

Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council held in Cusop Village Hall on 17th January 2018

Present: Councillors J Wesley (Chairman), D Evans, A Fryers, P Gilbert, M Hainge, and Mrs P Wordley.

In attendance: I Jardin (Clerk), Herefordshire Cllr P Price, Ms S Marsh, Mr S Street, and Mr P Graves (item 1-9).

1. Apologies for absence. None.

2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations. None.

3. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2017 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

4. Public participation session

Mr Street said that he was aware of concern about the closure of the pavement outside Upper Dulas due to works to create a parking area inside his property and wanted to apologise; things had gone wrong over Christmas but had now been resolved; the pavement had been re-instated and the cones in the road would be removed; a benefit was that there would no longer be any need to park on the road. Members agreed that the repaired wall and pavement were an improvement.

5. Planning Application

P171854/RM - Land East of Newport Street, Cusop. Proposed removal of condition 6 of planning permission 160679 (reserved matters application for 26 dwellings) to allow for a financial contribution to be paid in lieu of the onsite affordable housing provision.

The Clerk reported that he had no further news from Herefordshire Council about its progress with this application, that it had given itself an extension of time to 18th January to respond to the Parish Council's freedom-of-information request and that it had still not responded to the request for information about the payment of planning obligation contributions. Cllr Price said that the planning department had told him that the district valuer's report had advised that the scheme was viable and that the application would be refused; he would have expected this to have been made public by now and apologised to the Parish Council and encouraged it to pursue responses.

Members agreed the the Clerk should appeal the FOI request unless full disclosure of documents was received by 18th January and should pursue a reply about the contributions.

6. Litter Bins

Members noted that during the six month trial removal they had received a few comments for or against the bins's removal, but overall it had not generated a significant load of problems or complaints.

Resolved: that the removal of the roadside litter bins be made permanent, that the bins be disposed of, and that Balfour Beatty be informed. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wordley, seconded Cllr Hainge. Carried unanimously.

7. Footpaths Officer

Ms Sharon Marsh introduced herself and confirmed her interest in helping to maintain the paths network and re-instate lost paths. Members welcomed her involvement and thanked Paul Graves for his work as previous footpaths officer.

Resolved: that Sharon Marsh be appointed as volunteer Parish Footpaths Officer. Proposed Cllr Hainge, seconded Cllr Fryers. Carried unanimously.

8. Light Pollution and the Dulas Brook

The Chairman noted that the Council had to decide whether and how to develop initiatives for these non-planning issues identified during neighbourhood plan consultations. It was agreed that residents's views on both subjects should be sought in the next newsletter and that an expert speaker on conservation of the Brook should be sought for the Annual Parish Meeting.

9. “How the Light Gets In” Festival May 2018

Members agreed that the Council should thank the Globe manager for her briefing and confirm that it welcomed the Festival in principle, although there was some concern about safety and noise relating to the use of the field behind the Co-op and the movement of people between the field, the campsite, and the Globe, and especially crossing the road to and from the campsite. After some discussion it was agreed that the Globe should be asked to finish events at the field by midnight (which would allow some staggering of closing times since events at the Hay Festival site ended at 11.30pm). It was also agreed that Herefordshire Council should be asked to incorporate this time limit in its temporary event notice and that a note about the Globe Festival with contact details should be included in the next newsletter.

10. Councillors' Reports

The Chairman reported that a member of public had drawn attention to the poor condition of the lower dingle pavement to the south of the playing field access track and the presence of unauthorised advertising signs in the verge opposite the Co-op entrance (the Clerk was instructed to report both to Balfour Beatty), and a damaged playing field no-parking sign (the Clerk was instructed to get it repaired).

Cllr Fryers said he had received reports of neglected footpaths in the Archenfield area. The Footpaths Officer was asked to investigate.

Cllr Gilbert noted that traffic counting strips had been laid in Hardwicke Road opposite Lower Mead. The Chairman said that they probably related to the preparation of a planning application nearby.

Cllr Evans reported that there was a lot of mud in Nantyglassdwr Lane because of vehicles churning the verges; there was also a lot of dog mess and he suggested that signs discouraging it should be fixed to the new footpath gates. The Footpaths Officer reported that she had a stock of signs and Cllr Evans offered to install them. Cllr Evans also reported potholes in Newport Street (the Clerk was instructed to report them to Balfour Beatty).

Cllr Mrs Wordley reported that the saltbins had been refilled and a damaged bin repaired; that there had been fly-tipping inside New House Wood (but it was agreed that this was a landowner responsibility); and that footpath signs on the road up to Cusop Hill had been damaged (the Clerk was instructed to report them to Balfour Beatty).

Herefordshire Cllr Price explained the background to the Council's decision to increase Council Tax by 4.9%.

11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's written report was noted.

12. Finance

The financial summary and bank reconciliation for the nine months to 31st December 2017 were noted. The Chairman confirmed that the bank statements tallied with them.

Resolved: to make the following payments:

- £635.76 to Ian Jardin for Clerk's salary, expenses and re-imbursments for Nov-Dec 2017,
- £48.00 to Cusop Village Hall for room hire Aug-Nov 2017,
- £225.20 to HMRC for quarterly PAYE income tax (retrospective).

13. Date of next meeting would be Wednesday 21st February 2018.