

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 7pm in Cradley Village Hall

Present: Councillors Judith Aldridge, Ann Carver, Giselle Edgar, Alan Eldridge, Geoff Fielding (Chair), Janita Goodwin, Wynne Harries, Clare Jones, Diane Merker (minute taker), David Roys, Anne Scarsbrook, Sarah Thomas.

In attendance: 8 local residents and the Ward Councillor Ellie Chowns

1. Apologies for approved absence

Simon Davies

- 1.1. Councillor Miles Meager's resignation was noted and a casual vacancy declared. Thanks were given for his enthusiasm and work during his time on the Council. Cllr. Scarsbrook commented on his resignation so soon after his election and felt saddened that he had left.
- 1.2. It was noted that an election had been requested for the two vacancies on the council. The closing date for both will be Thursday 16th August 2018.
- 1.3. The issue of polling cards at a cost of approximately £1 per elector for any contested election was proposed by Geoff Fielding, seconded by Anne Scarsbrook. All in favour. Although all councillors regretted the possible cost to the public of having yet another election.
- 1.4. The absence of the clerk was noted due to approved absence. Kate Woods would be taking up her post fully on Monday 20th August after her induction had finished which included website training.

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation

Cllr. Wynne Harries – item 6.1.2 (non-pecuniary)
Cllr, Alan Eldridge- item 6.1.2 (non-pecuniary)
Cllr. Ann Carver – item 8.2 (pecuniary)
Cllr. David Roys – Cradley Village Hall – item 13 (non-pecuniary)

3. Minutes of the previous meetings

- 3.1. It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10th July 2018 subject to the following amendment:

In item 8.1.1. Cllr. Carver wished to point out that no-one had been to check the Buryfields Recreation Ground and she was worried about insurance and safety.

- 3.2. It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on 27th July 2018 subject to the following amendments:

In item 1. Present Geoff Fielding (minute taker and Chair).
In item 2 Apologies: Simon Davies's name to be added.
Item 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 to be removed.

4. Open session

The meeting was now opened to the public.

Ward Councillors report

- 4.1. Cllr. Ellie Chowns reported that the £40 million investment would have sustainability at its core. Cllrs. Geoff Fielding and Wynne Harries and herself have been working together with the West Midlands Police Road Safety Team. She had also become a member of the pot hole task and finish group.

Cllr. Carver thanked Cllr. Chowns for putting pressure on Balfour Beatty to clear the debris from Kingsbridge.

A formal response with regard to the petition for Rectory Lane had been received and will be passed onto the clerk.

The results of the speed and number of vehicles data on the Bosbury Road was raised and concern over when was the data collected as the results seemed to be inconsistent with residents' concerns. This would be followed up.

Cllr. Chowns was also informed of an accident on the bend by the surgery and St. Katherine's passage and she would look into this.

Her next surgeries would be held in local pubs.

Representations from the Public

5. A member of the public gave a statement with regard to an enforcement appeal on land at Crumpton Hill Road. It was pointed out that the field shelter was moved regularly and no breach of planning rules had taken place.

A query was raised with regard to the website domain name change. There was no news to date on this and messages had been left at Herefordshire Council which were awaiting a response.

The meeting was now closed to the public.

6. Planning Matters

- 6.1. It was RESOLVED to make the following comments on planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council:

- 6.1.1. 181278/ENF – Land at Crumpton Hill Road. Enforcement Appeal re: removal of lorry.

PC comment: With reference to Cradley's NDP, CNDP 5: The PC would like the appellant to demonstrate fully that the mobile facility is necessary to the economic viability of the business. If so, then it is felt that conditions need to be put in place to protect the AONB so that it does not adversely affect the intrinsic natural beauty of the area.

6.1.2. 182375/F – Hopehouse Farm, Cradley. Proposed extension to agricultural building.

PC comment: No objections. All in favour.

6.1.3. 181495 – Woods End Barn, Halesend, Storrige.

Planning permission not required.

6.1.4. 182681 – The Elms, Rectory Lane, Cradley. Proposal to fell 2 leylandii trees causing excessive shading. Replace with beech hedgerow to boundary to match existing.

PC comment: no objections

6.2. The following planning approvals given by Herefordshire Council were noted:

6.2.1. 180816. – Storrige Farm, Birchwood Lane, Storrige. Proposed forestry storage building and access track (part retrospective). Storage building **withdrawn**. Access track **approved**.

6.2.2. 174057 – Land off Pixiefields. Proposed residential development. **Outline planning permission granted** with several conditions.

6.2.3. 181759 – Land at Grittlesend. Proposed erection of stables (change of use) and hay barn/feed shelter and retrospective planning approval for existing track. **Approved with conditions**, including not to be used for any commercial equestrian enterprise and steel containers to be removed within 6 months.

7. To note the settlement of the legal dispute between Mr. T. Robshaw, ex-internal auditor, and Cradley Parish Council and to read an agreed public statement:

The recent change of internal auditor was part of a review by the newly elected Parish Council. Cradley Parish Council would like to thank Mr. Robshaw for his 12 years of loyal service as an Internal Auditor and for always acting professionally. Cradley Parish Council would like to make it clear that no adverse inferences should be drawn in relation to the change of internal auditor which has simply formed part of a wider review. Cradley Parish Council acknowledges that its communications with Mr. Robshaw in this matter could have been handled with more sensitivity, having taken place immediately following the death of his wife and for which Cradley Parish Council offers its sincere apologies for any distress this may have caused.

8. Finance

8.1. Cllr. Harries gave an update on the Council's finances. It had spent 24% of its budget as of now. Our bank accounts stand at:

Current account: £32,065.39

Reserve account £14,882.27

8.2. It was RESOLVED to approve payment for the cost of a plaque (£79.16 + £15.82 vat) and refreshments at £23.00 for marking Fred Beard's 50 years serving as a parish councillor.

It should be noted that prior approval from the council should be gained before any form of expenditure. (Financial regulation 5.3.). But on this occasion it would be waived. This was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr.Scarsbrook.

8.3. It was RESOLVED to approve payment for the following invoices:

- 8.3.1. Clerk salary and HMRC as per contract
- 8.3.2 Really Rural (lengthsman R. Clarke July) £970
- 8.3.3 Eyelid Productions website management July 18 £30.00
- 8.3.4 Eyelid Productions (clerk website training) £60.00
- 8.3.5 Storridge village hall (4 and 28 June) £35.00
- 8.3.6 Storridge village hall (19 June and 2 and 5 July) £63.00
- 8.3.7 Kidwells Solicitors £1,005.00
- 8.3.8 F. White annual play equipment inspection £113.20

These were approved for payment proposed by Cllr. Harries and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

8.4. It was agreed that the Finance working group would look into proposals for appointing a new internal auditor.

9. Contracts

9.1. The lengthsman report had been previously circulated with proposed jobs for the lengthsman who would be back at work after the August bank holiday. There were 2 new additions to the list of jobs one in light of the playground inspection; bolts needed tightening on the multiplayer slides in Buryfields Recreation ground and attention needed to the trees which were now overhanging adjoining gardens. It was RESOLVED to hire a chipper up to a maximum of £100 and extra labour (through the Lengthsman's firm) for a maximum of 8 hours @ £20.00 to remove the dead wood left around the village. Proposed by Cllr. Scarsbrook seconded by Cllr. Goodwin.

It was RESOLVED to accept the following list of jobs and the above two extra jobs plus delegated powers to the clerk to spend £500 for materials, subject to checking our financial regulations. All in favour.

- New fence between Cradley Chapel and the Recreation Ground
- Painting fences at Kingsbridge and Pound Bridge
- Strimming of vehicle entrances along "Bumpy Lane" to improve sightlines
- Continuing drain clearance
- Footpath CD79 – attend to collapsed gate
- Footpath CD18 – clearing and waymarking post installation
- Footpath CD91 – new finger post required from U65652 and CD32B from A4103

9.2. This had been previously circulated by Cllr. Roys and it was RESOLVED that the risk management forms should be submitted every quarter from the Lengthsman.

9.3. Cllr. Fielding updated us on the Pricepoint Grass Cutting contract and felt that its operation was unsatisfactory. This would need re-tendering in September.

The meeting was suspended for 5 minutes for a comfort break.

10. To review working groups in the light of resignations and the decision in principle to disband the village infrastructure working group.

10.1 It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 7 a in order to revisit part of the working group structure, previously agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council . This was proposed by Cllr. Harries and seconded by Cllr. Carver.

10.2 The Recreation Group. **Cllr. Jones**, Cllr. Aldridge, Cllr. Edgar.

10.3 The Environment Group. **Cllr. Thomas**, Cllr. Merker, Cllr. Goodwin, Cllr. Scarsbrook co-opted lay members Jeff White, Jill Upton, Derek Scully.

10.4 The Graveyards Group. **Cllr. Aldridge**, Cllr. Merker, Cllr. Carver

10.5 The Footpaths/P3 Group. This was incorporated into the Environment Group.

10.6 Cllr. Fielding was confirmed as leader of the Finance Group and the Employment Group.

10.6.1 The Employment Group **Cllr. Fielding**, Cllr. Harries, Cllr. Roys, Cllr. Scarsbrook, Cllr. Merker

10.7 The Communications Group. The resignation of Cllr. Fielding from this group was noted.

10.8 GDPR Group. This was agreed to be disbanded and the issue handed to the Clerk for action.

10.9 HALC – East Herefordshire Area Committee. **Cllr. Harries**

All group leaders are in bold and terms of reference and proposed lay members will be discussed at the group's first meeting.

Note all other working groups remain as they are. All in favour.

The meeting at this point had been running for nearly 3 hours and some of the following items were deferred or not discussed.

11. To consider whether to include a Highways Co-ordinator in the Council's list of working groups and appointments.

This was deferred to September.

12. To discuss parish councillors' involvement in the Cradley Enquirer.

This item was moved to after item 13.

Cllr. Eldridge voiced his concerns about the Cradley Enquirer and involvement of Councillors in the advertising of it. This was echoed by Cllr. Edgar. Cllr. Roys left the room during the discussion at 10.13 pm.

13. To consider an invitation to take part in a Community Day at Cradley Village Hall and Cradley Church on 22nd September 11am-3pm.

A task and finish group was set up to organise this which consisted of Cllr. Carver and Cllr. Goodwin.

14. To consider a Cradley Community Watch

Deferred until September.

15. To consider the content and style of the monthly reports of Cradley Parish Council meetings in the CMS newsletter.

This was not discussed.

16. Update on Butchers' Lane one-way traffic problems and CPC response

Deferred until September.

17. Update on Data Protection Process

Deferred until September.

18. Information Sheet

This was previously circulated to councillors.

19. To note key items for CMS newsletter

This was not discussed.

20. Future items for the Agenda

To discuss if the Planning Working Group requires new members

21. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 7pm at Cradley Village Hall.

A resolution was not passed to exclude the public from the following confidential items.

22. Confidential items

22.1. To approve the confidential minutes of the meeting of 10th July.

This item was not covered.

Signed

Date

The meeting closed at 10.14pm