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THE ANNUAL MEETING of Cradley Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 4th May 2010 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – D. Creed-Newton (DCN) K. Nason (KN) F.Beard (FB) J.Edgar (JE) A. Eldridge (AE) R. Gill (RG) P Diamond (PD) R. Diamond (RD) and M. Allfrey (MA).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN for 2010/11 –

On proposal by RG, seconded by JE and carried, David Creed-Newton was re-elected as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

APOLOGIES had been received and accepted from M. Sheriff due to a business commitment and from C.Lowder on health grounds.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST were received as follows –

- KN, JE & DCN – Personal interest in Cradley Village Hall
- No prejudicial interests were declared.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN for 2010/11 – On proposal by MA, seconded by AE and carried, Roger Gill was re-appointed as Vice-Chairman.

ELECTION OF SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS as follows

Planning Committee – On a proposal by DCN seconded by KN and carried, MA was re-elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2010/11.

All existing members were re-appointed on to the Committee, and the existing terms of reference were re-adopted.

Playing Fields – Chairman, Vice Chairman, MS, CL, KN, PS & AE.

DCN agreed to act as Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee on a temporary basis. The terms of reference were re-adopted.

The following members and representatives were proposed, seconded and carried -

Churchyards Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, MB, PS, FB & CL.

The terms of reference were re-adopted.

Footpaths Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, AE, CL, JT & JE.

The Committee to appoint a Chairman at their next meeting.

Cradley Village Hall Management Committee – CL and DCN who confirmed they were prepared to act as the Parish Council Representatives.

Storridge Village Hall Management Committee – FB was re-appointed as the Parish Council Representative.

HALC – MA was re-appointed as the Parish Council member.

Charities of Richard Hill – Dr.S. Herriot, M. Clark, Mrs. D. Cale & F. Beard.

Dr. Herriot was the retiring member this year and had indicated he was willing to be re-appointed.

M. Clark had offered his resignation on health grounds, and on a proposal from FB, seconded by KN and carried, John Rowe was invited to become a member of the Charities of Richard Hill and others.

Employment matters – Committee to consist of former Chairmen, the existing Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Finance Working Group – Chairman, Vice Chairman, MA and AE.

Editorial Group – Reporter and Newsletter – CL and KN.

Parish Plan Group – Committee to consist of RD, PD, MB and MS.

A notice of resignation from this Group had been received from C. Lowder.

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Cheque Signatories – it was agreed existing signatories should be reappointed consisting of AE, DCN, RG, MA and the Clerk. Signature to all cheques required by any two members, plus the Clerk.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR – On proposal by KN, seconded by FB and carried, Terry Robshaw was re-appointed as the Parish Council Internal Auditor.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS – The Clerk requested all Councillors to ensure that their Declarations of Interest Forms were up to date and accurate.

SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL REPORTING – On proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed the existing arrangement of financial reporting to the end of September and March in each year should continue.

THE MINUTES of the Meeting held on 13th April 2010 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

Rectory Lane – Investigations continue regarding responsibility for this lane.

Parish Plan – Meeting to take place on 22nd June in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm to enable the draft plan to be presented to the Parish Council.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Feedback on Parish Meeting – Although the meeting had been successful, attendance was most disappointing. The Chairman had written a note of thanks to the Speakers and recorded his thanks to all members who had assisted at the meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

Accounts for payment – The following Accounts had been received for payment -

- Local Council Review subscription £13.50.
- Clerk's allowances and expenses £152.12.
- K. Nason, expenses re Reporter & Parish Meeting £86.34.

On proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, payment of these Accounts were approved.

KN, JE & DCN left the room.

The Vice Chairman took the chair and on a proposal by FB seconded by RD and carried, payment of the under-mentioned CVHM Committee Accounts were approved for payment –

- CVHM Committee, Parish Meeting wine £30.25.
- CVHM Committee, hire fees £20.00.
- CVHM Committee – Photocopying £75.00.
- CVHM Committee – Photocopying £75.68.
- CVHM Committee, Parish Plan photocopying £32.95.

KN JE & DCN rejoined the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE received –

Letter, Wicksteed with Report on inspection of playground equipment. *Following receipt of the Report, a Meeting of the Playing Field Committee was agreed on 18th May 2010 at 7.30pm to consider the contents of the Report and take any necessary action to improve the condition of the equipment and grounds.*

E-mail – Andrew Lee Jones re A4103 at Storridge.

Numerous e-mails from MPC Associates, C. Brace, Stephen Forman, Peter Wynne James and Mr. Dodd *regarding the planning application for redundant barn at Lower Nupend, Cradley which the Parish Council commented on in April 2010 that*

“they would be happy with B1 use but not B8, and further raised concerns on traffic issues in the Lanes in and around the property.

Letters of resignation from Jonathan Tudor and Elizabeth Mikata.

LITERATURE received –

Letter and Newsletter from Supt., Kevin Purcell, West Mercia Police, copy handed to all Councillors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Attending the meeting was Mr. Dennis Johnson who handed over letters from Herefordshire Council regarding his request for information on properties in the Parish affected by Agricultural ties, and stating that the information would be available to him at a cost of £2000. The letters were handed to RG who agreed to draft a reply on behalf of Mr. Johnson.

The Chairman proposed that RG, MA and Mr. Johnson look into the query regarding agricultural tied properties in the Parish.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER – Elections and re-appointments of Chairmen and Councillors, meeting regarding Chapel Lane following Wicksteed Report, update on the A4103 through Storrige and presentation of the Parish Plan. In the absence of CL, KN agreed to draft the copy.

REPORT by Planning Committee Chairman –

MA reported on the under-mentioned Planning applications received and considered prior to the Annual Meeting –

Application No. DMNE/100782/FH – Applegarth, Bosbury Road - two storey side extension – *no objections raised.*

Application No. DMNE/100594/FH – Seven Oaks, Birchwood, Storrige - two storey extension – *no objections raised, but comment that if this goes ahead, this further reduces the stock of two bedroom properties in the Village.*

Application No. DMNE/100727/CLUED – The Crown Inn, Cradley – proposed certificate of lawful development for existing use of ground floor for residential purposes – *we have made enquiries and are given to believe that occupation of the ground floor has been intermittent and occasional rather than consistent and continuous. This may be because there has been no heating beyond open fires and only rudimentary lighting. Parts of the witness statements submitted by the applicant would appear to accord with this view. The residents of Cradley have demonstrated time and again their desire to have these premises reopened as a public house. In the early 2000’s the greatest single issue in the Parish Council election was a move that could have prevented forever the premises reopening as a pub. A petition in 2003 gathered 240 signatures asking for The Crown to be reopened. In 2009 a major exercise to consult parishioners as part of the Parish Plan process identified a very significant demand for some form of social hub for the village, a desire to enhance the tourist potential of the village and there were renewed specific requests for The Crown to be reopened. With the right commercial approach to running a pub in this location a substantial local clientele could be expected to augment the passing trade of visitors and rambles. The permanent loss of this amenity would be a significant loss to the village. We are also concerned that the repeated presence of building equipment, building material*

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and building waste on the premises over the last ten years has been turning the site of two important listed buildings into an eyesore, as well as obscuring parts of the buildings.

Application No. DMNE/100241/FH – Old Rectory, Cradley – construction of new access with wooden gates and closing off old access – *we reiterate our previous comments on the previous version of this application, but highlight the following points (1) the proposal to close up the existing entrance transgresses beyond the boundary of the property and onto a part of the public highway which has been in public use for over a century, and (2) the original application in 2009 suggested that the gate at the new entrance should be open ironwork facilitating the view of the listed building. The current proposal suggests the view be blocked off with solid wooden gates. Perhaps a compromise would be to have an openwork wooden gate allowing the view as is currently available through the current entrance and has been for many decades. (The original comments to the previous application were then set out- see Minutes of 13th April 2010 – Ref: 2010/17).*

Application No. DMNE/100751/FH – Nupend Farm, Cradley – alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to form first floor bedroom accommodation, single storey garden room, porch and detached garage - *objections, we consider the degree of extension disproportionate and considerably intrusive and further reduces the stock of small properties in the Village.*

The Chairman also reported on previous applications which had been approved, refused or withdrawn.

HALC Report – MA reported that in the past no Budgets had been prepared and that a Sub-Committee had been formed to look at the HALC Accounts. The East Herefordshire HALC Meeting had received a report that there was now a considerable reduction of the amount of waste sent to land fill following the introduction of wheeled bins.

RG reported that he had spoken with the Enforcement Officer with regard to the “hippy camp” and that he has inspected and is now making local enquiries with a view to service a legal notice on the residents.

The Enforcement Officer had not yet visited Mirror Brook as he wishes to attend with Roland Close, the Planning Officer, but advised that they are fully aware of the situation. RG was also to request the Enforcement Officer to look at the land at the rear of Red.....as there were suggestions that the plot is being used as a depot for plant hire.

AGENDA item for next meeting – Expenses in connection with postage of The Reporter.

NEXT MEETING - Cradley Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th June 2010.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

