

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council  
held in Cusop Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Present:** Councillors I Jardin (Chairman), M Hainge, D Evans, J Wesley and J Whittall.

**In attendance:** J Stannard (Clerk), PCSO Pete Knight and five members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence, P Gilbert.
2. **Disclosures** of Interests and Dispensations. None.
3. **Minutes.** Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman.
4. **Public participation session.** A member of the public expressed his support for the work of the Cusop Speed Awareness Group.

PCSO Pete Knight reported that the police had been monitoring traffic speeds on the Hardwicke Road and would continue to do so.

5. **Planning Applications. To comment on planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council.**

**(a) 213572 - Upper Dulas**, Cusop Dingle, Cusop, HR3 5RD. Proposed application for a new part-buried dwelling.

Councillors had made a visit to the site, which they had found useful.

Resolved:

a. the Council supports the objection of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and its recommendation that full Ecological Appraisal, light management scheme, landscaping plan, and construction and management plan are needed. These are also needed to address Cusop Neighbourhood Plan Policies 14 and 15.

b. the Council recommends that an engineering report is also needed since it is questionable whether the ground is stable enough, especially the west bank of the quarry pit, to ensure that the house can be constructed at the exact level and location that may be approved.

c. design and materials should follow Cusop Neighbourhood Plan Policy 16, in particular in the use of locally distinctive materials such as green sandstone rather than slate.

Proposed Cllr Wesley, seconded Cllr Whittall. Carried unanimously.

6. **Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy.** The meeting picked out some of the questions in Herefordshire Council's questionnaire and agreed that the Chairman should send a response to these, drawing attention to the success of the Cusop neighbourhood plan but the lack of adequate weight sometimes given to it by planning officers in their decisions, the lack of a ceiling on new housing numbers, the lack of investment especially in roads and especially safety, the constraints on future development due to Cusop's location, and the need to radically reconsider the Core Strategy relationship between transport and services in response to the move away from fossil fuels.

7. **Cusop Speed Awareness Group.** Cllr Whittall reported that she and Nick Blayney had attended a virtual meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> with Bruce Evans (Engineering Manager, Herefordshire Council) and Ian Connolly (Traffic Management Advisor for the West Mercia Police Safer Roads Team), who agreed that the report produced by CSAG was plausible. Mr Evans agreed to produce costings for traffic calming measures, to enable Cusop Parish Council to apply to the West Mercia Safer Roads Team for funding.

Representatives from Herefordshire Council and Powys County Council would be meeting in February to consider the practicalities of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Hay, and its impact on surrounding parishes. Powys County Council would pay any expenses relating to the extension of the 20mph limit into English villages. It would be necessary to consult parishioners if it were proposed to extend the 20mph limit into Cusop.

Herefordshire Council would be taking traffic management back in-house in Spring 2022.

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Cusop's application for a Traffic Regulation order to move the start of the 30mph speed limit in Newport Street was currently number 76 in the queue.

Cllr Whittall agreed to make several amendments to the CSAG report, and to resubmit it to Herefordshire Council. Namely: street lighting, the speed limit in Nantyglassdwr Lane, and the danger posed by parked vehicles on Newport Street to traffic exiting Nantyglassdwr Lane. It was also agreed to reflect the possibility that a cross-border 20mph speed limit zone could extend some way along Hardwicke Road (regardless of whether a mini-roundabout were to be created) and that it could also include the lower Dingle road.

The council thanked Cllr Whittall and Nick Blayney for their continued efforts to improve road safety in the parish.

### **8. Councillors' reports.**

Cllr Whittall suggested that members of the council should be more visible to members of the public, and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. She expressed concern at the state of the raised pavement on the Dingle, and the clerk confirmed that Balfour Beatty had been asked to repair it. She was asked to repeat the request.

Cllr Hainge reported that he had represented the council at Hay's Remembrance Day service.

### **9. Clerk's report.** The Clerk's written report was noted. The clerk was asked to arrange for the replacement of the rotten notice-board posts at the playing field.

### **10. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting was set for 7pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, unless urgent business necessitated a meeting in January.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.51 pm.

Signed.....