

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th March 2014 in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present – Cllrs. C. Lowder (in the Chair) W. Harries (WH) K. Nason (KN) L. Gamble (LG) F. Beard (FB) C. Lambert (CL) G. Fielding (GF) and S. Davies (SD).

Also in attendance – the Clerk, Cllr. T. Johnson and approximately 35 members of the public.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from A. Eldridge, T. Lloyd-Jones and A. Symondson.

Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – KN and the Chairman declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.

Minutes – The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Johnson advised that the household waste collection will change in November. Additional black bins will be provided by the Council with collection of household waste collected two weekly, followed by only recycling the following week, ie household waste one week, recycling the following week.

With regard to transport, he advised that a consultation will start about the end of March, urging suppliers to co-ordinate between themselves but some bus services will stop due to lack of funds.

The Chairman closed the Council meeting to allow public participation

Planning exhibition – attending the meeting were approx 35 local residents, many of whom had attended a planning exhibition that afternoon held by James Speckley in Cradley Village Hall with regard to proposals for development off Pixifield of up to sixty houses (to include several affordable). The Chairman explained that the Council only had the opportunity to comments on planning applications which had actually been lodged with Herefordshire Council, and at this stage, this was merely an informative event of future plans, although Mr. Spreckley had declined to say who was involved. Several Councillors had actually attended the exhibition, discussed the matter with James Spreckley, from which it appeared he was fully conversant with NDP, Core Strategy, Localism, Parish Plans etc. Only two residents raised any queries – Mike Hames queried Cllr. Johnson regarding the bus service outside the County boundary and asked if the bus service stops, would Cradley continue to qualify as a “major village”. Another resident queried the “definition of affordable housing” and Cllr. Johnson agreed to raise this with Herefordshire Council. Following the discussion, all local residents left the meeting.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting.

Update Reports –

- (a) Rectory Lane – KN reported on notification of approval from Herefordshire Council and the modification order to effect the upgrade. This will now proceed through normal channels and if there are no objections, the order will be confirmed in due course.
- (b) Pound Bridge – Letter of confirmation received following Chairman’s meeting with Balfour Beatty giving full details of what work will be carried out, and when.
- (c) Notice Board – GF advised delay in work commencing as the timber needed to dry out. Work had started and he would give a full report back at the next meeting. It appeared the overall cost would be between £30/40, plus labour, so felt that the existing Quotations were excessive, but confirmed he was carrying out this work free of charge. Further consideration to remaining boards would continue following the next meeting.
- (d) Donation to Cradley PCC – Due to ill health, Cllr. Eldridge had not yet met with Jim Harrington to obtain a Quotation for work to the various graveyards, but would do so before the next meeting.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by the Chair, seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed to make the capped contribution of £2,000 for this year, but agreed that the Parish Council will leave it until next year before we look into changes about how we pay these funds.

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Items for consideration –

- (a) Parish meeting – date agreed for 16th April 2014 in Cradley Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Budget for refreshments agreed at £50. It was agreed the Chairman approach Roman Iwanczuk to give a talk on new technology in a rural village. Alternative speakers were agreed if the date was not convenient for Mr. Iwanczuk.
- (b) Outside gym at Chapel Lane – This matter deferred was until April at the request of the Chairman.
- (c) Vacancies on Parish Council – It was confirmed Dr. Sarah Herriott had agreed to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mrs. Ann Carver has not supplied the information now requested by Councillors to enable consideration to be given to her application. An application from Mrs Tracey Iwanczuk was read to Councillors, and Mrs. Iwanczuk (in attendance) answered questions from Councillors. **On a proposal** by the Chairman seconded by S. Davies and carried, it was agreed to invite her to join the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to make contact with her before the meeting in April with the appropriate paperwork for signature.
- (d) Planning Exhibition for Pixiefield – The Chairman advised that no application for planning had been received to date.
- (e) Donation to MHDC AONB – The Clerk had circulated letters to all with a request for a donation towards their work. This was discussed and on a proposal by the Chairman seconded by GF and carried, it was agreed to make an annual donation of £100 commencing in April 2014. SD and CL abstained from voting.
- (f) Cluster Group representative – It was agreed to wait until we have a full quota of Councillors before appointing a Representative. All members of the various sub-committees are re-appointed at the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held in April.
- (g) HALC –“ Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014” – full details of this are awaited from HALC but in the meantime, the Clerk confirmed that as all meetings were open to the public and approved Minutes were displayed on various notice boards in the Parish including a book of Minutes in the local Butchers shop, it would appear that all business of the Parish Council was open and above board. We seem to be already complying with regulations, but once further advice from HALC was available, this advice would be brought to Councillors attention.

Finance – To authorise payment of the following accounts and donations –

- HMRC PAYE £157.55.
- Cradley Village Hall, hire fees £15.00.
- Clerks expenses to year end £112.40.
- Viking Direct, stationery £121.63.
- Storridge PCC donation £252.00.
- The Chapel donation £274.55.
- Cradley PCC donation £2,000.00.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by LG seconded by SD and carried, these accounts/donations were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. KN & Chair abstained from voting.

Reports from Committees –

Planning – KN advised only one application had been considered – Orchard End, Credenleigh – conversion and extension of garage into dining room and study to including raising of garage roof – no objections, but queries raised whether there was sufficient off road parking and the Parish Council felt that this might have been an opportunity to blend this in with the original bungalow.

NDP – GF advised one meeting had taken place, Questionnaire had been prepared and maps done and it was hoped to include this in the Newsletter distribution. The comments will be analysed by the group to see what is required and then the draft NDP will be sent to Hereford Council, then the Local Government Inspector and if approved will come back to the Village.

Environmental & Footpaths – WH reported on meeting when Footpath Officer gave report about development over the last 2/3 years. Whilst Herefordshire Council have done a fair amount of work, funds do seem to be running out. Most of the targets of the last Parish Plan have been met and he suggested a village walk-about to bring forward any issues in the Parish, other than just the footpaths. This was deemed to be an excellent idea and WH agreed to see if this could be arranged.

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Under the Environmental & Footpaths report - GF reported on meeting which he had attended in his role as Footpath Officer for Mathon when it was reported that many changes were proposed in relation to highways/footpaths with existing members having to re-apply for their jobs. Herefordshire Council have taken out a £20m. loan to cover the amount which Balfour Beatty had agreed to fund on appointment when taking over from Amey. The area was being split into nine regions in early April, including the towns and that for the time being, the P3 footpaths scheme would continue.

Churchyard Committee – The Chairman advised nothing to report.

Recreation Area – Work continuing at Chapel Lane, soakaway should be done within next 2/3 weeks and the centre should be turfed. Sapling trees received from Woodland Trust for both Chapel Lane and Buryfields, article to be included in the Newsletter requesting donations of further trees and shrubs and SD agreed to report back on a community scheme through “Bradforads” in Ledbury to obtain more soil for the area. The next phase at Chapel Lane in the new financial year would include making the football pitch a suitable area for its purpose.

Editorial Group – Reporter due out any day to include request for trees/shrubs and the NDP Questionnaire.

Newsletter items to include waste collection, transport, possible development off Pixiefield (although not an official planning application) Parish meeting, notice boards, two new Councillors appointed, footpaths report and possible village walkabout and continuing work at Chapel Lane.

Councillors items for future Agendas –

New drainage at Chapel Lane (GF).

Meeting with Housing Representatives and the Police regarding letting issues at The Leys.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 8th April 2014 in Cradley Village Hall.

Signed..... C. Lowder Dated..... 8th April 2014
Chairman.