

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

Present – Cllrs. K. Nason (in the Chair – KN) D. Scully (DS) W. Harries (WH) C. Lambert (CL) A. Carver (AC) B. Herriot (BH) F. Beard (FB) G. Fielding (GF) S. Davies (SD) and A. Eldridge (AE).

Also attending were several members of the public, County Councillor P. Morgan, R. Stoddard and the Clerk.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and approved from C. Lowder, S. Roffe, G. Thomas, T.Lloyd-Jones and A. Scarsbrook.

Declarations of Interest – the Register was circulated and Councillors declared their various interests and signed the Register.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to one amendment concerning the Chapel Lane Playing field incorporation of an orchard.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. P. Morgan reported that the Budget for 2016/17 had recently been released which included council tax increase and a further large cut in funding from Central Government with the obvious knock-on effect to services in the County although they had endeavoured to safeguard vulnerable children and Adult Social Care. News release would appear in the local press.

Presentation – Attending the meeting was Richard Stoddard and representatives from Terra Strategic who presented their proposal for development at Church Stile Farm to members of the Parish Council and confirmed that they planned to hold a public consultation meeting in Cradley Village Hall in the very near future prior to submission of their plan to Hereford Council Planning Dept.

Planning – the following planning applications were considered by the Planning Committee –

- No. 153833 – Building adjacent to Vineyard Farm, Vineyard Lane – proposed conversion of rural building to one holiday cottage – objections raised including situate in AONB and building of no architectural merit.
- No. 153740 – Land at Stone House, Bromyard Road – proposed dwelling and new vehicle access – we object on the grounds that this is too much building in open countryside.
- No. 153813 – Poundbridge, Chapel Lane – addition of a post box, dog and CCTV warning signage, CCTV and burglar alarm (retrospectively – No objections raised but would agree with any comments made by the Conservation Officer.
- No. 153812 – Little Byefields, Storridge – proposed natural swimming pond and summerhouse – no objections raised.
- No. 153816 – 1 Quarry Cottage, Cradley – proposed rear extension – no objections raised.
- No. 160219 – 6 Brookside, Cradley – proposed rear extension – no objections raised.
- No. 160161 – 15 Old School Close – proposed new porch – no objections raised.
- No. 160251 – The Water Mill, Suckley – proposed extension – no comments.
- No. 153524 – The Mill House, Cradley – proposed work to willow tree – no objections raised.

Matters for consideration and update on outstanding issues –

- (a) **Car parking at Dr's surgery** – it was confirmed the donation box had been installed in the surgery for voluntary car parking contributions, but no feedback was available as yet.

- (b) Report on allegation of unlawful co-option activity by Parish Council – a reply had been received from both HALC and Paul Clayden Solicitor and Chief Executive of NALC that the Parish Council **had not acted unlawfully** over their refusal to co-opt Bruce Herriot at their meeting in October even though his was the only application up for consideration at that time.
- (c) Purchase of Recording machine for use at Council meetings – This was discussed and BH agreed to take the matter up with Lynda Wilcox at HALC and report back at the next meeting. KN advised that a machine could be purchased for around £300.
- (d) Amount, plus vote, on level of donations to three PCCs for churchyard upkeep – KN advised that changes had been agreed two/three years ago how the Council would assess on their donations although this had not been implemented. An assessment of donations was circulated to all Councillors for consideration and by a vote of seven to two against (with one abstention) it was agreed that for this year the donations would be made in accordance with the assessment and to advise the Treasurers of the three PCCs that three Quotations would be obtained for the year 2017/18 and that donations will only be made on presentation of Invoices to support the costs incurred.
- (e) and (f) Emergency Planning and Fibre Optic Report – These had been prepared by S. Roffe and circulated to all Councillors for consideration – thanks were expressed to her for her “in depth” reports. It was agreed to ask her to follow up on her reports and report back at the meeting in March, and also to invite Ian Baker to attend the next meeting if this were possible.
- (g) ROSPA inspection of play areas – Hereford Council advised that there would be no increase in the charge for the coming year, and it was unanimously agreed to ask them to carry out the ROSPA report on both of the Parish Council play areas.
- (h) Update on telephone box/defibrillator – BH promised full report at March meeting.

Finance Matters – The clerk advised the following Accounts were due for payment - FB took the Chair and sought approval for payment as follows

• Inland Revenue, PAYE for January	£150.00.
• HALC – affiliation fee 2016/17	£744.88.
• Cradley Village Hall, hire fees	£12.00.
• R. Lambert, Lengthsman & P3 for January 2016	£285.00.
• Viking Direct, stationery and machine toners	£82.98.
• Computer, repay K. Nason (inc VAT)	£358.93.

On a proposal by GF seconded by BH and carried these items were approved for payment with one Councillor abstaining from voting.

Reports from Committees and working parties –

- (1) Footpath, wildlife & Environment – Update circulated to all – GF advised he hoped to arrange another meeting, prior to which he will write to the existing Group members and all Parish Councillors to suggest getting together in March/April to see if the job can be done with some new members recruited.
- (2) Recreation Group – No meeting taken place as yet – SD agreed to join the Group.
- (3) NDP – Report sent to all Councillors along with revised timetable for events. It was reported that some funding had now been obtained from Hereford Council.
- (4) Lengthsman/P3 Schemes – GF and KN reported on meeting they had attended and that it would appear in the future Parish Councils would have to fund the schemes out of their precept. Funding was available for 2016/17 and minimal funding/mandatory Parish Council contributions for 2017/18 but after that date, it would be down to Parish Councils to fund the schemes with Balfour Beatty only picking up essential works.

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- (5) Churchyards – Committee had met and prepared the assessment of donations as mentioned above. It was agreed that for 2016/17 three Quotations would be obtained for the necessary work to the Churchyards and that donations would only be made on production of Invoices.

Public Question Time – Roman Iwanczuk as a member of the community unhappy that they had not received copies of the Council’s Financial Regulations and Standing Orders and KN advised he would ensure these were available on the website, along with the PC’s co-option policies. Whilst he was extremely happy about the Lengthsman service, he expressed concern about the donations to the three PCCs and felt that the Parish Council was not doing enough in obtaining value for money for the donations made. The Chair stated that the PC would look into the matter.

Newsletter items to include County Councillor’s report on the Budget, no news on the planning application for the gypsy site as awaiting road safety report, presentation on proposal for Church Stile Farm, Lengthsman scheme, NDP were waiting for feedback from David Crofts and that some funding had now obtained from Herefordshire Council for the Plan.

Councillor Reports and Items for future Agendas –

- (1) SD requested debate on speed on the Bosbury Road.
- (2) BH asked for consideration to be given to the co-option guidance at the April meeting.
- (3) AC mentioned future use of Cradley Village Hall by PPG group for basic training for heartstart, recovery positions etc.
- (4) GF agreed to look into the request for a sign for “Finchers Corner”.
- (5) KN reported on the problem of weeds creeping through the fence from the School into the garden of a resident in Buryfields.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Ken Nason

8th March 2016

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

Vice Chairman.