

subject to approval
**Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council
held in Cusop Village Hall on 15th January 2020**

Present: Councillors J Wesley (Chairman), I Jardin, A Matthews and D Evans.

In attendance: Ward Cllr Hewitt, PCSO P Knight, Footpaths Officer S Marsh and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs Hainge and Gilbert.

2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations. None.

3. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman.

4. Public participation session. PCSO Knight repeated warnings about scams involving callers impersonating police officers and inviting the victim to hand over large sums of cash. A new Rural and Business crime officer, Sarah Smith, was working out of Ledbury. Additional resources were being provided for rural crime hotspots. Golden Valley Police were planning joint operations with their Hay-on Wye colleagues. Cllr Evans welcomed any visible police presence, particularly in Newport Street.

The Footpaths Officer expressed concern at the state of Cusop's footpath's following the recent long period of very wet weather. She was asked to report problems with footpath signs to the Parish Council or County Council as appropriate. A formal report will be prepared ready for the Council's AGM. It was agreed to include footpaths on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Planning Application

P/194063/F Blenheim House, Church Road, Cusop HR3 5RF. Change of use of land to residential and proposed garage (retrospective).

Resolved: that the Council objects to the application on grounds of it breaching the settlement boundary and encroaching on agricultural land. Proposed Cllr Wesley, seconded Cllr Matthews. Carried unanimously.

6. HSBC mandate.

It was agreed to resubmit the revised mandate to HSBC showing Jane Stannard as Clerk/ Secretary, and authorizing Cllrs Jardin and Matthews as signatories on the bank accounts.

7. Working Group.

It was decided to dissolve the working group as it had not met. The council would pursue solutions to local parking and road problems by including them as a regular item on its agenda. In response to the delays experienced in setting up a meeting between the Parish Council and Yvonne Coleman from Hereford Council to discuss the allocation of S106 funds, Ward Cllr Hewitt offered to arrange a meeting between herself, Yvonne Coleman and Cllr Evans. Cllr Wesley suggested that the allocation of 106 monies be included on the agenda for February's meeting.

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The council considered reviewing its Neighbourhood Development plan but is content that it continues to meet the council's objectives for the time being.

9. HALC Training Day

It was agreed to focus on financial training in order to comply with recommendations received following the last audit.

10. Councillors' Reports.

a. Ward Cllr Hewitt reported on her work as a member of the working group reporting on waste management and on another considering the provision of new council houses for rent without a right to buy. Cllr Jardin drew her attention to the need for small numbers of such houses within the parish, explaining that the reluctance of housing associations to manage anything other than large groups of properties meant that all of the affordable housing in the Co-Op development had to be sold rather than being available to rent. Cllr Hewitt was also talking to schools about how they were dealing with peer on peer abuse.

b. Cllr Evans reported that Balfour Beatty had been to Nantyglasdwr Lane and looked at the ditches. Cllr Gilbert had made a good job of clearing these. Balfour Beatty were planning to flush out the culverts leading to the Dulas Brook.

c. Cllr Matthews reported on the poor state of the road by Threeways. It was suggested that a lengthsman should be sought, and that as well as Cllr Wesley arranging for an advert to be placed in The Link councillors should see if they could find suitable candidates for the post. Cllr Matthews also reported on problems caused by noisy dogs within the parish. It was agreed that this was something that people affected by such noise should take up the matter with the County Council as the Parish Council has no relevant powers concerning noise pollution.

d. Cllr Jardin reported that the path between the mill and the church was blocked by a fallen tree and asked whether Balfour Beatty were responsible for clearing it. It was agreed that Cllr Jardin should speak to the neighbouring landowner and assess the situation.

e. Cllr Wesley reported that the planning enforcement officer had confirmed that Leam Lodge was not in transgression of any planning laws. There had been no response from Paul Norris regarding whether the Lengthsman scheme was still in existence. He reported that although the council had asked Balfour Beatty to quote for cutting back the trees overhanging the Dingle, no quote had been received. The clerk was asked to contact them about this.

11. Clerk's Report. None.

12. Finance.

The financial summary and bank reconciliation for the 8 months to 30th November 2019 were noted and the following payments were approved:

- £48.00 to HALC for training fees,
- £60.00 to Cusop Village Hall for room hire Jul-Dec 2019,
- £21.07 to Autela Payroll Services for payroll services,
- £103.98 to Lexis Nexis for LCA Clerk's Guide.

13. Other business

It was agreed that an extension would be sought so that the licensing application from How The Light Gets In could be discussed at the next meeting of the council.

14. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 19th February.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.