

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th September 2010 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – D. Creed-Newton (DCN – in the Chair), T.Lloyd-Jones (TLJ), K. Nason (KN), R. Gill (RG), F. Beard (FB), A. Eldridge (AE), R. Diamond (RD), P. Diamond (PD), C. Lowder (CL) and J. Edgar (JE). Also attending the meeting was Cllr. Roy Stockton and Mr. D. Johnson.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting had been received from M.Allfrey and M. Brooksbank due to business commitments and from Poppy Stanley and Claire Dawkins due to holiday arrangements.

MINUTES – PD commented on his unhappiness regarding some of the wording in the Minutes. Various amendments were approved and made. Subject to these, the Minutes were then taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

PARISH PLAN – PD reported on C.Gooding's comments that he considered the Parish Plan to be excellent and offered his assistance in the future. The Plan has now been sent to a Designer and will be printed and available for the launch meeting in September, at which both C. Gooding and A. Bush will be attending. A member of the Parish Council was still required for the Transport and Community Safety Group; following no volunteer, it was agreed to ask other members whether they wished to become involved in the Parish Plan Group. It was agreed that both the Chairman and Vice Chairman should attend future meetings of the Groups if convenient to them.

KN proposed a vote of thanks to PD for his leadership during the Parish Plan process.

Progress Reports –

A4103 – Resurfacing of the road had taken place and various road markings indicated on the surface. The Clerk advised she had nothing further to report but had enquired what markings were proposed.

Cradley Sports Club – Nominated members of the Parish Council had met with G. Thomas to go through various figures and it was reported that the Club had not completed their annual Reports of income; assistance was offered with this and a ten year plan had been prepared. G. Thomas reported the Club now have funds from elsewhere to cover the additional costs for the planning process but it had been agreed that there was not sufficient financial control in place at the Club to warrant the Parish Council lending the money.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by PD and carried a reply should be sent to the Club advising them accordingly. Thanks were expressed to RG and his team for the way the matter had been dealt with.

Rectory Lane – The Chairman reported on meeting with Cllrs. R. Stockton and T. Johnson and that M. Hames had since obtained additional information through the Freedom of Information Act, further strengthening the case which has been compiled. The final document will be available later in the month and will then be sent to R. Stockton for submission to Herefordshire Council.

Drainage issues – Copy of a letter from Herefordshire Council had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and it was agreed that the sewerage problems had not been dealt with in their letter. RG had therefore prepared a draft Statement which he considered should be sent to Herefordshire Council.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by DCN, seconded by JE and carried, the Parish Council agreed to submit RG's statement to Herefordshire Council advising that they have been grossly negligent in their dealings over this on-going problem. Copies of the statement to be sent to Clive Hall and Roy Stockton for their information and a vote of thanks was proposed and carried for RG's hard work regarding drainage problems in the Parish.

Items for Consideration –

Co-option of new member – Four applications had been received. Voting slips were distributed and S. Adam was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Vacancy on Planning Committee – Following the resignation of PD, TL-J was duly elected onto the Planning Committee.

Revised Standing Orders – These had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The Chairman advised these had been drafted in accordance with the national document with a preface included about Chairmanship.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, the new standing orders were formally adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Donation to Village Event – PD advised this matter had now been approached from a different point of view and there was nothing further to discuss at this time.

Councillor facilitators for Parish Plan working groups – This item had been dealt with under the Parish Plan Report.

Forward Plan for Housing in Herefordshire – The Chairman reported on meeting attended by himself and other Councillors which had been chaired by Herefordshire Forward Planning. A presentation of what Herefordshire Council were seeking to enable Parish Councils to make an appropriate response had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The suggestion was for two tiers of allocations – at a lower level were about thirty villages which could take up to thirty houses, whereas at a higher level up to one hundred houses could be taken over a twenty year period. Cradley did not appear on either of these so does not appear for increased housing except through the existing infill arrangement. Some Parishes might wish to change the settlement boundary, some might go for housing outside the settlement boundary, but Herefordshire Council now wish the Parish Council to respond to their structured approach to housing.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RD seconded by TL-J and carried it was agreed Herefordshire Council proposals were acceptable.

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by KN seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed the existing settlement boundaries were acceptable.

FURTHER RESOLVED – On a proposal by RD seconded by TL-J and carried it was agreed the 40% ratio for affordable housing was acceptable.

FINANCIAL MATTERS –

Annual Return – The Clerk reported the Annual Return had been approved with no queries raised by the External Auditors.

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

- Mazars – External Audit fee £158.62 incl. Vat.
- 4 Seasons Ground Care – grass cutting £599.26. inc. Vat.
- Wicksteed at Chapel Lane repairs £1,824.33. incl. Vat.
- Storridge Village Hall donation £877.33.
- Clerk – expenses and allowances £255.10.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RD seconded by RG and carried these accounts were approved for payment, cheques signed and Invoices initialled.

JE, CL, KN & DCN left the room

RG took the Chair and reported the following Accounts had also been received for payment –

- CVHM Committee photocopying £90.04.
- CVHM Committee, Parish Plan group expense £112.10.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RD seconded by FB and carried these accounts were approved for payment, cheques signed and Invoices initialled.

JE, CL, KN & DCN rejoined the meeting

Committee Reports –

The Chairman reported that the following applications had been considered prior to the Council meeting

- **Baytree Cottage** for removal of covered store and construction of extension to existing stables had been withdrawn.
- Regarding a proposed detached hobby room, store, WC and garage block at **St. Andrews, Bosbury Road**, the Parish Council had replied that ***“whilst we consider the replacement of the present arrangement to be an improvement, the scale of the building is out of***

proportion with the existing house and we feel that the aims could be achieved by a smaller build”.

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- Regarding a change of use to residential comprising construction of seven houses application for **St. Katherines Field**, the Council had commented *“The Council remain very uncomfortable with the findings of this Report since both villagers and Councillors know that there has been run off from storm water in the past. The Report implies that there is a flood risk within the site and we would strongly suggest that Herefordshire Council take full responsibility for checking the data in this Report and in failures in the drainage system due to this development in the future.. We would also ask that the Developer provide proper solutions for storm water during the construction process”*

The Chairman reported that Herefordshire Council had advised that a Certificate of Lawful use or development had been granted for the existing use of ground floor for residential purposes at The Crown Inn, Cradley.

Churchyard Committee – CL advised nothing to report.

Playing Committee – The Chairman reported as follows –

Some of the painting has been done to a very high standard. No Invoice received for materials. It was proposed we write thanking M. Brooksbank’s partner for her excellent work. Unfortunately some vandalism already carried out. Aerial flyer had been removed. Inspectors advised about slippery surfaces and DCN reported he had carried out power washing.

It was suggested Rushwick play area was a good example of a play area which included a BMX track.

RG circulated a note about future uses for Chapel Lane and proposed ideas should be tested on Parishioners with a Questionnaire about possible use in the future such as partial use as an allotment site.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by KN and carried it was agreed the Parish Council submit the document to the appropriate Working Group of the Parish Plan and report back to full Council with some specific uses after the launch meeting of the Plan in September.

Editorial Group – KN advised Reporter had been distributed; volunteers sought for delivery in some areas and that the Web site was still attracting regular visits.

HALC – No report available.

CORRESPONDENCE – Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding drainage problems in Cradley, Letter from Dennis Johnson regarding vacancy on Parish Council; numerous e-mails regarding drainage issues from persons affected by flooding problems; e-mail from Martin McAleese regarding Parish Council vacancy and e-mail from HALC that they do not have a Service Level Agreement with Parish Councils.

LITERATURE – Festival Housing Group 2nd year Report for 2009/10; “No need for Nuclear” leaflet and letter; Clerks and Councils Direct magazine; Malvern Hills CAB Annual Review 2009/10; Community First “Third Sector Support Services Needs survey” and Local Council update.

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The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation

Dennis Johnson reported that Tanhouse Lane drainage had been rectified and thanked the Council for their co-operation.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting

NEWSLETTER ITEMS – Parish Plan report plus praise/thanks to the Group, Rectory Lane, drainage issues, one new Councillor co-opted onto Council, TL-J had joined planning group, revised Standing Orders adopted, Forward Planning for Housing and Playing field report.

FINANCE GROUP MEETING to take place on Tuesday 19th October at 7.30 at Hill View, Vinesend Lane.

NEXT MEETING of the Parish Council to take place on Tuesday 12th October 2010 in **StorrIDGE** Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35 (?)

D. Creed Newton, Chairman

12th October 2010.

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