

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th July 2011 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – Christopher Lowder (CL in the Chair) Ed Moseley (ED) Rosemary Diamond (RD) Tanya Lloyd-Jones (TLJ) Fred Beard (FB) Ken Nason (KN) Alison Symondson (AS) Wynne Harries (WH) Simon Adam (SA) Alan Eldridge (AE) and Michael Allfrey (MA). Also in attendance were District Councillors Tony Johnson and Carl Attwood, Kat La Tzsar from West Mercia Housing Association and two members of the public.

An apology for inability to attend the meeting had been received from Mike Brooksbank due to a business commitment.

CO-OPTION – Attending the meeting were Brian Gordon, Cheryl Smith and Simon Davies. All three members signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk, were welcomed by the Chairman and joined the meeting.

DECLARATIONS of Interest in items on the Agenda –

- CL & KN - Cradley Village Hall, personal interests.
- SA - Drainage issues, personal interest.
- AS & CS - Buryfields Play area, personal interests.
- MA - Land adjoining School, prejudicial interest.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meetings held on 14th June 2011, 5th July 2011 and the closed session on 5th July 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – For the benefit of new Members the Chairman advised on the general conduct during Council meetings and that the Parish Council are responsible for looking after the interest of the Parishioners. He indicated that Whitehall was looking at giving Parish Councils more power and felt that it was important to proceed with the Parish Plan and that the Localism Bill, at present going through Parliament, will look to change many things for Parish Councils.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Councillor C. Attwood requested an item on future Agendas to enable the District Councillors to give an update on issues on-going at Herefordshire Council and which would also give the Parish Council a chance to raise any issues which are of a concern. He advised that Budget issues will be revealed by T. Johnson at our August meeting. Cllr. Attwood was alerted to problems with HGVs still using the B4220 despite signs indicating that the road was unsuitable due to the partially demolished house near Bosbury and was asked to look at and comment on the recent survey form which has been sent out regarding the bus service.

PARISH PLAN ALLOTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE – This had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting for their comments prior to distribution to some local residents in the area of the proposed allotments on part of the Chapel Lane playing field owned by the Parish Council. It was also suggested that the Parish Council look at the offer from Herefordshire Council for fruit trees which might be useful as part of the allotment scheme. It was also agreed to leave copies of the

Questionnaire in the Post Office and at the Butchers shop for anyone who wished to take part in the survey, and offer both sites as a collection point for replies.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING - RD advised that following public consultation in the Parish Plan, a need was expressed for affordable housing in the Village. A survey by the Housing Dept at Herefordshire Council confirmed that there was a need for about 20 low-cost dwellings. The Planning Dept confirmed they would support such a plan and the Council discussed a number of sites with them, many of which were found to be unsuitable for various reasons including location, access etc. These were narrowed down to two (1) Chapel Lane and (2) land west of Pixiefield, the latter being the preferred option of Roland Close, Senior Planning Officer. It is now necessary for the Parish Council to investigate much more closely whether such a need exists particularly given the fact that since the Parish Plan was adopted, we have five such dwellings supplied at Old School Close, two at St. Katherine's and possibly another two on the Dragonwyck site. The West Mercia Housing representative said she would supply more information from the survey.

UPDATE REPORTS –

Rectory Lane – The Clerk advised that Will Steel from Herefordshire Council confirmed that this should now be progressed following a procedure set out in the emerging “List of Street Protocol”. This will be the first time this has been applied and he would be happy to visit and discuss how this can best work. This has been forwarded to David Creed-Newton to take up the offer and the Chairman confirmed that he would also attend any meeting to enable him to report back to full Council at the August 2011 meeting.

Drainage issues at Sandy Lane – The Clerk reported that Martin Jackson from Herefordshire Council advised that nothing had changed since his previous e-mail. He also advised Herefordshire Council has no funds of its own for such work and that funds would need to come from central government which are allocated on a priority basis, based on the cost benefit ratio. The benefit cost ratio is low on this site and it could be some time before he was able to look at alternatives that would improve the situation. He had also advised that the broken drain at Finchers Corner was a private drain for the properties 1-7 Finchers Corner and was the responsibility of the property owners to undertake any remedial works that they considered appropriate.

SA advised that he had spoken that day with Roger Gill and Roland Close from Herefordshire Planning Dept. who had confirmed that the power drain for the new development would be installed over the broken pipe within about three weeks and it was therefore vital that any repairs should be carried out before this was put in place. SA had also pressed for some agreement on the drainage problems at Sandy Lane. He agreed to pursue the matter and report back to the Chairman in due course who in turn would speak with David Creed Newton about both issues.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Mobile library changes – A copy of the Report from the cultural services manager had been forwarded to all Councillors which advised that this service might be replaced by a home delivery service to those in rural areas based upon their needs which will be assessed on the basis of health and mobility. The position was discussed and RD offered to telephone the Libraries Manager and

enquire about the home service and how many used the existing service in the area, and whether an alternative drop-off point could be set up. The Residents Lounge at The Leys was suggested, and

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dependent upon the reply, the Parish Council could then take up the matter with Elgar Housing Association regarding use of the Lounge.

Training Programme – All Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the Training Programme from HALC running through to March 2012 and Councillors were urged to attend some courses which would provide them with important information, particularly with regard to the Code of Conduct to which they were all obliged to adhere to.

Nomination form for M. Alfrey's appointment to HALC Executive Committee – MA had indicated his willingness to accept such an appointment and on a proposal by CL seconded by FB and carried, MA was duly elected and signed the Acceptance form which was witnessed by both the Chairman and the Clerk.

Dog Fouling – Following various complaints and on-going problems with dog fouling in the Parish SA kindly offered to make some signs for the Parish Council which could be displayed in particular "hot spots". This offer was generously accepted and in addition, the Chairman offered to get in touch with the Dog Warden.

B4220 – HGVs ignoring signs regarding the house on the corner of the Bromyard turn near Bosbury – this problem was brought to the attention of Cllr. Carl Attwood.

FINANCIAL MATTERS – The following Accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue, PAYE for June 2011 | £116.00. |
| • Wicksteed, play area inspection | £98.40 incl vat. |
| • Viking Direct, stationery | £144.50 incl vat. |
| • Clerk's expenses and allowances | £166.75. |

On a proposal by RD seconded by FB and carried these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

MA took the chair and on a proposal by FB seconded by RD and carried the Account from CVHMC for the amount of £99.00. was also approved for payment. (CL & KN abstained from the vote).

REPORTS from various Committees –

Planning – RD reported that the following applications had been received and discussed at the planning meeting prior to the full Council meeting –

- Tanhouse Farm – various change of use to barns and outbuildings at farmhouse – No objections raised.
- Land adjacent to Pilgrims, Cradley - erection of dwelling and garage - Objections raised due to position of land being immediately opposite the war memorial and on a very dangerous bend in the middle of the village.
- Windrush – change of use of agricultural land to give three vehicle parking space and replacement of septic tank sewage system – No objections but concerns that hard standing might exacerbate flooding in the area.
- RD also reported that the new detached dwelling at Grove Court, Suckley had been approved and that the proposed conversion of The Oast House, Vinesend Lane had been

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withdrawn. It was also reported that the proposed subterranean “Eye House” at Storridge had also been withdrawn.

Churchyards Committee – The Chairman advised there was nothing to report.

Playing Field Committee – The Chairman reported that the Deeds for Buryfields play area contained an agreement for erection of an 8’ fence which had been erected, and the previous owners next of kin agreed to write to the Parish Council giving permission for the erection of a shelter following upgrading of the site with play equipment.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by KN and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council purchase the equipment from Play Quest for the sum of £7,999. plus VAT. Prior to placing the order the Clerk was first to check with Fran White from Herefordshire Council that the equipment met with the Council’s approval and that the funds could be drawn down from the £17K which the Council were holding on behalf of the Parish Council following the development at Old School Close.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation

Attending the meeting was Mrs. Samantha Roffe who complained that following the Parish Council Questionnaire to children in the Parish enquiring what they would like to see in the play area, there had been no reply to her children’s response to the Questionnaire.

She enquired how many Questionnaires had been distributed and was informed that this had been done by a leaflet drop to the School and also on line. The only response had been 2/3 replies on line, one of which was from her children, and that about a dozen replies had been received in total which was very disappointing and offered little guidance to the Playground Committee trying to reach a suitable decision for the two play areas in the Parish.

She also enquired what conclusions the Parish Council reached following the Questionnaire and was advised that the Council had decided to go ahead and make up their own minds on the equipment which could be purchased with the funds in hand and report back to the full Council for their approval.

She also enquired what had happened to the funding and when this was first made available to the Parish Council – the Chairman advised her of the difficulties regarding the development of the site with Developers and that the funds had not been available until some properties on the site had been sold. It was thought the funds became available to the Council during 2010.

Mrs. Roffe was extremely unhappy about the lack of information and that there was no indication of what play equipment was proposed. KN advised that there was always a report of the Parish Council meeting in the Newsletter. When asked, Mrs Roffe declined the offer to join the Playing Field Committee.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting

Editorial Group – Next Reporter due out in August, Web-site continuing at the same level of about 25 visits a day but that the web-site visit for the Parish Plan appeared to be decreasing.

HALC – MA advised there was a meeting in Bromyard on the 13th July and that the Executive Committee meeting was in approximately two weeks time.

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CORRESPONDENCE/LITERATURE –

Letter, Information Commissioners Office confirming the Parish Council is now registered under the Data Protection Act 1998.

E-mail – Will Steel that Rectory Lane should be progressed following a procedure set out in the emerging “List of Street Protocol”.

E-mail – Les Darrall regarding his unhappiness about the affordable housing meeting starting earlier than the advertised 7.30 and that the incorrect date given in the Newsletter.

Information Corner: HALC list of training dates, individual Councillors notification under the Data Protection Act, PAYE for Clerks and information folder for all Councillors following the May elections.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS – New members (also to go in the Reporter) District Councillors now request appointed slot on the monthly Agenda, allotment questionnaire, affordable housing advising that the parish Council are now narrowing down suitable sites and that this housing project would come in conjunction with a 106 exclusion agreement, Rectory Lane, drainage at Sandy Lane still unresolved, mobile library, MA appointed to HALC Executive Committee, SA supplying the Parish Council with free signs for dog fouling, and that the Council are in a position to order playing field equipment for Buryfields site once the Clerk has obtained confirmation from Herefordshire Council that the proposal meets with their approval and that the money remains available.

NEXT MEETING to take place on Tuesday 9th August 2011 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

ON A PROPOSAL by MA seconded by SA and carried the Council went into closed session.

C. Lowder, Chairman.

9th August 2011.

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

