

## Minutes of the Meeting of Cusop Parish Council held in Cusop Village Hall on 19 October 2022

**Present:** J Whittall(Vice Chairman)(JWi), D Evans(DE), I Jardin(IJ), J Wesley(JW)

**In attendance:** A Green(Clerk)(AG). Jennie Hewitt(Ward Councillor)(JH), Thirty six members of the public.

### 1. Apologies for absence:

M Hainge (Chairman), P Gilbert(PG)

### 2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations:

None

### 3. Minutes.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 be approved as a correct record, with 1 minor amendment, and be signed by the chairman.

**Action:** AG/JWi

### 4. Public Participation Session:

Thirty six members of the public were in attendance to support the proposal regarding the allocation of S106 monies to addressing issues in relation to speeding in the parish, particularly on Newport Street and Hardwick Road. Several members of the public spoke to express their concerns regarding speeding, safety and condition of the highways in general. Mr N Blayney (Cusop Speed Awareness Group) (NB) addressed the Council outlining the argument for all of the S106 monies to be allocated solely towards traffic calming projects and expressed the opinion that the playing field was in a poor state of repair, little used and that upgrade/maintenance was the responsibility of the Parish Council. NB informed the room that he was working on estimates for the white gates indicating entrance to the village and that there was a grant available to fund these. Several members of the public in attendance voiced their agreement to this proposal which had been set out in a letter to affected households from Cll Whittall and Mr Blayney as members of the Cusop Speed Awareness Group.

A member of the public asked whether plans for the improvements are available to review.

JWi stated plans are quite detailed and include potential costings but are not 'set in stone' and believed when they are more advanced then they would be shared and consultation on which elements could be delivered with the available monies undertaken.

JH informed the room that Hereford have a new project management team to oversee delivery of highway schemes and have appointed a new company, ACOM, to draw up detailed plans which would 'piggyback' on the ones currently in place.

It was agreed to continue discussion under agenda point 6.

### 5. S106 Monies

JW referred to the email communication from Cll Hewitt and stated that the Parish Council had not been responsible for the delay in concluding the issue relating to allocation of the S106 monies, that a response from Hereford had been awaited for over 4 years and asked why a new legal agreement would be required to be paid out of the S106 monies belonging to Cusop Parish. JH stated the delay had been caused by Hereford Legal Department to agree to the re-distribution of the monies from those areas originally identified. JH explained that the highways projects had been removed from the portfolio of Balfour Beatty and re-allocated to the new team so that projects can be progressed quickly.

JW felt that the Parish had been let down by Hereford in the past he did not feel that road improvements should be paid for out of Parish funds when this was the responsibility of Hereford Council and queried how could the Parish Council proceed with any decision on distribution of funds without detailed costings as it was not clear what could be achieved or afforded.

IJ asked if there were costings available.

JWi responded that current costings are £31,000 for Hardwick Road and £64,000 for Newport Street all allocated to improvements and not maintenance works.

JH stated that some funding could be available from the Welsh 20MPH initiative and that no S106 monies were to be used for ACOM fees, she was requested to provide costs for the new legal agreement.

**Action:** JH

JW expressed concern that the Parish Council had been 'railroaded' into agreeing the reallocation of the S106 monies towards the road safety project and that parishioners should be consulted further.

JH stated that costs would increase if a decision was not made swiftly.

IJ informed the room that the Parish Council had deliberately held back on spending the S106 monies, which could have been used as originally intended, until confirmation that re-allocation to highways was allowed. This had only been confirmed at the Parish Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September however, he believed that a decision should be made at this meeting.

It was agreed that work was required to update and maintain the playing field, address the safety issues and provide some new equipment such as goal posts and a cradle swing.

JWi stated that the greatest impact of the new development had been on Newport Street and that the greatest benefit to the whole parish would be to proceed with the road safety projects.

Proposed that £10,000 be kept for the playing field works and the remainder of the S106 monies re-allocated to highways.

Proposal seconded, 2 in favour and 2 against. Motion not carried.

Proposed that all S106 monies be reallocated to road safety and Parish Council funds used to update the playing field.

Proposal seconded, 2 in favour and 2 against.

At this juncture the casting vote is given to the Chairman/Vice Chairman. Acting in this capacity, JWi approved the second proposal.

It was resolved to re-allocate all of the S106 monies to the speed reduction project.

## SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

### 6. Planning Applications:

**Application no & site address:** 214686 - Trewern Outdoor Centre, Church Road, Cusop, Hereford, Herefordshire HR3 5RF

**DESCRIPTION:** Installation of 3 no. glamping pods, and associated ground works.

It was agreed that the only previous point of objection satisfied by the updated application was the move away from the archaeological site the other points of objection remain valid

IJ proposed to object to the revised plan seconded by DE

It was resolved to object on the following grounds:

a. The site is well outside the Settlement Boundary, contrary to Cusop NDP Policy 1 and Core Strategy Policies RA6 and E4. Holiday accommodation for car-borne visitors is not sustainable and does not primarily support rural activities such as walking that need to be based in the countryside.

b. The volume of traffic - up to 16 visitors and 6 cars on a daily basis - would be too high for a narrow winding steep road that currently serves just three dwellings. It would also add significantly to the traffic that has to be funnelled through the lower Dingle road.

c. It would have a negative impact on the amenity of nearby residents because of increased traffic and noise.

d. The application form confirms that it would not generate any additional employment.

e. It is noted that the Senior Landscape Officer's advice on the 2013 application for the BMX track was that "retention and management of the remaining meadow area in the wider paddock is particularly important".

Herefordshire Council should impose conditions requiring: restriction on external lighting; all pods and associated works to be removed if the site ceases to be used for holiday accommodation for more than six months; and the site not to be sold separately from the rest of Trewern outdoor centre.

**Action: AG**

### 7. Cusop Speed Awareness Group.

JH stated that she had received a communication from Cll J Harrington to support the re-allocation of the S106 monies to the road safety project and from M Pierce informing there had been approval at the cabinet meeting for public health funds to be used to support the 20MHP initiative across the county. The 20MPH restrictions into Newport Street and Nantyglasdwr Road will be funded by the Welsh.

JH informed the Council that the white gates were required to be positioned by the new 30MPH signs. JH offered additional relevant information regarding the owners of Dan-Y-Garth who were keen to install a mini roundabout as part of that development which would benefit residents along Hardwick Road.

IJ asked what were the next steps for the Parish Council as it's role was to ensure all parishioners be represented.

JH suggested development of a 5/10 year plan for the parish requirements in addition she agreed to find out from ACON next steps regarding the highway plans and once the plan summary is developed then this should be presented to the Parish Council for their consideration and input.

**Action: JH**

### 8. Local Plan

The recent audit communication from Hereford was reviewed.

It was resolved to respond with the following comments:

a. Part of Cusop Parish is in fact within a flood zone 3 area which other areas in the Parish border.

b. There were additional businesses to be included in the audit. JWi agreed to supply the clerk with details.

**Action: AG/JWi**

### 9. Playing Field.

Mr Andy Fryers (AF) was invited to address the Council.

AF stated that the Parish Council had direct responsibility for safety in the playground, a specialist company would need to undertake the repairs to satisfy insurance requirements although the fence and goal post replacement can be undertaken by any competent contractor. AF considered installation of a new cradle swing and creating disabled access was the minimum upgrade to the equipment needed, in addition Mr N Jones should be approached to obtain a statement that the area of scrubby ground belonging to him is safe as children access this area to retrieve stray balls. AF agreed to forward to the clerk details of the most urgent repairs required.

It was resolved to agree an outline of improvements parishioners would like and then obtain quotes from specialist companies to undertake the programme of improvements

**Action: AF/ Clerk**

### 10. Overgrown Hedges

Discussion was had about the current lengthsman's lack of engagement with maintenance requirements in the Parish and potential to find an alternative solution.

It was resolved to allow the lengthsman a few weeks (until the next Parish Council meeting) to undertake the duties and to investigate an alternative should these remain incomplete.

**Action: Clerk**

### 11. Finance

(a) Precept – it was resolved to decide at the next Parish Council meeting in November.

(b) Parish Council cash book report – approved

**12. Councillors' reports.**

IJ reported that the stile on the western side of the road on Llydy Adyway farm had been repaired and the hedges cut back.  
JWi reported that the pothole in the tarmac road outside Hay & Brecon Farmers, where an elderly parishioner had fallen, had been repaired  
JW wished to inform the Council that he had recently become disillusioned by his experience in the role of Parish Councillor, a voluntary position which he had undertaken for the past 12 years. As a result he expressed his intention to resign.  
The Councillors expressed regret at this decision and IJ offered thanks for all the hard work JW had contributed to the Parish Council on behalf of parishioners.

16 **Date of next meeting.** 16 November 2022



Signed.....