Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council held in Hay Community Centre on 13th April 2010

Present: Councillors D Jones (Chairman), Mrs E Hughes, N Jones, Mrs S Sheldon, and G Soar.

In attendance: I Jardin (Clerk), Herefordshire Cllr Price.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Theaker due to business overseas.

2. Declarations of interest
None.

3. Minutes
Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2010 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

4. Public participation session
No comments.

5. Internal Auditor
The Chairman reported that he had approached Mr Lewis who had agreed to act as internal auditor on a gratis basis.
Resolved: that the Parish Council appoints Mr Nigel Lewis as its internal auditor.

6. Quality Council Scheme
Members noted the Clerk's written summary of the tests that would have to be passed to achieve re-accreditation. The Clerk drew attention to the further actions that would have to be taken to ensure that all the tests were passed and noted that use of the new Power of Wellbeing would also require that four of the tests were passed. In discussion members noted that the tests would impose a significant burden of extra paperwork for no likely gain in funding or autonomy. In conclusion all members were minded at this stage not to seek re-accreditation, but would take a final decision later in the year.

7. Councillors' reports
Cllr Mrs Sheldon reported that the lengthsman had submitted his last invoice for the year and that a Herefordshire Council grant for next year had been confirmed.
Cllr N Jones reported that the Village Hall Committee would like to put a signpost on the bus shelter. The Clerk advised that the shelter was owned by Herefordshire Council whom the Committee should approach for permission.
Cllr Soar reported that Police Sgt Dugmore had asked him about the possibility of parish councillors being trained in the use of a handheld traffic speed monitor. Members were unclear about the role of civilians in the use of the monitors and the Clerk was instructed to investigate and report back.
Members noted Herefordshire Cllr Price's tabled written report. Cllr Price drew attention to Amey's area roads programme and their priority in the Golden Valley area in year one which would be drainage, with resurfacing not the priority until year three; Amey were querying the extent of their responsibility for roadside ditches and he was seeking legal advice about this and would pass it on to parish councils when obtained. Cllr Price also reported that legal advice had confirmed that Herefordshire Council had limited liability for vehicle damage caused by potholes during periods of severe weather when the Council could not reasonably be expected to repair all holes immediately; nevertheless people should continue to process claims if they thought they had a case. Members felt that the condition of local roads was improving, but drew attention to some surfaces still unrepaired in Bredwardine and Cusop Dingle.

8. Clerk's Report
The Clerk's written report was noted. In addition the Clerk drew attention to the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April and a PACT meeting on 20 May. The Clerk also advised that according to financial regulations the Council should undertake an assessment of financial and other risks. It was agreed that the Chairman and

Vice Chairman should carry out an assessment, based on a draft checklist to be prepared by the Clerk, and report back to the Council to approve.

9. Finance
The Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation for the Financial Year April 2009 - March 2010 were noted.

Resolved: to make the following payments:
£308.71 to Ian Jardin for Clerk's salary & expenses for March 2010,
£240.87 to J Lewis and Sons for footpath drainage improvements,
£158.63 to Upper Bridge Enterprises for cusop.net website and mailboxes,
£147.73 to HALC for 2010/11 HALC/NALC subscription.

10. Date of next meeting
An extra meeting to consider a planning application would be held on 29th April, after the Annual Parish Meeting, in Cusop Village Hall. New parish noticeboards should also be on the agenda.