP – See report above under HoV. Funding is due to run out in September, so a meeting was arranged for Tuesday 19th August in the Heritage Room commencing at 7.30pm and the Clerk was to enquire whether Paul Esrich from Malvern Hills AONB would be able to attend.

Environmental Footpaths Group – WH advised nothing to report.

Churchyards Committee – the Chairman advised nothing to report.

Recreation Area – It was reported that until Jeff White heard from Hereford Council regarding a new Contract and indemnity insurance, he was unable to carry out his duties. The Clerk confirmed that Jeff had spoken with her at the Parish meeting regarding the HoV and that she had taken the matter up with Herefordshire Council, although confirmed nothing to report at the moment.

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KN reported Quotation received for levelling the football area and turning it around in the sum of approximately Nine thousand pounds so alternative quotes were being sought.

Editorial Group – Reporter due out before end of August – any additional items to KN as soon as possible. TI and SH asked to let Ken have a brief report about themselves and their work on the Parish Council for inclusion if possible.

Correspondence –

- Letter – Herefordshire @Council regarding travellers sites.
- Letter – Worcestershire CC regarding Worcestershire minerals local plan call for sites.
- E-mail from Neil James, Locality Steward advising on various works carried out and where.
- Information Corner from HALC.
- E-Mail - Mr. & Mrs. Diplock about wind turbines at Acton Green. It was advised that companies are approaching land owners and offering money for people to have a turbine.
- E-mail – Anthony Bridge sent to AE regarding condition of football play areas and AE was to invite him to a Recreation area meeting on 3rd September at 7.30 in the Heritage Room so that Mr. Bridge could be updated about work on football pitch at Chapel Lane.
- Portfolio Guide for CILCA at Level 3 for the Clerk and registration form.

Newsletter items to include

- Welcome to new Councillor Kevin Welford.
- Comments on crime relating to catalytic converters.
- Meeting with Police & Housing Associations have opened up communications.
- HoV Report and that working group will be reporting back at the next meeting regarding costing and the issues on the strategic gap which was considered vital in the Parish Plan and VDS.
- Welcome pack for new Councillors.
- Overgrown hedges.
- Drainage issues at Chapel Lane.
- Change of date for September meeting (with apologies for short notice).

Councillor's Reports and future items – GF requested the following items be included in the Agenda for September – Planning Committee/Best Practice Policy, Electronic issue of Agenda and Minutes and for the Council to reconsider appointment of a Lengthsman.

AC requested the Cluster Group be added to the September Agenda.

Clerk to write to Mr. Mucklow at Rose Cottage (opposite the old Post Office & Stores) and enquire whether his collapsed wall into Watery Lane was awaiting the outcome of an insurance claim as it could be a danger to children playing there.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Next Meeting to take place on 2nd September 2014 in Cradley Village Hall.

C. Lowder

2nd September 2014.

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

Chairman.

