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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.30pm  
in the Cradley Village Hall.

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillors: Colin Merker (Chair), Terry Robshaw, Chris Roberts, Liz Kabani, Janita Goodwin,  
Norman Goody, Sarah Whyte & Derek Scully.

### In Attendance:

Richard James- (Parish Clerk).  
2 x Members of the public.

#### 1. To receive apologies.

*To Note - Cllr Ian Edgar.*

#### 2. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.

*To Note – No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations were made.*

#### 3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 12.05.26.

**Resolution -** *The Minutes of the meeting held on 14.04.26 were approved and adopted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.*

#### 4. Open Session.

Ward Member – Cllr Rebecca Tully

Cllr Tully was not present at the meeting but had sent a written report.

- **Bus Cradley to Malvern:**

After disappointing news from Worcestershire on Demand, I'm now trying to get a response from them as to why, explaining the positives of joint working pilots as we head towards devolution.

- **20mph through Cradley:**

I will refer to national guidance and Herefordshire Local Transport Plan for more information that may support, Parish Council will write to Barry Durkin.

- **A4103 Speed Concerns:**

We're trying to see this as a full stretch between Bromyard turn and Cowleigh turn, and I will aim to keep residents that are on this road and concerned in the loop and share information / actions / campaigns that build the case for a lower speed on whole stretch. Attempting in interim to get 'advisory' speed signs on the bends etc. Ian Connolly has suggested that speed changes etc are a HC responsibility not a police-controlled matter.

- **HGVs Cowleigh.**

We will aim for all to agree that the road is unsuitable, regardless of quantity of traffic Rebecca will check with s106 team that the larger signs are going in at the Cowleigh road access from the A4103 end.

**To Note** - This report was noted by Council.

Members of Public.

Q1. The two residents from Storridge who attended were unhappy with the location of the new White Entrance Gates which have been installed at the access to the Cowleigh Road where the speed limit changes from 50mph to 40mph.

They feel the gates should have been located on the main A4103.

A1. Cllr Merker said that the new White Entrance Gates sited on Cowleigh road were all part of the traffic calming scheme to try and reduce the speed and size of the vehicles using the Cowleigh Road. The White Gates were deliberate at this point as they would hopefully draw drivers' attention to the speed limit change and that there is a high density of houses just passed the turning into the B4220 Cowleigh Road. The Council acknowledged that this wasn't the start of the Storridge boundary, and they hoped to see other boundary markers being erected at the appropriate points/places.

Whilst the Parishioners present felt that the Parish Council was only focusing on the Cowleigh Road issues. The Parish Council confirmed that it has always petitioned and continues to discuss on an ongoing basis and petition various parties for a speed reduction on the A4103 due to the number of accidents from the Cowleigh Road turning to Millbank Garage and the fatal accident at the Millbank Garage turning into Cradley Village.

The Parish Council has now for several years also been asking the Herefordshire Councils Highways department to replace the missing STORRIDGE sign just past the Millbank garage, the Parish Council have been informed this is on their list of works but is a low priority.

Cllr C Merker said the Parish Council will continue to fight for safer roads around and through the Parishes and recognises the potential additional dangers associated with the A4103 before of its higher speed, volume of traffic and mix of traffic.

**To Note** – These comments were noted by Council.

**5. Planning Applications and Comments if Made.**

|     | <i>Application No</i> | <i>Address</i>                                         | <i>Permission sought</i>  |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1 | 61207<br>05.06.26     | 26 Pixiefields<br>Cradley<br>Herefordshire<br>WR13 5ND | Two-storey rear extension |

**Resolution** - The Cradley & Storridge Parish Council SUPPORTED this application.

|     | <i>Application No</i> | <i>Address</i>                                     | <i>Permission sought</i>      |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5.2 | 261279<br>10.06.26    | High Green<br>Cradley<br>Herefordshire<br>WR13 5NF | Single storey side extension. |

**Resolution** - The Cradley & Storridge Parish Council SUPPORTED this application.

**5.3 - Planning Authority Determinations.**

| <i>Application No</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Permission sought</i> | <i>Decision Made By HC</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|

|             |                                                                 |                                                                                                                        |          |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| P261472/XA2 | Land at Mosewick Farm<br>Longley Green Cradley<br>Herefordshire | Application for (partial)<br>approval of details reserved by<br>condition 7 attached to<br>planning permission 212514. | Approved |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|

*To Note – This was noted by the Council.*

## 6. Financial & Administration Matters

- 6.1 - Unity Main Bank Statement - May 26 - £29,390.91
- 6.2 - Unity Saver Bank Statement - May 26 - £20,265.92
- 6.3 - CCLA Statement- May 26 - £95,000.00
- 6.4 - Budget Monitoring - May 26
- 6.5 - Bank Rec - May 26
- 6.6 - Monthly Bank Transactions - May 26

*To Note - Council noted and approved (6.1) (6.2) (6.3) (6.4) (6.5) & (6.6).*

- 6.7 - Authority to add – a new Subcontractors line in the accounts.

**Resolution – The Council approved the addition of an additional line in the account for Subcontractors.**

## 7. To Approve Payments.

|     | Payment                                   | Net             | Vat    | Total  |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| 7.1 | Clerk Salary – Tax – NI – Pension         | As per Contract |        |        |
| 7.2 | Andrew Graham - May 26                    | 915.00          | 0.00   | 915.00 |
| 7.3 | Pricepoint – May 26                       | 801.12          | 160.22 | 961.34 |
| 7.4 | SVH - Biffa Bin                           | 250.00          | 0.00   | 250.00 |
| 7.5 | Wicksteed - Annual Inspection             | 300.00          | 60.00  | 360.00 |
|     |                                           |                 |        |        |
| 7.6 | Cllr Merker – Sensory Garden Ad Hoc Items | 81.74           | 0.00   | 81.74  |

*Resolution – Council approved these payments.*

## 8. Working Group Reports.

8.1 - Recreation & Environment.

Cllr D Scully presented the report highlighting the following points.

- ❖ No Parking Signs for Cradley Memorial Cross

*Resolution – Council approved a £100.00 limit to purchase new No Parking Signs.*

- ❖ New Signage for Chapel Lane, Buryfields and Crumpton Hill Village Green.  
These new signs will be metal backed and mounted on metal posts.

*Resolution – Council approved a £1,000.00 limit to purchase and install this new signage.*

- ❖ We still looking for residents to either become Footpath Wardens or just to walk the PROW and report problems.

*To Note – The report was noted by the Council.*

8.2 – Highways.

Cllr C Merker gave a short verbal report highlighting the following points.

- ❖ Hollins Hill resurfacing to take place between 11.06.26 – 19.06.26.
- ❖ Chapel Lane – repairs to the damage following the Severn Trent works is ongoing and the Parish Council is in talks with the Herefordshire Council Highways department.

- ❖ Crumpton Hill Road – resurfacing still an ongoing matter.
- ❖ Rectory Lane – The highway surface is suffering from the cars turning, it has been brought to the attention of the Herefordshire Council Highways.
- ❖ HGV's using Cowleigh Road is still ongoing it is hoped that there will be a weight limit introduced which would stop HGVs using this road. Liaison with Worcestershire County Council are dealing matters progressing.
- ❖ Speed along the A4103 continues to be an issue, and it is hoped that the amount of school traffic using the Millbank turning will help improve the case for getting the speed limit reduced.
- ❖ Speed Indicator Device poles are slowly being installed; however, the Council is struggling to find a pole location at the top end of the Cradley village from Fincher's Corner and along the Farley's to the A4103, due to concerns raised by some Parishioners and the Herefordshire Council Highways Team about possible mounting sites.
- ❖ White Gateway Entrance gates have now been installed, which is part of the overall traffic calming measures/programme through the Parish.
- ❖ The 20mph limit throughout Cradley is slowly progressing, with the next stage being to write to the Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Highways.

## 9. Wicksteed Reports 26/27.

9.1 – Chapel Lane

9.2 – Buryfields

Following the Wicksteed safety report on both the play areas, there are areas of concern, which need immediate attention. It has been decided to set up a task and finish group to address these issues and report back to the Council.

*To Note – This was noted by the Council.*

## 10. Village Hall Representative Approach.

Cllr C Merker presented a paper about Councillors being Village Hall Representatives and the possible conflict of interest this posed with them also being a councillor.

This was discussed by the Council and it was agreed that if a Councillor wanted to be a Trustee or an officer for a Village Hall, they could be and they would have to declare this interest and leave the room when any matters relating to any Village Hall, they had an association with were discussed. Being a Trustee or an Officer would not however exclude them from sitting in and voting on the Council's Grants policy or other policies in general.

In recognising the additional challenges, a Councillor who might be a Village Hall representative and a Village Hall Trustee or Officer faced, the following proposition was put forward;

***Cllr Chris Robert proposed that there should be no Parish Council Village Hall Representatives, just as there are no Parish Council Church Council Representatives.***

This was seconded by Cllr Terry Robshaw and subsequently put to the vote.

***Resolution – The Council unanimously agreed that they would no longer appoint village hall representatives.***

## 11. Parish Matters.

11.1 – Defibrillators.

Cllr C Merker reported that the current defibrillators were out of their maintenance contract periods as they were over 8 years old. The defibrillators were however still in working order and would need replacing by 2030/31 at the latest.

***Resolution – Council agreed that the existing defibrillators were safe to use and will replace by 2030/31 or before if there is a problem. Cllr Merker will chase Community Heartbeat Trust for this confirmation in writing.***

## 11.2 - Notice Boards.

**Resolution** – Council Agreed for the Clerk to Order the notice boards and arrange for the Lengthsman to install.

## 11.3 - Councillors wanted Poster.

Councillors discussed the poster and it was agreed for question marks to be added.

**To Note** – This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will put them up in the notice boards.

## 11.4 - Footpath Officers

- a) Poster
- b) Job Description.

Council were happy with the poster as it was getting urgent to find footpath officers. The new job description sent out by the Herefordshire Council was still not perfect but was an improvement on the previous one.

**To Note** – This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will put them up in the notice boards.

## 11.5 - New Council Facebook Page.

The Clerk reported that he had recommissioned the Council's old Facebook page and now when news articles are added to the Council website site they will also automatically appear on the Council's Facebook page.

**To Note** – This was noted by the Council.

## 11.6 - Entrance Gateways.

There were two new entrance gateways which still needed completing as the signage was too large. This matter will be sorted out by the Herefordshire Council Highways Team in the near future.

**To Note** – This was noted by the Council.

## 12. Items for future Agenda.

*The Next Parish Council Meeting **14th July 2026** at 7.30pm in the Cradley Village Hall.*

The meeting was closed at 20.48hrs

Signed  
Cllr Colin Merker  
Chair of the Parish Council  
9th June 2026