

## CRADLEY AND STORRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 7pm at StorrIDGE Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Judith Aldridge, Ann Carver, Janita Goodwin, Clare Jones, Wynne Harries (Chair), David Kingston, Diane Merker (minute taker), Robert Prosser, Terry Robshaw, David Roys, Anne Scarsbrook, Derek Scully and Sarah Thomas

**In attendance:** Local residents and the Ward Councillor Ellie Chowns

#### **Actions:**

##### **1. New councillors to sign acceptance of office**

David Kingston and Robert Prosser signed the acceptance forms and were welcome by the acting chair Wynne Harries.

##### **2. To elect a new chair of the Parish Council**

There were two councillors proposed for the position of Chair.

Cllr. Wynne Harries proposed by Cllr. Clare Jones and seconded by Cllr. Judith Aldridge.

Cllr. Derek Scully proposed by Cllr. David Roys and seconded by Cllr. Ann Carver.

A secret ballot was taken and Cllr. Wynne Harries was duly elected as Chair.

##### **3. To receive apologies for absence**

Parish Clerk for approved reasons.

##### **4. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation**

Cllr. Terry Robshaw – Item 8.3 (Non-pecuniary)

Item 8.5 (Non-pecuniary)

Item 8.9 (Non-pecuniary)

Cllr. Sarah Thomas - Item 8.9 (Non-pecuniary)

Cllr. Ann Carver - Item 8.9 (Non-pecuniary)

Cllr. David Roys - Item 7.1.1 (Non-pecuniary)

Item 8.9 (Non-pecuniary)

Cllr. Robert Prosser - Item 11 (Non-pecuniary)

Cllr. Diane Merker - Item 7.1.1 (Non-pecuniary)

##### **5. To approve minutes**

5.1. It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes subject to one amendment, the late arrival of Cllr. Merker of the ordinary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Chair signed the minutes in open meeting.

## **The meeting was now opened to the public**

### **6. Open session**

6.1 To receive a report from the ward Councillor Ellie Chowns

Her new year resolution was to be better at communication and she hoped that everyone had received her new year card sent to all electors in the ward.

The pothole task and finish group was still continuing and she was pushing for more improvement in cluster filling and better customer service.

At Hereford Council an E O meeting has been called to highlight problems in Children's Services. She will be attending this next week.

She welcomed the continued monitoring of accidents at Ridgeway Cross junction. There had been another 3 accidents recently on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> December and the 6<sup>th</sup> January. A meeting with personnel at Herefordshire Council had taken place but it was still not a top priority and she requested that we keep monitoring so that information can be passed on.

The Cowleigh road speed restrictions signs were not in place yet and she will investigate this.

A question was raised from a member of the public about the missing bollard at the Stoney Cross junction and the fact that people were still overtaking close to this junction. It was felt that if the bollard was in place it would help to prevent this. Also the lighting in the bollards at night was poor.

It was pointed out that the travellers were now living in the field fronting the A4103 and it transpired that a planning application had just gone in for change of use. (184680).

The lack of adequate signage at the B4220 turning to Ledbury at Stoney Cross saying that the bridge was closed further along this road was raised.

### **6.2. Representations from the Public**

#### **Planning Matters**

Item 7.1.2 - Mirrorbrook

It was felt that the PC need to show that they are satisfying the housing needs in the parish. And comments on Chapel Lane recreation ground were uncalled for.

Could mention be made of the soil mountains being created but no actual building work was being done despite permission to build.

The applicant for 7.1.1 would like to check that all councillors had received their comments with regard to the representation made on this planning application – this was confirmed by the Chair.

The appellant against an enforcement appeal at land at Crumpton Hill Road, Storridge would like it to be noted that the appeal was successful, and she was now in consultation with planning with

regard to the colour of the lorry trailer. She would also like it to be noted that a previous appeal against an enforcement order for removing a hedge was also successful.

### **Other matters**

One resident wished it to be noted that they were in support of meetings being tape recorded.

### **The meeting was now closed to the public**

#### **7. Planning Matters**

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

7.1.1. **P184341/FH** – Tara, 1 Brookside, Cradley WR13 5LE

**PC comment:** CSPC supports this application.

7.1.2. **P184247/F** – Mirrorbrook Store Holding, Stoney Cross, Cradley WR13 5JB. Proposed 3 x 2 bed semi-detached /terraced houses; 3 x 2 bed apartments; 1 x 3 bed semi-detached ; 4 x 4 bed detached houses.

**PC comment:** CSPC strongly objects to this application, as it is contrary to the following policies of the Cradley NDP:-

CNDP1 – Settlement Boundary

The site is **not** within the settlement boundary as defined on the Cradley Village policies map.

CNDP2 – Housing Provision

The site is adjacent to the settlement boundary but the proposed dwellings **are not** considered to make a positive contribution to the landscape setting.

The site **is not** defined as having moderate, high or very high capacity to accommodate development ( as required by CNDP2) – due to its visibility and sensitivity, it is defined as having low or very low capacity.

The council does not consider that existing approval for limited development on the site increase the capacity to accommodate more dwellings or creates a positive impact on the landscape settings.

We note that in comments from the housing officer in September 2018 regarding the previous application (182038) the Cradley NDP was referred to as 'out of date' . The PC assumes that this assertion relates to the capacity to accommodate development which was influenced by planning decisions taken after the Landscape Capacity Assessment and before the Plan had been made. The PC does not accept the argument that the landscape has been so badly damaged by what has happened to date that further development will enable it to be improved. This is not a valid planning argument and sets the precedent that if the landscape has been sufficiently despoiled, further

applications which propose 'Improvement' will be accepted. This is contrary to the values and policies of the CNDP.

There is no requirement for additional housing on this site. The CNDP clearly makes provision for adequate supply of housing on sites specified in Policies 1 and 2. Although Herefordshire Council has not got a demonstrated 5 year land supply, we in Cradley have an NDP that demonstrated that we can deliver at least our 14% increase in numbers allocation over the plan period. Any development needs to be 'proportionate' – this was reiterated numerous times when we were formulating the NDP and should still apply regardless of the position with Hereford and this proposal is not proportionate to the site or the 'village' as a whole.

#### CNDP5 – AONB

We consider that the proposed development, highly visible from the AONB, has an adverse impact on the intrinsic natural beauty of the landscape. The mitigating factors can not eliminate this impact and adding further dwellings on what will become a relatively high density site is not in line with the quality of the surrounding landscape.

There are highways issues with the proposal. It would seem that a road entrance on to the A4103 is proposed at this dangerous junction and that the other road onto the B4220 is situated on a blind bend.

We have concerns relating to the run off/drainage from this site on to adjacent properties.

It was felt that the proposed design of the houses was not in keeping and would dominate the listed building opposite. (Birch Cottage)

#### **7.1.3. P184196 – Eastbury Cottage, Storridge, Malvern. WR13 5EW**

**PC comment:** CSPC supports this application as long as the siting of the garage and its driveway does not obstruct the access to the PROW.

#### **7.2. To discuss CSPC's approach to monitor fulfilment of conditions on planning approvals**

It was RESOLVED to include in the planning group's remit to monitor a fulfilment of planning conditions

#### **7.3. The following planning decisions given by Herefordshire Council were noted:**

##### **7.3.1 P183820/K – Mistletoe Cottage, Cradley, Malvern WR13 5LL**

**APPROVED.** Ash (T1) – remove lowest 5 cm diameter branches and remove epicormic growth. Ash (T4), Maple (T5), Sycamore (T6) and Hornbeam (T7) - reduce the crowns and cut back suitable growth points.

##### **7.3.2 P183267/L – Bank Cottage, Crumpton Hill, Storridge, Malvern WR13 5HE**

**APPROVED** – Proposed alterations to the rear.

##### **7.3.3 P183207/FH – Poundbridge, Chapel Lane, Cradley, Malvern WR 13 5HX**

**APPROVED.** Proposed new external wall.

7.3.4. **P183208/L – The Red Lion Inn, Cradley, Malvern WR13 5NN**  
**APPROVED.** Replacement signage and lighting up-grade to low energy.

7.3.4 **P183206/L – Poundbridge, Chapel Lane, Cradley, Malvern WR13 5HX**  
**APPROVED.** Reconfiguration, repair and replacement to garden walls, outhouse, chimney and shed.

7.3.5 **P183569/1 – 11 Oaklands, Cradley, Malvern WR13 5LA**  
**APPROVED.** To reduce the height of the tree by 5-6 metres.

## 8. Finance

### 8.1. Monthly update on accounts

This was noted in the absence of the clerk.

### 8.2. To approve invoices for payment

It was RESOLVED to pay the following invoices:

Clerk salary and HMRC	as per contract
Clerk expenses	£26.04
123 Connect (payment for .gov domain)	£36.00 (incl. £6.00 VAT)
HALC CILCA Training (Law) for Clerk	£120 (incl. £20.00 VAT)

The Chair asked if the lengthsman payment could be added as this was a late arrival due to some confusion over when the PC were due to meet next. Proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Scarsbrook. All in favour.

Lengthsman	£480.00
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### 8.3. To note the following invoices paid in December 2018

Clerk salary and HMRC	as per contract
Clerk expenses (October not paid at previous meeting due to arithmetical error)	£82.20
HALC – Clerk and Cllr. T. Robshaw training	£156 (incl. £26.00 VAT)
Pricepoint Gardening Ltd inv. 15090	£914.64 (incl. £152.44 VAT)
Pricepoint Gardening Ltd Inv. 14765	£444.00 (incl. £74.00 VAT)
Storrige Village Hall inv. 1904	£21.00
Community Heartbeat inv. 2950	£162.00 (inv. £27.00 VAT)
Bromyard Timber and Fencing Ltd	£115.55 (incl. £19.26 VAT)
Storrige Village Hall inv. 1895	£21.00
M&H Arb Services Ltd inv. 988	£162.00 (incl. £27.00 VAT)
Steve Allard and Sons (cleaning of war memorial)	£900.00 (incl. £150.00 VAT)
County Building Supplies inv. 0065480	£159.50 (incl. £26.58 VAT)
County Building Supplies inv. 0066227	£2.74 (incl. £0.45 VAT)
Clerk expenses November 2018	£86.56
Donation to Malvern Hills AONB	£100.00
Lengthsman (PROW)	£50.00
Lengthsman	£630.00

#### **8.4. To approve budget proposal for public consultation**

It was RESOLVED to put the budget out to public consultation with amendments to figures relating to the recreations working group, the lengthsman, the environment group and the communications working group.

#### **8.5. To approve response to external auditor queries**

It was RESOLVED to approve the clerk's responses to the external auditor queries.

#### **8.6. To consider the cost of the Clerk's CILCA registration fee of £350**

It was RESOLVED to pay the cost of the Clerk's CILCA registration fee of £350.

#### **8.7. To consider the purchasing the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Arnold-Baker on Local council Administration book at £110.99**

It was RESOLVED to purchase the book at £110.99 (this includes £7.00 delivery charge and 20% discount for being a member of NALC/HALC. Original price was £129.99).

#### **8.8. To consider the renewal of anti-virus software at a cost of £20.00 + VAT for the year**

It was RESOLVED to renew the anti-virus software.

#### **8.9. To consider grant applications**

It was RESOLVED to give a grant to:

Cradley Village Hall	£1738.00 (for commercial insurance)
Cradley Village Hall	£373.35 (for management liability insurance)
Storrige Village Hall	£1113.96

#### **8.10 To appoint two new cheque signatories**

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Sarah Thomas and Cllr. Derek Scully would be the two new cheque signatories.

### **9. Working Groups**

#### **9.1. Recreation Working Group report**

It was RESOLVED to put the grass cutting contract out to tender with minor amendments relating to change of CPC to CSPC and tenders to be returned to the Clerk.

#### **9.2. Finance Working Group report**

It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendation that HALC be the internal auditor for one year. Proposed by Cllr. Harries and seconded by Cllr. Aldridge.

#### **9.3. Communications Working Group report**

The Chair thanked all contributors to the draft Reporter and the figures relating to the proposed 19/20 budget from item 8.4 will be amended. It was also decided that a note would be included about sending the Reporter out electronically in the future. Quotes are to be obtained with regard to printing and all councillors were asked to help with distribution.

It was RESOLVED to send out the Reporter as soon as possible.

#### **9.4. Churchyard working group report**

In response to a request for a donation to survey the yew trees in Cradley churchyard. The leader of the group Cllr. Aldridge visited the churchyard to see what was required.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of up to £100 for a survey relating to the health and maintenance of the churchyard yew trees.

9.5. This item was withdrawn.

### **10. Contracts**

#### **Lengthsman**

The lengthsman co-ordinator provided an update on the work of the lengthsman.

#### **The following work was agreed:**

At Chapel Lane to edge around soft matting in play area.  
Remove and dispose of orange/yellow plastic fencing and supports.  
Remove and dispose of unusable bench.  
Remove the wooden snake.

At Buryfields to fill in lower gap of fence by kissing gate.  
The table which is wobbling under the pergola.

The drains on Crumpton Hill Road need cleaning between the Cowleigh Road junction and the Worcestershire way.

#### **PROW**

A waymarker post needs replacing on CD79.  
A stile on CD73 needs repairing from the A4103  
CD73 a waymarker post is propped up?

### **11. To consider a letter to Crumpton Hill Village Green residents**

This was deferred due to the absence of the clerk. A letter will be sent out explaining that this item will be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

### **12. To consider the quotes received to re-gild the St. James the Great church clock**

Cllr. Goodwin gave us a very informative and detailed update on the Parish clock. She had got a new quote of £3,500 from Time Assured and was exploring the options of grants which may be available to us.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Goodwin continue with this task.

**13. To consider the format of the parish council minutes**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes continue as they are listing issues for discussion, decisions taken and action points only, and all documents which are relevant be attached. These will in future (as was the case with this meeting) be put on the website for the public to view.

**14. To receive an update on the grit bins**

The Clerk and Cllr Ann Carver have made contact with Balfour Beattie. This has resulted in one grit bin being placed by the memorial cross near to Cradley Church and another by Brookside. We are still hoping for two more at Kingsbridge and further up the road by the old pub.

**15. To receive requests for future agenda items**

Parking on the grass at Finchers Corner  
The possible running of a business at the old pub The Crown  
The role of the Clerk

**16. To receive the information sheet**

This had been circulated to all councillors and was duly noted.

**17. CMS newsletter**

Key items for the CMS newsletter:

A request for anyone with an old orchard to allow the environment group to investigate for noble chafer beetles.

Regilding of the parish clock.

Dog bins.

Update on the travellers site on A4103.

**18. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Storridge Village Hall.

A RESOLUTION was passed to exclude the public from the following confidential item.

**19. Confidential item**

19.1. To approve the confidential minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes with one amendment - addition of Cllr Clare Jones to the present list.

Signed.....

Date.....