

MINUTES of a Meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th July 2010 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

APOLOGIES were received and accepted for inability to attend the meeting from M. Brooksbank who was away on business and P. Stanley for family reasons. An apology had also been received from Cllr. Tony Johnson who reported his brother had just been taken into Hospital.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

- KN declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall, Rectory Lane and the Sports Club.
- DCN, JE, CL declared a personal interest in Rectory Lane and the Village Hall.
- MA declared a prejudicial interest regarding the sports field and the letter of complaint.

MINUTES - The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 22nd June 2010 were also taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to one minor amendment.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES - applications had been received for consideration as follows -

- Tanya Lloyd-Jones
- Claire Anna Dawkins.

These were put to the vote and both applicants co-opted onto the Parish Council, Tanya Lloyd-Jones signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the Meeting.

PARISH PLAN Report - PD reported that the Plan had been lodged with Herefordshire Council with an expected return date of mid-August. Copies had also been sent to all relevant parties, a copy was on the web-site and hard copies available at various outlets in the Village. It was also proposed to distribute an executive summary of the plan to every house in the Parish.

It was agreed to defer formation of the Parish Plan Group until after the consultation process had been carried out and a full update at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

PROGRESS REPORTS -

Rectory Lane - All Councillors had been issued with a copy of Mike Hames' Report on his investigations into Rectory Lane.- no questions raised at this time.

A4103 - Although no report was available, the Clerk had been told that the matter was in hand with Highways at Herefordshire Council. The speed van appeared to be making regular visits to the area..

Pound Bridge - CL reported that the work force from the Parish Initiative team had visited and taken away undergrowth on roadway and the path but had not removed the undergrowth by the bridge.

RESOLVED - CL proposed that the Clerk write to Highways pointing out that the highway runs down to the bridge itself and whilst thanking them for the work they have put in hand. asking if they could clear the vegetation by the bridge. The Clerk reported that Herefordshire Council hoped to have a new system up and running shortly whereby Parish Clerks could be advised what work had actually been carried out.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION -

September meeting - it was **RESOLVED** the date for the meeting of the Parish Council should be brought forward to the 7th September 2010.

Re-Adoption of Financial Regulations - Subject to some minor changes to the Parish Council Financial Regulations regarding cheque signatories, borrowings and supply of services these were re-approved as drawn to include points raised/recommended by HALC on a proposal by RG, seconded by JE and carried. New amended copies to be issued to all.

Cradley Sports Club development - MA left the meeting - A request for additional funding had been received from Frank Hare to assist in expenses for this proposed development. Lengthy discussion took place regarding what other funding is in place and the viability of the project.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by RG seconded by JE and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council write enquiring the amount of funds raised to date, what they have been spent on and an estimate of their running expenses.

MA rejoined the meeting

Rectory Lane action - The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hames for his immense and thorough research into the whole project. It had been shown that Rectory Lane was a king's highway and that, whilst the Parish Council had had the chance to adopt the lane, no evidence has been found that this was done.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by DCN, seconded by RG and carried, it was agreed we write to Herefordshire Council asking them to prove that since the 1830's this status has been changed. Prior to this action, it was agreed we engage our two County Councillors, sending them copies of Mr. Hames' evidence, to be followed up with a meeting with them, prior to the Parish Council sending in the paperwork to Herefordshire Council.

Adoption of complaints procedure - The draft as recommended by HALC had not been received, so this was deferred until the next meeting.

Letter of complaint - The Chairman reported on advice received from HALC that the complaint could be dealt with in open session without mentioning names, but if it was felt that names should be revealed, then this would need to be dealt with in closed session. Councillors were also asked to consider whether there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct and whether there is need for a referral, bearing in mind that a personal apology had been sent.

RESOLVED - RG proposed that we discuss it in closed session. This was seconded by CL and carried, with one abstention.

The Council went into closed session –

see attached.

The Chairman then re-opened the Parish Council meeting.

Financial matters - To approve payment of the following Invoices -

- Viking Direct, toners for photocopier. 109.95.
- HALC - hard copy standing orders 25.00.
- D. Horne grass cut 58.75.
- AE Brown, repairs to playground items £100.00.
- Clerks expenses and allowances £174.

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

KN, DCN, JE & CL left the room

RG advised Accounts had been received from CVHMC for hire fees -

On a proposal by MA seconded by FB and carried the following Invoices were also approved for payment -

- CVHMC, hire fee for Parish Council meetings £52.00.
- CVHMC, hire fees for Parish Plan meeting £24.00.

CL, DCN, JE & KN rejoined the meeting

Reports from Various Committee members -

Planning Report - MA reported that the following applications had been considered -

(1) The Crown Inn - Certificate of lawfulness for use of ground floor for residential purposes -

The applicant offers no substantial evidence to negate what we have said previously and our previous comments hold.

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(2) Land at rear of Orchard End - change of use of parcel of land from amenity land to garden (amended plans) - ***we repeat our original objection. This land could qualify as a Village Green because it meets all the criteria. We endorse the comments made by Mr. John Sands in his letter dated 12th July.*** 2(3) Nethergreen Garm, Ridgeway Cross - erection of timber framed craft studios to provide workshop and training facilities - ***we support this as being a useful addition to the Village.***

(4) Litter Halesend, Storridge - part retrospective application for approval of construction of brick and stone faced retaining walls for proposed alterations to garden layout, regrading existing ground level to suit - ***we have no objections to this particular application,***

(5) Cradley Post Office & Stores, Cradley - work to tree in conservations area - fell one ash - ***No objections.***

The Chairman then reported on previous applications approved, refused or withdrawn.

Churchyards Committee - CL reported that the pyracantha has been planted, half of which cost were to be met by the Parish Council. A further Invoice has been received for taking down trees and CL proposed that the Parish Council pay half of this cost.

Playing Fields Committee - Further meeting took place on the 6th July.

New inspection record in use, bye-laws will be erected. Donation of plants for the hedge, clerk to write thanking Adam Dunnett .for these and his help with the work.

Wicksteed will carry out repairs as soon as parts are available.

Clerk reported on cost of insurance and it was decided to leave the play equipment uninsured.

Committee looking at extra funding and the right play equipment for the Chapel Lane site. MA offered to remove the tree which had fallen down at Buryfields, work to be done before the next PC meeting.

Editorial Group - KN will provide draft of the Reporter for approval at next meeting.

Web-site continues to be used which has been updated with the Parish Plan site.

HALC - MA reported meeting of East Herefordshire Group on the 14th July in Ledbury.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Consultation on Community safety and substance misuse in Herefordshire “Safer Herefordshire” questionnaire to complete.

Herefordshire Council “Everybody’s business” start of Herefordshire safeguarding adults board campaign to raise awareness about abuse to adults and the action which can be taken to prevent and to respond to incidents.

Herefordshire Council “shaping our place 2026 campaign” with consultation events in Ledbury and Bromyard.

Herefordshire Council - advising any vacancies arising on or after 9th November 2010 can be left unfilled or the parish/town council may co-opt to fill the vacancy. Any casual vacancies arising after that date will be filled by way of an election if requested by ten electors, or by co-option if an election is not called.

Letter - Tanya Lloyd Jones requesting to be considered for one of the PC vacancies.

E-mail - Claire Dawkins requesting to be considered for one of the PC vacancies.

E-mail - Michelle Morgan regarding information when work has been completed.

Letter - complaint regarding planning application.

Letter - Elgar Housing advising that the proposed sale of land at Credenleigh had been cancelled. It was proposed that the site could be registered as a Village Green and that Credenleigh residents be encouraged to buy it themselves.

LITERATURE -

Bus and train timetable.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Local Council Review including rural reporter.

The Clerk Magazine.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS - Rectory Lane accepting Mike Hames Report and will be sent on to Herefordshire Council following briefing of two District Councillors.

Pound Bridge, Change of date of meeting in September.

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Parish Council vacancies, with co-option of Tanya Lloyd Jones and Claire Dawkins. It was suggested we advertise the remaining vacancy again in September.

Churchyard Committee and Playing Field Committee reports.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee, Complaints Procedure, ask Geoff Wilkes to put in Quote for Chapel Lane playing fields.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - John Miller reported that with regard to the Old Rectory, he had been in touch with Highways Dept who are satisfied that if Planning Permission and Listed Consent has been obtained, they are happy that the wall at the original entrance to the property should be erected straight across the entrance, rather than indented to indicate the original entrance-way.

Claire Anna Dawkins signed her Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk and was formally co-opted onto the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed – D. Creed-Newton - Chairman.

Dated – 10th August 2010

