

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 3rd June 2014 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

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

Also present – the Clerk, Cllr. C. Attwood (CA) and the Footpath Officer Jeff White.

Apology – An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received and approved from S. Davies.

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Chairman requested all Councillors to introduce themselves for the benefit of new members.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – Both KN and the Chairman declared personal interests in payments due to Cradley Village Hall.

Minutes – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – CA advised that at the Council AGM two Tory Councillors had now been lost, change of Chairmanship of some Committees but that Cllr. Tony Johnson remained Leader of the Council. He advised that the cut backs in expenditure were now being felt across the County. Both Jeff White Cradley PC Footpath Officer and GF (who is Footpath Officer for neighbouring Mathon Parish Council) commented on difficulties they were experiencing when attempting to contact Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty for guidance over any problems and it had also been noted that the insurance for Footpath Officers were about to expire. CA agreed to look into this problem, establish a direct contact for the F/P Officers and report back in due course.

Update Reports –

- 1) Rectory Lane – KN advised that following his monthly request for information he had not even had the courtesy of a reply, but promised to pursue the matter.
- 2) Meeting with Police/Housing Officers – arranged for 16th July at 2pm in Cradley Village Hall.

Items for consideration –

- 1) Outside gym at Chapel Lane – The Chairman agreed his previous suggestion for this item should not have been presented under the heading “Memorial to the world war”. A brochure on the machines was available indicating which were considered suitable for such a project. It was hoped a grant could be obtained under “Awards for All” and that such a project fell under the Parish Council’s Stage II of the proposed development and upgrading at Chapel Lane. A promise of match funding had also been offered by a Parishioner, as a result of which no expenditure by the Parish Council was envisaged. A question and answer session followed when such items as maintenance, insurance and safety inspections were discussed. Following on from this the **Chairman proposed** that the Recreation Group be asked to look into prices/funding for such a project and come up with a formal plan to put to the Council. **The proposal was seconded by SH.** When put to the vote there were six votes in favour, two votes against and two abstentions. **Vote carried accordingly**

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- 2) Ground Maintenance Contractor – KN advised that Signature Gardens had ceased training and it was necessary to find an alternative contractor for the grass cutting at the two play areas. Contact has been made with Elgar/Festival Housing in the hope that their Contractor might undertake the work when in the area and it was agreed it might be necessary to pay more to get the work done this year. The Chairman agreed to try to get a group together to see whether any work can be done in the meantime, and it was felt necessary to report the problems in the Reporter so that parishioners were aware there might be a delay in the grass cutting.

Finance – The following Accounts had been received for payment

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE | £150.00. |
| • Cradley Village Hall, hire fees, refreshments & copying | £44.83. |
| • Cradley Village Hall, hire fees | £24.00. |
| • Signature Gardens, ground maintenance, final cut | £168.00. |
| • Clerk, expenses and travel | £132.47. |

RESOLVED – On a proposal by GF seconded by CL and carried it was unanimously agreed to pay the Inland Revenue, Signature Gardens and the Clerk.

FURTHER RESOLVED – FB took the Chair and on a proposal by TLJ seconded by AS and carried it was agreed to pay the two Accounts to Cradley Village Hall. **KN and the Chair did not vote.**

Reports from various Committees and working parties –

Planning – TLJ advised three items had been considered at the Planning meeting as follows –

- Application No. P141036/F – land adjacent to Credenleigh – erection of three houses – ***The Council approve the application subject to the following comments (1) we feel this should be regarded as an incremental application to the adjoining Dragonwyck development. As such this will require additional statutory obligations on the developer accrued for a development of this size, ie ten houses. This should include additional payment under Section 106 Agreement, and inclusion of adequate infrastructure to support a development of this size such as drainage and flood prevention measures (2) we have concerns regarding access to the site and the lack of additional parking which will be required under the extended planning application and (3) the Design and Access Statement submitted with the application refers to Hereford County Council UDP including Cradley as a main village and, as such, having sufficient infrastructure and amenities to support additional housing. The PC want it to be noted that this is no longer the case. Cradley6t has recently lost its village stores, the public transport ie bus service is already limited and it is threatened to be reduced further, the existing drainage/sewerage is already over stretched and the school is now running at full capacity.***
- Application No. P141291/J – Wynton, 2 Brookside, Cradley – work to various Leylandii trees – ***no objection for the removal of the Leylandii but would like native species trees planted to replace them. With regard to the willow tree, we would ask that the work be carried out by a qualified Arboriculturalist.***
- Application No/P141410/L – Columbine Cottage, Storridge – proposed single storey side extension, demolition and rebuild of front timber frame wall and replacement windows – ***no objections but would support any comments made by the Conservation Officer.***

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The Chairman of the Planning Committee (TLJ) indicated she wished to retire as Chairman of the Planning Committee. It was suggested by the Chair that in future other members of the planning committee take the Chair for two months at a time. New members on the Committee would also take the rota in future once their necessary training had been undertaken. This was put to the vote and carried and AE agreed to chair the planning meetings during July and August 2014.

NDP –TLJ reported good progress – Notices have been displayed and local consultations planned for 19th June and 3rd July which she felt should be attended by two Parish Councillors per hour to help with any queries raised by Parishioners. Councillors to advise TLJ when they could offer cover.

Environmental & Footpaths Committee – WH advised nothing to report.

Cluster Group – AC reported she had received various paperwork from Peter Whitehead the Chairman of the Group. Two amendments for consideration had been proposed to the “ terms of reference” of the Cluster Group as follows

- 1) Each Parish Council should have two representatives to attend but only one can vote, and
- 2) That the Chairman of the Cluster Group must live/work in the geographical area of the group but need not be a current member of a Parish Council.

These amendments were approved by the Parish Council and CA agreed to notify the Cluster Group Secretary accordingly.

The AGM of the Cluster Group was due to be held at Cradley and it was hoped that both SH and TI would attend and report back to the Parish Council in due course, particularly as the Chairman of the Group, Peter Whitehead, has announced his resignation.

Churchyards Committee – Nothing to report.

Recreation Areas – it was hoped to hold a meeting later this month

Editorial Group – Reporter due out in August.

Correspondence received –

- Numerous e-mails concerning road closure at Pilgrims and lack of advance warning.
- E-mail from Matt Roberts, Signature Gardens, advising no longer able to cut grass at two play areas.
- E-mail confirmation of meeting with Police and Housing Association representatives in July.
- E-mail Tony Johnson “what do we get for our council tax” copied to all.
- E-mails from Ann Carver regarding amendments to Cluster Group terms of reference and the Group AGM.

Literature received – Clerks and Councils Direct magazine.

Newsletter items –

- Report from Cllr. C. Attwood.
- Concerns about contact for Footpaths Officers .
- Rectory Lane update still awaited.
- Proposal for outside gym at Chapel Lane.
- New grass cutting contractor required.
- Storridge date for NDP meeting.
- Cluster Group and Support for Post Office outreach facility.

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Councillors reports and items for future Agendas to include appointment of another Cluster Group Representative, signature of new Bank Mandate, lack of sufficient notices indicating location of new Outreach Post Office facility and that Eileen Vockins has kindly offered transport to the new post office facility in the Village Hall.

Various pothole and road repairs were listed for the Clerk to report to Balfour Beatty.

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

Next meeting to take place on 8th July 2014.

C. Lowder

8th July 2014

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

Chairman.