

MINUTES of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 11th September 2007 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.40pm following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

PRESENT – Councillors D. Creed-Newton (DCN) in the Chair, M. Allfrey (MA) F. Beard (FB) C. Lowder (CL) E. Mikata (EM) A. Eldridge (AE) R. Gill (RG) R. Diamond (RD) P. Stanley (PS) and Cllr. Rees Mills.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from K. Turnbull, J. Tudor, J. Edgar and K. Nason.

Approval was given on a proposal by CL seconded by RG and carried for absences due respectively to family sickness and business commitments.

PERSONAL declarations of interest - the following were received –

- PS – Affordable Housing on Old School site.
- CL – Glebe land.

PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest – MA declared a prejudicial interest in the Planning application for Wildgoose Hill.

THE MINUTES of the Meeting held in August 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman on a proposal by RD, seconded by CL and carried.

Progress report on -

Buryfields Lease to NCRA – KN not in attendance so no report available.

Extension to bus standing area at Buryfields – KN not in attendance so no report available. Clerk confirmed she had nothing to report on this matter.

Chapel Lane painting – JE and DCN had inspected the work and produced photographs, indicating no sign of preparation work to surfaces or undercoating of any significance whatsoever.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RG, seconded by CL and carried, it was agreed we send the photographs to Mr. Beech and seek his further comments on the standard of the work carried out and why he considers he should not make good the work he has done.

Co-option of new members – DCN hoped to have one more suitable candidate early in 2008.

Play-area at Old School Site – Developers have rejected our proposals agreed at last meeting. Herefordshire Council agree they should have been more specific regarding the site, but do not want to take on responsibility. If Parish Council decide not to take it over, this would leave the Development Company and their Directors personally liable for the site in the future.

The Planning Chairman presented figures for the future maintenance of the site as a play area for under 5s, and it was agreed the Parish Council would go into closed session to discuss the way forward prior to the site meeting to be held on Thursday with the Development Co., a Planning Representative, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Cradley's Conservation Area – Small working group to consist of CL, RD, EM & John Edgar, to include the Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement .

Sewerage Management – RG confirmed he had proposed approaching OFWAT, but now suggested asking Severn Trent to attend a meeting in November to explain their future proposals. Cllr. Rees Mills reported on meeting with John Edgar and Ronald Richardson to inspect Pound Bridge. It was reported that the water level had risen by some 18/20ft., with plenty of evidence of sewage escape. Risk element level is designated as "high" as sewage works cannot cope with the level of discharge. It was confirmed that Welsh Water cannot be held responsible in any way. RM had then contacted Mr. Tector at the Environmental Dept. of Herefordshire Council and it has now been confirmed that the problem lies solely with Severn Trent Water, who in turn have admitted responsibility. Thanks were expressed to RM for his work and he left the meeting.

RESOLVED – On proposal by RG, seconded by FB and carried, it was agreed Parish Council send letter to Severn Trent asking for proof of their levels of discharge of raw sewage and any measurements they have taken over the last five years and at what point this was taken, as information available to us under the Freedom of Information Act. We were also to invite them to attend a meeting of the Parish Council in November to advise on their proposals to solve the problem.

John

Drainage issues – The Chairman reported on his meeting with Brian Hall and Richard Leppard of Herefordshire Highways and the owner of Captains Cottage. The methods used to date to achieve good drainage at this point through the highways system have been insufficient because of the size of drains and unfavourable levels. Also, this is a land drainage rather than a highways issue and it was agreed that the only way to solve the problem was by taking a large land drain across Christmas Cottage and St. Katherines land, subject to their agreement. Surface and sewage drainage in the Village is a major problem.

RESOLVED – on a proposal by CL seconded by EM and carried, it was agreed the Clerk approach both Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water to supply us with plans of the drains in the Village.

FINANCE – On proposal by FB seconded by RG, and carried the following accounts were approved for payment –

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| • UHY Hacker Young – audit fee | £186.39* |
| • Cradley Heritage Group donation | £200.00. |
| • Allianz Insurance Group | £405.64. |
| • Clerk expenses/allowances | £239.19. |

***The Clerk advised the External Audit had been completed and that the auditors reported “that the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and that no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern and that all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met”.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – The Planning Chairman reported fully on items discussed at the Planning meeting held prior to the Parish Council meeting. With regard to the proposed changes to the old school site, it has been agreed that there are five “affordable houses” and that the Developers have agreed to remove some of the windows where layout changes had caused a loss of privacy at Brookside. One objection has now been withdrawn and the Planning Officer considers the changes are acceptable. It was agreed that, subject to the site meeting, our objections be could now be withdrawn.

Playing Fields – KN not in attendance so no report available.

Editorial Group – KN not in attendance so no report available.

Parish Plan Group – JE not in attendance so no report available.

HALC – Eastern Area HALC meeting due to take place in October after which date a report would be available.

Correspondence received –

E-mail – Marilyn Small, Herefordshire Council advising pot hole at Halesend and road surface in Vinesend Lane and Chapel Lane had been entered into the highway inspection system for action.

E-mail – Rachel Rice, Herefordshire Council that the area team would be updating her on the illegal lay-by at Storridge and that she will report back to us in due course.

E-mail – Rachel Rice, Herefordshire Council that the improvements to Tanhouse Lane had been delayed due to staff shortages and flooding, but that the scheme was in the process of being designed prior to order.

Letter, Don Hurle with estimated expenditure for Storridge churchyard maintenance in the year 2008.

Letter, F.L. Miles, Herefordshire Council regarding Cowleigh Road junction and Ridgeway Cross turning to Bromyard.

Letter, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence advising they have reached a compromise regarding the Old School site, which is not ideal but nonetheless goes sufficiently far enough for them to find it acceptable and expressing thanks to the Parish Council for their support.

DeW

07/35

Letter, Herefordshire Council advising Community Forum would be held at Burgage Hall, Church Street, Ledbury on Thursday 20th September 2007.

Letter, Joy Jerkins regarding damage done to her lawn area during recent flooding and asking the Parish Council to contact Highways requesting them to make good the damage as soon as possible.

Literature received –

Herefordshire Council – Village Retailer magazine, September funding opportunities, Invitation to Herefordshire Funding Fair, purchase of SIDS, damson hedge report, local adult learning opportunities, older peoples' prevention services scheme and leaflets on climate change.

Malvern Hills AONB Annual Report.

Letter from Lieutenancy Office in Hereford regarding "national honours".

Bus and train timetable.

Herefordshire Partnership –Growing Older in Herefordshire.

Herefordshire Council – Polytunnels supplementary planning document.

Earth Heritage Trust "Geopark posters".

Heritage open days for September.

Clerks & Councils Direct, the Clerk and Local Council Review magazines.

NetSolva – offer of our own free trial website.

Newsletter Items – Conservation area, sewerage invitation, drains issues, clean bill of health on the Audit.

Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting –

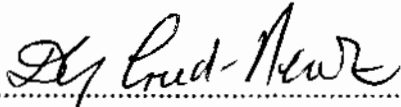
Dangerous bend sign has been taken down and needs replacing on building site adjoining Queenswood and Barretts Cottage, and also to ask highways to clear visibility around 30mph speed limit signs. Clerk to report to the highways dept.

Clerk to find previous letter regarding cutting back of hedgerow on Suckley Road and request similar work be carried out again.

Tree had fallen over fence from Buryfields Play area into the garden of the Mr. Knight's garden in Buryfields and we were to obtain Quotations for the tree to be cut down and removed.

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday, 9th October 2007 at 7.30pm at Storridge Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Dated.....9 October 2007