

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of Cradley Parish Council took place on Monday, 1st September 2008 in Cradley Village Hall.

PRESENT - David Creed Newton (in the Chair) Rosemary Diamond, Roger Gill, Chris Lowder, Elizabeth Mikata, Michael Alfrey, Poppy Stanley, Mike Sheriff, Peter Diamond, Fred Beard and two members of the public.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received from Ken Nason, Mike Brooksbank, Jonathan Judor and John Edgar.

The only item on the Agenda was the opening which had been made, without consent, to the Grade 2 listed wall to Rectory House. A meeting had taken place with Officers from the Conservation and Planning sections of Herefordshire Council with the owner of the Old Rectory who had reported as follows -

A claim had been made that the street vehicle entrance was only put in when the outbuildings were converted to a dwelling about 20yrs. ago. This would have required planning permission from Malvern Hills DC., and Herefordshire Council advised that they had instigated a search to see if these documents can be retrieved from the modern records unit and to confirm if this was the case. They were unsure as to whether this would have been the position of the original carriage entrance since it appeared that an enclosed kitchen garden may have been located between the wall and the house. There is evidence of a blocked up pedestrian entrance nearer the Church which is thought may have been the original entrance with carriages drawing up to this point. Herefordshire Council requested any historic information which the PC may have to throw any further light on any of these items.

The highway officer was consulted about moving the access and favoured the new position on highway safety grounds. The owner confirmed that he would block up the existing entrance with stone to match the existing, provide an outer grass verge, plant trees behind it, and put in a timber boarded gated entrance with stone piers in the new position.

The officers attending the meeting could find no evidence of the felling of trees. They requested the PC to provide evidence to the contrary. Herefordshire Council further advised that once they have considered the evidence, particularly relating to the planning history, they will write to the owner to confirm their officers views on the proposal and suggest how the owner should proceed.

The matter was fully discussed and it was agreed the Parish Council reply as follows -

“The PC urges Herefordshire Council for the reinstatement of the wall for the following reasons -

To the personal knowledge of some members of the PC, we believe the existing opening was the original gateway. There is no evidence of other gateways - it is the personal knowledge of members of the Parish Council that the existing entrance has been in place for sixty years and in the opinion of the Parish Council, it has been there for over a century. We know that it was a pedestrian gateway for the Church and the other one was only put in when the Coach House was converted. We do know that the access to the converted coach house was made in the late 70s against considerable opposition.

The PC Village Design Statement (VDS) , which was looked at and thoroughly reviewed by Herefordshire Council, states that this wall is listed as Grade 2. The Parish Council VDS was adopted by Herefordshire Council as supplementary planning guidance.

No member of the Parish Council is aware of any accidents or problems having occurred close to the current entrance and the road has recently been made the subject of a 30mph speed limit which can only further increase the safety of the existing entrance.

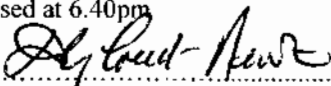
The Parish Council have always been, and remain, unhappy about retrospective planning applications. With regard to the trees on the site, to the personal knowledge of Councillors, the following trees have been cut down whilst the present owner has been in residence -

Two yew trees by the kitchen window, both of which had a trunk diameter of approx. 18”.

At the rear of the house, two or more ash trees which were probably smaller in diameter of about 9”.

Some members of the Parish Council actually saw the yew trees being cut down”.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Signed.......... Dated.....14/10/08.....
Chairman