

2010/05.

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Clerk requested nominations for the election of a stand-in Chairman, due to the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

On a proposal by PD, seconded by KN and carried, Michael Allfrey took the Chair.

**PRESENT** - M. Allfrey (in the chair - MA), P. Diamond (PD), R. Diamond (RD), K. Nason (KN), A. Eldridge (AE), F. Beard (FB), J. Edgar (JE), C. Lowder (CL), M. Brooks bank (MB) and P. Stanley (PS). Also in attendance were Cllr. Roy Stockton and Mike Hames.

**APOLOGIES** for inability to attend the meeting had been received from D. Creed Newton who was away on holiday and from J. Tudor, E. Mikata, M. Sheriff and R. Gill for business reasons.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -**

KN & JE declared a personal interest in Cradley Village Hall.

MA declared a personal interest in Storridge PCC.

**MINUTES** - The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were taken as read, confirmed subject to a few minor amendments and signed by the Chairman.

**PARISH PLAN** - PD advised that since the resignation of Mark Higgins, he had been elected Chairman of the Steering Group. Following the successful questionnaire and the 'watershed' open meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, he was pleased to report that the progress of the Plan was encouraging and that both formally and informally in the Parish, there was evidently an air of optimism, even excitement, as a result.

At this crucial stage it was felt important that the Parish Council be proactive with the Parish Plan group in leading a number of community initiatives which were immediately important, for example

(1) His own paper on Communications which had been circulated prior to the meeting in November, proposing the PC the only Statutory representative body in the Parish as the commissioning authority responsible and necessary to ongoing discussions. PD felt the PC's response had been indifferent.

(2) M. Sheriff's e-mail to members in January recommending an immediate discussion of those parts of the questionnaire which related directly to the PC and its relationship with the community had, he felt, received little attention at the last meeting.

(3) The proposed development at St. Katherines where there was a public requirement that, prior to the submission of any planning application, a Developer must conduct full consultation with the community and, without the resulting Statement of Community involvement no such application could be registered. The PC's attitude to this had been to "wait and see". It was the PPSG's view that in such matters, the PC should be at the forefront of any such initiative and that to lead a process of consultation would in no way compromise the role of the Council as local adjudicator when, eventually, a planning proposal was presented before them.

PD felt there were other examples with the repeated message that the previously reactive position of the PC had been untenable. CPC must lead without waiting until the plan is presented for approval in July.

**RESOLVED** - On the proposal of MB, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed to call an Extraordinary meeting of the PC on 24<sup>th</sup> February in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm to enable PD to bring forward topics requiring discussion affecting the Parish Council.

**PROGRESS REPORTS -**

**A4103** - A successful meeting had been held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January attended by both representatives from Hereford Council and the Police and approximately 30-40 local residents. Although it was evident a speed camera (yellow box) was not the answer, it was felt that a SIDS could be beneficial. However, this was both costly to install and run, and the question of both solar and a wind panel was discussed by Councillors.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by CL, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed the Clerk write to both Highways and the Police (and Brian Wilcox) asking whether Herefordshire Council would consider installing a device similar to the one which had been installed by the Authorities at Bransford.

**Secure Server** - In the absence of Jonathan Tudor this item was deferred until the March meeting.

**Notice Board** - CL advised he had been advised by Herefordshire that planning permission for the board was not required. He had also written to the Church Commissioner's Agents seeking permission, but to date, no reply had been received. Vincent Playdon had confirmed that the delay did not cause a problem.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION -**

**Rectory Lane** - PD felt it was time that all the people with an interest in the Lane/Church should get together with an independent Chairman to look at what could be done to solve the surface problems to the Lane.

#### **The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public participation**

Mike Hames raised concerns about the Lane and felt that it must be improved, reporting that the problems with Rectory Lane were also experienced by others around the Country concerning ancient Lanes. He was aware of a similar situation in Devizes, Wiltshire where a lane serving the Church, Village Hall and also residents which combined both a public footpath and vehicular access had been overcome. The lane was now maintained by the County Council across the full width of the lane and was inspected by them on a six monthly basis.

It was suggested the Clerk write to the Clerk of Urchfont Parish Council in an attempt to secure information about how they had been successful in reaching a satisfactory conclusion regarding their Lane. Mr. Hames offered to assist the Clerk in any way possible, and thanks were expressed to him for his suggestions.

#### **The Chairman reopened the Parish Council meeting**

**Parish Meeting** - Date fixed for 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Storridge Village Hall. Councillors requested to come forward with proposals for the meeting. Although CL proposed a repeat of last year's highly successful meeting, both PD and PS advised they would not be available. PD did however suggest an "Any Question session" with distinguished members on the Panel. Councillors agreed to give further thought to the matter and come forward with proposals at the March meeting.

**Condition of the roads/pot-holes** - It was felt that some lanes should be resurfaced. Cllr. Roy Stockton advised that they are making pot-holes a priority and that there had been a £1m. Overspend on grit to treat roads. A list was prepared for the Clerk to take up with the appropriate authority.

**Width restriction on Cowleigh Bank and Bromyard Road** - It was generally felt that this might be useful and on a proposal by RD, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed the Clerk write to Highways, with a copy to Brian Wilcox, asking if something of this nature could be put in place to alleviate problems in passing on both of these narrow roads. Roy Stockton agreed to take up with the Council the very dangerous turn towards Bromyard at the top of the bank.

**FINANCE** - The following Accounts had been received for payment -

Smiths of Derby, 3yr. Maintenance contract on the Village Clock	-	£599.25. Inc. VAT.
CVH Management Committee, hire fees	-	£12.00.
Clerk's expenses and allowances	-	£144.33.

On a proposal by RD, seconded by PS and carried, it was agreed to settle these Accounts and cheques signed accordingly.

To receive reports from the following Committees and working parties -

Planning - The Chairman reported the following applications had been considered prior to the PC meeting -

**The Stables, Finchers Corner, Cradley** - new pool annex to the existing property-

*No objections, but if it is ever planned to be used as a permanent residence in the future then we would expect it to come back before us for change of use. It was also hoped that this would be the end of the built as this will take this plot to be overdeveloped.*

**Beech Lodge, Chapel Lane, Cradley** - garage loft conversion with skylights -

*No objections but would not like to see the garage converted into a habitable property.*

**Kingsbridge, Cradley** - proposed retention of UPVC windows of modern extension and conservatory and change of UPVC windows and French doors to painted joinery -

*No comment.*

**Upper Churchfields Cottage, Cradley** - proposed erection of garden shed and greenhouse -

*No objections.*

**The Gate House, Cowleigh Park, Cradley** - proposed sun room to replace an existing conservatory -

*No objections.*

**The Halesend, StorrIDGE** - erection of new piers and entrance gates, retrospectively -

*Gates appear rather opulent and we consider both pillars and gates are totally out of keeping with the rural locality.*

**The Halesend, StorrIDGE** - Proposed minor internal alterations and replacement of glazed roof to garden room, retrospectively -

*We object to these proposals. With the removal of the back staircase, we have grave concerns about exit during an emergency with seven bedrooms and an office on the second floor. We do feel that Herefordshire Council health and safety should inspect the property and look into our concerns.*

*Again, we object to retrospective applications. Planning permission and listed building consent should have been achieved before any work was carried out. It makes it very difficult for us to make constructive comments.*

**Churchyards Committee - MA left the room - FB took the Chair** - CL reported on the figures received for the regular maintenance of the Churchyards to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The Committee had met to discuss the figures, and the following recommendations were put to members for consideration -

**StorrIDGE Church** - expenditure £755. which was under their forecast. A 70% donation amounted to £528., rounded up to **£530.**

**Cradley Chapel**, who receive a 100% donation was £223.60, rounded up to **£225.**

**Cradley Church** - total expenses £3,083.41. with a recommendation of a donation of **£2,100.** which was slightly under the 70%.

RESOLVED - On a proposal by KN, seconded by AE and carried it was agreed to make the above donations and cheques would be presented for payment at the March meeting.

CL also advised that in accordance with NALC's suggestions, we should now advise the three authorities that donations are conditional on our seeing their relevant Accounts appropriate to their maintenance when the PC makes their deliberations for ongoing donations. It was also necessary for us to provide them with copies of our Standing Orders and Terms of Reference regarding the Churchyards Committee.

**MA rejoined the meeting and took the Chair.**

**Playing Fields** - JT not in attendance so no report available.

**Editorial Group** - KN apologised that due to ill health there had been a slight delay in publication of the Reporter but that this should be distributed within the next ten days. The Web-site had now been completed and should go live the following day.

**PD proposed a vote of thanks to KN for all his work, despite the fact that he had been unwell for several weeks. This was carried unanimously.**

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**HALC** - MA advised little to report. He had recently spoken to Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive, who advised that whilst the Accounts have not been signed off for last year, they are about to be looked at. Finances will be tight this year with very little cash in the Bank. However, they are looking for funding for next year to put them on a more secure footing.

**CORRESPONDENCE -**

Letter, Wicksteed reminding PC equipment at Chapel Lane was due for another inspection.

*Discussed and agreed to arrange for an accompanied inspection.*

Letter, Herefordshire Council advising of payment dates for Precept and the number of Band D equivalent properties for the area.

**LITERATURE -**

Clerks and Councils Magazine.

Brochure from Marshalls regarding paving to front gardens.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** - Parish Plan Report, Extraordinary meeting, A4103/SIDS discussion, footpaths Notice Board, Pot-holes, Parish Meeting, width restriction on Cowleigh Road and Bromyard Road, Web-site and donations to PCCs.

**Cllr. Roy Stockton gave a brief report as follows -**

Outcome of meeting of representatives and planners from Herefordshire Council with regard to the football pitches.

Council tax likely to be increased between 2 & 2.9%. Long term unemployment gone up in area. Over 4000 people on "Home Point" register for accommodation. Average weekly earnings in area £389 as opposed to England nearly £500. In 2026, 25% of population will be over 65yrs. of age causing increased burden on Council under the Care at Home scheme and he advised that Herefordshire Council run over 700 services within the area.

He also reported on planned talk by Peter Yates regarding changes within the County at Colwall on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and said he would ensure the Clerk had advance notice of this event., which he felt would be of benefit to all Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Roy Stockton for his attendance and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Next regular meeting to take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Storridge Village Hall.

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