

***MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th November 2014
in Storridge Village Hall commencing at 7pm***

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

Also attending – Nick Comley (Community First) Neil James (Locality Steward) County Councillors T. Johnson and C. Attwood, Mr. Richard Stoddard, Mrs. Alison Hext and the Clerk.

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

Declarations of Interest –

- TI and CL declared a personal interest in Cradley Youth Group.
- KN & CL declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall
- TI declared a personal interest in reclaim of expenses.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman following a few minor wording changes to the report on the HoV at that meeting.

Co-Option – Attending the meeting was Geoffrey Thomas, previous Parish Councillor who had expressed a wish to be co-opted onto the Council. The Clerk had circulated brief details concerning Mr. Thomas, his co-option was unanimously agreed and he signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

Planning – the following applications had been received and were discussed as follows –

- Application No. P143104/FH – Birch Cottage, Stoney Cross – proposed single storey side and rear extension, exterior cladding and minor alterations to existing garden studio and replacement garage – ***no objections raised.***
- Application No. P143062/FH – The Grove, Chapel Lane – proposed two storey extension – ***no objections raised.***
- Application No. P143070/FH – Chockbury Cottage, Chockbury Lane – proposed two storey rear extension to provide garage, home office, bathroom and en suite bedroom above – ***no objections but defer to the comments of the Conservation Officer in connection with the listing of the property.***
- Application No. NGR 374007 247221 – Church Style Farm, Malvern – 25m high lattice tower mobile phone base – attending the meeting was Mr. Stoddard owner of the land in question and he advised that he had sought to have the tower moved into a row of oak trees to camouflage the tower, and had also refused to have the permanent track up to the tower across his field. ***On this evidence, the Parish Council agreed to raise no objections on condition that Mr. Stoddard's wishes were granted but the Clerk was also to enquire of The Harlequin Group seeking the approval the exact location of the alternative sites which they had previously considered for the tower.***
- Application No. Wold Farm, Cradley – conversion of barn into dwelling - although evidence was supplied that this had previously been refused, it appeared a fresh application had been made ***and the Parish Council decided to oppose the second application as the property was deemed to be of no architectural merit.***

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Proposed Pixiefield development – the Clerk had circulated to everyone for their information brief notes following the recent discussion meeting in Cradley Village Hall and the Chairman advised that it had since been decided by residents to co-ordinate a Working Group and another meeting will take place on 13th November when they will compile their own comments and decide how they wish to proceed to lodge their objections to the proposal.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Tony Johnson advised that the Parish Council support scheme will cease from next year and sought assurance that we were aware of this as the Parish Council may need to make alternative arrangements. Although no specific date has as yet been agreed he thought it will apply from the financial year 2016.

Update Reports –

- a) **NDP** – Report from Carly Tinkler had been circulated to enable the AONB funding of £2,000. for Stage 1. Stage 2 will be covered by the Parish Council or funding. Carly Tinkler confirms she is ready to proceed and a letter of authority will be sent to her. She envisages this will take about 6/8 weeks dependent upon the weather – update report available for the January 2015 meeting. In the meantime SH confirmed she would like to meet with Carly Tinkler to update her about the HoV proposals.
- b) **HOV** – An ongoing draft analysis conducted by the HoV group had been circulated to all. KW presented the analysis (with the assistance of Nick Comley in attendance from Community First, to answer any queries if required) to develop a shared understanding of the HOV options and to determine what was considered to be the best way forward with the formation of a “BenComm ” with Community First assisting with planning and the Plunkett Foundation assisting with setting up costs and initial trading expenses. **(Copy Presentation available on file)**. During the presentation many questions were raised and it was confirmed that the Parish Council does not have to set up the BenComm. After lengthy discussions, it was proposed that the Parish Council now disassociate themselves with the HoV Working Party, having been assured by Cllr Iwanczuk that Mrs. Morgan is happy to donate the land to the HoV and into the BenComm, rather than as was originally thought to be a donation to the Parish Council for the benefit of the community.
RESOLVED – The HoV Group proposed that the Parish Council supports the setting up of a Community Benefit Society which is to be run separately from the Parish Council. This was seconded by Geoff Fielding and carried with everyone in favour.
SECONDLY RESOLVED – The HoV Group proposed that a charitable organisation be registered by the Parish Council with the Charity Commission to act as an asset lock for the BenComm. This was seconded by CL and carried but both KN and FB abstained from voting. Clerk to look into this request. **Tanya Lloyd Jones left the meeting.**
- c) Insurance for Footpath Officer – The Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation from the Parish Council insurance company that “our policy covers the footpath officer under the “Employers Liability Section” provided he is working under the instruction of the Parish Council.
- d) Clerk update – The Clerk confirmed that there was no further information available regarding Rectory Lane or Pound Bridge but that a further meeting had been set up with Housing Representatives and the Police regarding difficulties to let experienced at The Leys. The Clerk also confirmed she had requested some surface repair work in the Parish.

Items for consideration –

- 1) Donation to Cradley Village Hall for £2,603.34 – FB took the Chair and sought approval for a donation to the Village Hall – everyone voted in favour but it was noted that the Chairman and KN abstained for voting.

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- 2) Appointment of a Lengthsman – Prior to the meeting GF had circulated all Councillors with information regarding a new Lengthsman scheme put forward by Herefordshire Council, together with his own proposals of what a Lengthsman could achieve in the Parish and how the proposed system would work, adding that he would volunteer to be the Co-ordinator and run it for the first year if it was decided to proceed with appointing a Lengthsman for the Parish Council. It was noted that the Lengthsman was responsible for his own insurance. The offer from Herefordshire Council of “match funding” could be taken up at a later date if the new scheme was found to be beneficial for the Parish and it was unanimously agreed that GF approach Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty about setting up a new Lengthsman Scheme and he agreed to report back at the next meeting in January 2015.
- 3) Request from Jeff White for donation of £50 towards cost of new version of The Welcome Pack which would be distributed to every new resident in the Parish of Cradley (and Mathon) in order to cover The Revd. Robert Ward’s benefice. This was discussed and unanimously agreed that a contribution of £50. towards printing costs would be made, cheque to be signed at the meeting in January 2015.

Finance Matters – the following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Inland Revenue – PAYE for November £150.00.
- Donation to Storridge Village Hall agreed in October £961.01.
- T. Iwanczuk, expenses £27.34.
- Cradley Youth Group (repayment of Joyce Bibbings legacy) £1,000.00.
- Honorarium to Mike Hames £100.00.
- Pricepoint grass cutting/maintenance £384.00.
- Inland Revenue, PAYE for December £150.00.
- Clerk, expenses (3 months) £145.17.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by GF and carried, these accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Accounts to 30th September 2014 – The Clerk had circulated copies of the Accounts as prepared by T.Robshaw, and on a proposal by FB seconded by AE and carried, these Accounts were approved and signed off by the Chairman.

Budget/Precept for 2015/16 – The Report from the finance working party had been circulated to all Councillors and was put forward to approve a budget and precept for 2015/16. On a proposal by GF seconded by SH and carried the Budget was approved as drawn, and it was unanimously agreed that the Council should request a Precept of £27,000. for the year showing a slight increase from the previous year , primarily to cover the cost of work on Chapel Lane play area to level and re-align the football pitch. The Budget was signed off by the Chairman.

Reports – There were no reports from the Environmental Footpath Group, the Churchyards Committee or the Editorial Group. A meeting was proposed for the Recreation Area Committee to be held within the next two /three weeks.

Public Question Time – Due to the lateness of the meeting, all members of the Public had left the meeting.

Newsletter Items – Again it was agreed that this would be agreed at the discretion of the Chairman and Cllr. Wynne Harris.

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Correspondence received –

- Donation request from Cradley Village Hall for £2,603.34.
- Balfour Beatty definitive map modification order and upgrade of footpath CD34 and footpath CD36 in Rectory Lane area.
- Request for contribution from Jeff White towards printing of new version of The Welcome Pack.
- E-mail from Neil James regarding resurfacing work which the Clerk had replied to.
- Various e-mails regarding NDP forwarded to TLJ.
- E-mail from Insurance Co. regarding insurance cover for footpath officer, as above.
- Date fixed for meeting regarding policing work at The Leys.
- Response from Carl Brace regarding planning application P142727 at Wells Farm, Tanhouse Lane which apparently did not require planning permission.

Literature received –

- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine for November 2014.
- The Clerk magazine for November 2014.
- MHDC AONB Agenda for meeting on Friday 21st November 2014 mentioning AONB is likely to be supporting Cradley Parish Council in the development of their NDP.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Next meeting to take place in Storridge Village Hall on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7pm.

The Chairman invited all Councillors to a "Parish Council get together" on 9th December in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm – invitations to follow via e-mail.

Ken Nason

13th January 2015

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

Vice Chairman.