

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council
held remotely via Zoom 20th January 2021**

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr Hewitt, Jane Stannard, Clerk, and a member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr P Gilbert.

2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations. Cllr Wesley disclosed an interest in item 5c.

3. Minutes. Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2020 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman at a later date.

4. Public participation session. A member of the public asked for the council's view on Herefordshire's Rubbish and Recycling Scheme. He was told that the parish council could not comment on proposed budget changes for Herefordshire Council, and that it was for individuals to comment on it for themselves.

5. Planning Applications.

To comment on planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council.

a) **P204330/FH Trewern Cottage, Cusop, HR3 5RQ.** Proposed single storey lean-to porch (open on all sides) to front elevation. Resolved: that the Council has no objection to this application. Proposed Cllr Wesley, seconded Cllr Jardin. Carried unanimously.

b) **P204227/FH Cleveland, Cusop, HR3 5QX.** Proposed ground floor extension. Resolved: that the Council has no objection to this application. Proposed Cllr Wesley, seconded Cllr Hainge. Carried unanimously.

At this point Cllr Wesley left the meeting and Cllr Hainge took the chair.

c) **P202899/O. Land adj. Danygarth, Cusop, HR3 5QX.** Planning re-consultation. Outline application (all matters reserved) for up to 6 new dwellings. RESOLVED: that the Parish Council continues to object to this application because: although the re-design is slightly better in terms of the number and size of dwellings, it does not substantively address any of the objections in the Council's original response and the Council therefore stands by these.

In addition the Council is concerned about the impact of the proposed new entrance on the Dingle junction and would be grateful if the highways engineer would specifically consider this. It is a difficult junction for vehicles emerging from the Dingle: it requires a hill-start while checking for traffic in both directions on the main road and the sightline of traffic to the right is already dangerously short. Any vehicles emerging from the proposed new entrance and waiting at the kerb would obstruct even this short sightline and further increase the danger.

Proposed: Ian Jardin. Seconded: David Evans. Carried unanimously.

Cllr Wesley returned to the meeting and re-took the chair

6. Playground Maintenance. Martin Leighton had agreed to include maintenance of the playground in his duties as Parish Contractor.

Signed.....

7. Council Vacancy. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Notice of Casual Vacancy was on display, and that members of the public had until January 25th to request an election.

8. Road Safety and Signage. In response to Nick Blayney's proposal to set up a working group, it was agreed that Cllr Wesley would set up an initial meeting with him to agree terms of reference. The membership would need to be balanced and objective. Cllr Evans offered to represent the council on the working group.

9. Footpath access. The Clerk reported that she had asked the Footpaths Officer for details of locked gates across footpaths, as detailed in the Footpath Officer's report, and was asked to try again.

10. Councillors' Reports. Ward Cllr Hewitt reported on the significant improvements taking place in Herefordshire Council regarding project management. New systems were being implemented and improved software and training were in place.

Cllr Hewitt also expressed the hope that Cusop would be actively involved in the Village Safety Scheme, which would be focusing on making rural roads safer. She had not yet heard back from Clare Ward about Cusop's access to its S106 monies to pay for traffic-calming measures.

Cllr Wesley asked the Clerk to contact Balfour Beatty again about the missing footbridge at Pentre Higgin, and the damaged barrier and reflective markers between the Dingle and Dulas Brook just below Lower House. He asked her to remind the Parish Contractor to clear those leaves on the Dingle that had been missed.

Cllr Evans expressed his frustration at Herefordshire Council's continuing failure to release S106 monies that the parish is entitled to for the implementation of traffic-calming measures. He also pointed out that Herefordshire Council's offers of finance and practical help for traffic-calming had not been forthcoming. He asked the Clerk to remind the Parish Contractor of his offer to inspect drainage in Nantyglassdwr Lane with him.

11. Clerk's report. The report was noted. In response to it, Cllrs Jardin and Evans offered to meet with householders in Booker's Edge to discuss the situation regarding the replacement of the original hedge with board fencing at the front of several properties.

The Clerk was also asked to send Herefordshire Council proof of their ownership of the bus-shelter in Hardwicke Road, and to make every effort to get them to carry out the necessary maintenance work on it.

12. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for February 17th 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

Signed.....