

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Cradley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in Cradley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT** – Councillors D.Creed-Newton (DCN - in the Chair), C. Lowder (CL) K.Nason (KN) F. Beard (FB) M. Allfrey (MA) R. Gill (RG) A. Eldridge (AE) M. Sheriff (MS) E. Mikata (EM) J. Edgar (JE) Cllr. Rees Mills (RM) and Lynda Wilcox from HAI.C.

**APOLOGIES for absence** were received and duly approved from

- P. Stanley, R. Diamond & P. Diamond due to holiday arrangements.
- J. Tudor and M.Brooksbank due to business commitments.

**PERSONAL declarations of interest** - the following were received –

- KN & EM declared a personal interest in Cradley Sports Club.

**PREJUDICIAL declarations of interest** –

- MA declared a prejudicial interest in the land for the Sports Club.

**PRESENTATION** by Lynda Wilcox from HAI.C on Parish Plan –

Lynda advised that a grant from Herefordshire Council was available, if required, for new Parish Plans but that a revisited one may also be accepted for a further Grant. Anthony Bush could be contacted if it was felt a further grant or a top up was required. The Parish Council could also approach Awards for All if necessary. It was recommended that the Parish Council should hold the funds, with grants obtained through the Parish Council; this enabling VAT to be reclaimed. The Steering Group was responsible for the necessary budget expenditure, and funds should be made available to the steering group between meetings through the Clerk/Chairman. There should be one designated spokesperson from the Steering Group for this.

It was a good plan to repeat the consultation process used last time with a leaflet drop at every house. It was advisable to get children involved and also local businesses, residents and local groups members. It was proposed the Plan should be for the whole of the Parish so that it does not become three individual areas.

Lynda advised maps were available through Herefordshire Council for Parish Plans, and that sample Questionnaires were available from other areas through her. The research team would like to review our Questionnaire. It was suggested that separate questionnaires may be needed for businesses and other interest groups. Members of the County Steering Group were available to assist if required, but first point of call was through her at the moment.

As the VDS had been adopted there was no necessity to amend this, and it could remain as it stands. It was recommended that we put our own ideas in to the Parish Plan as it is the wishes of the Parish – even if the actions did not agree with current Herefordshire Policy. The Plan should be live issues, a rolling action plan. We should also talk to all the major service providers, including roads, transport and planning.

***Thanks expressed to Lynda for attending and she left the meeting.***

**MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to a couple of minor amendments.

**Progress report on –**

**Dog Fouling Signs** – CL advised no further progress as MB away on business. He had however asked at the Post Office whether they would be prepared to sell poop scoops and bags and they were considering this request. CL hoped to give full report at the next meeting.

**Rectory Lane Wall**– Extraordinary meeting had been held and letter submitted which had been acknowledged. Clerk to continue to add pressure once John Stagg returned from holiday later in the month.

**Post Office closures** - DCN circulated notes on Post Office rationalisations advising that Cradley Stores will lose a few of its services – See appendix 08/33A.

Matter discussed and on a proposal by MA seconded by AE and carried, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should contest the proposals for the Village Post Office.

On a further proposal by JE seconded by RG and carried, it was considered the next course of action was to

(1) send a letter Post Office Ltd. with copies to Herefordshire Council, Postwatch and Bill Wiggin on the basis of the circular from the Chairman,

(2) hold a public meeting to be attended by members from Postwatch, Post Office Ltd (POL) Anthony Bush from Herefordshire Council, members of the Parish Council and as many of the public as possible, and

(3) send a further letter following the special meeting.

Clerk to contact Anthony Bush and endeavour to arrange public meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 08, once date agreed a flyer was to be inserted in the Reporter notifying residents of the meeting.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION** –

**Speed Indicator Devices** – Matter discussed and on a proposal by CL seconded by RG and carried it was agreed we leave this matter in abeyance and revisit the proposal in 12 months time.

**Storrige Village Hall** – *MA declared a personal interest in this matter.*

On a proposal by CL seconded by RG and carried, it was agreed to make a grant to Storrige Village Hall in the sum of £836.40. and a cheque for this amount would be presented for signature at the next meeting.

**Compliance with Planning permissions granted and/or change of use** – Councillors expressed concerns over the number of planning permissions over the years which appeared not to have been fully honoured, and also the number of retrospective applications which have been dealt with.

**RESOLVED** – Cllr. Rees Mills agreed to find out how often over the past five years Herefordshire Council have made someone change what they have done to their property, and how many retrospective applications had been dealt with in the Parish.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS** –

**Accounts for payment** – The following accounts had been received -

- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| • MCB Landscapes, grass cutting | £188.00. |
| • Allianz Insurance             | £422.21. |
| • Viking, office stationery     | £104.66. |
| • Clerks expenses/allowances    | £191.05. |



On a proposal by FB seconded by RG and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

The Chairman and Clerk advised that due to an oversight, the payment of the donation to Cradley Sports had been omitted, but that this had been approved for payment at the August meeting.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by KN seconded by MA and carried, a further cheque for £2,000. was signed.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

**Planning** – The Planning Committee Chairman reported that only one application had been received which related to the felling of three thuja plicata trees at Russett House, Upper Churchfields, to which no objections had been raised. He advised that the proposed fence at October Cottage, 3 Cradley Court had been approved by Herefordshire Council.

**Churchyard Committee** – Cl. advised nothing further to report, but requested Clerk to obtain expenditure forecasts from Cradley PCC and Storrige PCC in readiness for the setting of the Precept for 2009/10.

**Playing Fields** – KN advised hedge had been cut, but due to weather grass has not been cut for about a month. MA advised he would contact someone he knew about the repair to the fence by the School at the Buryfields play area.

**Editorial Group** – KN advised new format generally welcomed. Slight delay in circulation due to the proposed flyer to be inserted concerning the Public meeting regarding the Post Office proposals.

**Parish Plan Group/Conservation Area** – JE advised working groups now set up and work has commenced.

**HALC** – MA advised East Herefordshire meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> at Bishops Froome.

**Correspondence received** –

Letter – Mr. Fraser, Culduthel, regarding changes to Post Office at Cradley.

Letter – Herefordshire Council regarding mobile library consultation to take place in Cradley Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 7-9pm.

Letter – Letter, Herefordshire Council regarding affordable housing seminar on September 25<sup>th</sup>; coach trips to the National Archives at Kew, London on 18<sup>th</sup> September, recycling in the County and various training dates.

Letter – Cradley WI regarding the Sustainable Communities Act and hoping that the PC will give their support by asking Herefordshire Council to “opt in”.

E-mail – Frank Hare conveying sincere thanks to the PC for their generous grant to Cradley Sport of £2,000.

**Literature received** –

SLCC – Notice of AGM.

The Clerk magazine.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Local Council review magazine.

**Newsletter Items** – Dog fouling, Post Office closures, proposed delay in speed indicator signs, new Financial Regulations and Standing Orders have been considered, payment to Cradley Sports has been made and Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive from HALC had attended meeting to discuss and advise regarding the new Parish Plan.


**Urgent items and any matters for discussion at next Meeting** –

Hedge on Birch Lane needs a further cut, repairs required in Upper Vinesend Lane and on the easterly lane to Suckley from Mill Bank to Grittles End and also on the lane past Pixiefields.

MA advised that lorries were again making an illegal lay-by on the main Hereford-Worcester Road near to the Millbank Garage, and Clerk was to enquire whether curbs could be put in place.

**Next meeting** – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Storridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman.

Dated.....14/10/08.....