

CUSOP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 19.00 at Cusop Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Mark Hainge (in the Chair), Julia Whittall, Ian Jardin, Phil Gilbert, David Evans and Nick Blayney (post co-option).

In attendance

Clerk Helen Tinson – on behalf of HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils); and 3 members of the public.

1. Consideration to access HALC Clerk Cover for the meeting:

It was RESOLVED: to access HALC's CiLCA qualified Clerk/RFO Cover for the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence: Ward Cllr Jennie Hewitt

3. Amendment to Standing Order 3(s) to allow voting by paper ballot:

It was RESOLVED: to amend Standing Order 3(s) as follows:

“Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on matters relating to co-option shall be by a show of hands or by paper ballot if deemed appropriate by a majority of councillors present.”

4. Co-option of Councillor to fill current vacancy:

It was RESOLVED: to co-opt Nick Blayney onto the Parish Council. Cllr Blayney duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined members at the council table. Cllr Blayney was provided with a Declaration of Interests form and asked to complete and submit it to Herefordshire Council within 28 days of the date of co-option.

5. Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests: There were none.

6. Minutes:

6.1 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 18th January 2023:

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2023.

It was RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true and proper record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

It was RESOLVED: to record an update to item 10.1, Councillors Reports, regarding the recent high river levels as the report presented at the meeting was not strictly correct. All gardens and outbuildings of Dulas Terrace were flooded, with the water reaching the steps into the houses. The pump installed in the basement of The Kingfisher was in operation for a number of hours in order to prevent the basement from flooding. The basements of the properties on the opposite side of the brook on Newport Street were all flooded.

6.2 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 19th October 2022:

Members were asked to approve the amendments made to the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2022, as per minute 4 of the meeting held on the 16th November 2022.
It was RESOLVED: to approve the amendments and approve the minutes as a true and proper record of the meeting.

7. Public Participation:

7.1 Ward Councillor Report: It was reported that Ward Cllr Hewitt is on compassionate leave and therefore no report was available.

7.2 Members of the Public: There were no comments raised.

8. Playing Field:

Members received an update concerning the playing field. The gateposts have been installed and the 'Cusop Playing Field' sign has been fixed to the gate. Four people have expressed an interest in joining the working party (Playing Field and Community Gardens). The Chairman will pass their details to the Volunteer Playground Inspector. There has been no response from Herefordshire Council concerning the ownership of the Ash Tree showing early signs of Ash Dieback.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Gilbert would remove and dispose of three old posts and back fill and make good the post holes.

9. Lengthsman:

Members received a report from Cllr Evans and Cllr Whittall following a second visit to the contractor keen to take on the role of Lengthsman. He is acquainted with the previous Lengthsman who has offered to take him around the parish and guide him on the work required. Rate of pay, number of hours required per month and training were discussed. It was noted that the contract with the current lengthsman has expired and only sporadic work has been carried out since that time.

It was RESOLVED: to engage GWG Tree and Garden Care on a one-year contract, commencing 1st April 2023 and expiring 31st March 2024, at the hourly rate discussed at the meeting. The Chairman will contact GWG Tree and Garden Care and draw up the contract.

10. Finance:

10.1 Report: It was reported that there has been little movement in the bank since the last quarterly report. The bank account balance is in the region of £22,085.00. Cllr Jardin has completed the outstanding actions in connection with closing the HSBC savings account and confirmed that the money has been transferred to Unity Bank. Work to remove ex-councillor Jim Wesley as a signatory remains ongoing.

10.2 Asset Register: Members considered the bench at 'Tycoch'. The bench is in significant disrepair; the metal frames are still in situ though the wooden slats are beyond repair. It was unclear how the metal frames were secured and whether they could be removed.

It was RESOLVED: that the Chairman would assess the condition of the bench and frame fixings and report to the next meeting.

10.3 Payments:

It was RESOLVED: to ratify the following payment made between meetings:

- 10.3.1** HALC, Clerk costs (December/January), £570.33, including VAT

It was RESOLVED: to approve the following invoices for payment:

- 10.3.2** HALC, Clerk costs (February), £285.17, including VAT
10.3.3 HALC, 2023/2024 Membership of HALC and NALC, £489.45, including VAT

11. Planning:

- 11.1 230142: Upper Dulas, Cusop, HR3 5RD.** An application for a new part buried dwelling. Members considered the application noting that the site is within the settlement boundary and the application has been substantially redesigned to address previous objections. Concerns were raised about the environmental impact during construction and additional traffic onto an already congested road.
It was RESOLVED: to submit a GENERAL COMMENT noting no objections but raising concerns in relation to NDP Policy 14: Dulas Brook - the Parish Council would expect the construction plan to comprehensively and effectively address any environmental impact, but in particular any risk of pollution into Dulas Brook; and congestion on Lower Dingle Road.

12. Councillors Reports:

- 12.1** The crumbling pavement near 'Hillside' on Cusop Dingle has been reported to BBLP;
- 12.2** The application to erect three glamping pods at Trewerne Outdoor Education Centre has been withdrawn, though it was reported that another source of income is still being sought;
- 12.3** Welsh Water will be closing the Upper Dingle Road w/c 20th February for three days to connect a property to mains water supply. Letters have not been distributed to affected residents. Cllr Jardin has raised the matter with Welsh Water and is awaiting a response;
- 12.4** Andrew Houston is the new Programme Manager for Herefordshire Council and gave a presentation on 8th February to provide information on how HC will be dealing with the use of S106 monies going forwards. He is working with internal stakeholders to formally commission the S106 Highways & Transports projects. AECOM have been appointed to help deliver a programme of projects which, once agreed, will be communicated via the Ward Councillor. Tranche 1 schemes are projects previously engaged to BBLP which stalled. There was no mention of Cusop in Tranche 1 so assumed to be in Tranche 2 or 3. An update is still awaited on the road safety scheme though there appears to be some progress. More information will be forthcoming when a formal programme is in place.
- 12.5** The application for 20mph zone funding has gone to the Welsh Assembly though the roll out is anticipated to start in September 2023; work on the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is due to start in March 2023 with a turnaround expected in 2023, subject to any significant objections.

13. Meetings:

13.1 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2023, 7.00pm, Cusop Village Hall.

Agenda Items:

- 13.1.1** Playing Field: to receive update and consider actions as necessary
- 13.1.2** Lengthsman: to receive update and consider actions as necessary
- 13.1.3** Asset Register: to receive update and consider actions as necessary
- 13.1.4** Recruitment: to receive update and consider actions as necessary

13.2 Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 19th April, 6pm, Cusop Village Hall followed by the ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7pm. It was noted that the draft minutes from the APM 2022 have been received and will be uploaded onto the website.

Meeting closed 8.33pm

SIGNED DATE

