

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of Cradley Parish Council held on Wednesday, 24th February 2010 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – D. Creed-Newton (in the Chair – DCN), F. Beard (FB), J. Edgar (JE), R. Diamond (RD), P. Diamond (PD), P. Stanley (PS) A. Eldridge (AE), M. Allfrey (MA) and K. Nason (KN).

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received from E. Mikata, M. Sheriff and M. Brooksbank and R. Gill for business reasons and from C. Lowder due to ill health.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None received, either personal or prejudicial.

In the absence of M. Sheriff, the Chairman read the contents of the e-mails sent to him for the 10th January and 24th February meetings regarding Parish Plan issues concerning the questionnaire, pro-activity, planning and communication.

Topics for Parish Council communications, as informed by the Parish Plan questionnaire, had been discussed by DC-N and PD before the meeting and actions were resolved as follows –

St. Katherines development – The Chairman said he had researched the Standards Board Website and advised that Parish Council members can take a view on any subject as long as their view is not seen as being set in concrete and that they are thus not seen to be pre-judging the issue. The Parish Council is free to be fully involved in the consultations about St. Katherines, to ensure that all issues are raised and discussed in public before it goes forward for any planning application. It was agreed that, as previously resolved, the Parish Council will continue to work closely with the residents' Group, headed by Pat Edwards which is actively pursuing the matter.

The Parish Council will communicate progress to all through the new Web site and the Reporter.

Statement of powers and limitations of the Parish Council – KN advised that he had used extracts from the HALC Web site on the Parish Council Web site to explain the powers of Parish Councils. There was a link to the HALC site for those wishing to enquire further. In future, the information would be also covered in the Reporter, with a reference to the HALC site.

Planning process –MA will prepare a statement regarding the process for planning applications both at Parish Council and Herefordshire levels, (including the latest information received from the HALC training session), which KN will publish on the Website and the Reporter. KN reported that links to planning applications are now on our Internet site.

Chapel Lane playing field –The Parish Council will advise people on the Web site that this matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This will be a strategic discussion bearing in mind the inherent strengths and weakness of the site and a budget for the proper maintenance of the grounds and equipment.

Flood prevention –The flood prevention group will report back at the next meeting what has been done so far and advise what Herefordshire Council is promising to do in the future. The Flood report does not include sewage problems, and the Clerk was requested to contact Severn Trent Water yet again, reminding them what they had promised to report back on following their attendance at the January 2008 Parish Council meeting.

Lack of distribution of Reporter to some areas – This matter has now been resolved in principle. The Reporter is also published on the web-site. The Web site and Newsletter will carry information on this development.

Lengthsman – This question was raised for the Questionnaire by Chris Gooding of Herefordshire Council. Following the response that having a ~~fully~~ funded Lengthsman is favoured by the great majority of residents, it agreed that PD will contact Mr. Gooding and ask if the Council was indeed ready to fully fund a Lengthsman with extended duties to include pothole repairs. A reply from Chris Gooding will enable the Parish Council to consider this as part of our 3yr rolling budget plans.

Communicating highway repair needs – The Parish Council takes part in Herefordshire Amey's Parish Initiative Scheme whereby we advise them of our needs, and they should tell us what is in their programme. MA advised that Amey has a five year contract which has to be renewed every year. They are very keen to keep the contract and are ready to provide a good service.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will write to Herefordshire Council regarding the safety of Rectory Lane for access to the Village Hall at the forthcoming election.

JE agreed to do a progress report on Rectory Lane repairs. KN to publish a report with regard to the whole repair and a temporary repair, as advised by JE, before the April meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting – Following the suggestion for an "Any Questions" session, it was suggested the panel might consist of Dr. Bruce Heriott (or other, as suggested by Bruce), the Head teacher of the School and the Rector Robert Ward. This was agreed and the Chairman agreed to make further enquiries.

It was also agreed that the Chairman's report to the Parish Meeting should include reference to all of these communications actions.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45.

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