

subject to approval
**Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council
held in Cusop Village Hall on 8th November 2019**

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

In attendance: One member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. None.

2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations. Cllrs Hainge and Matthews declared an interest in Item 9.

3. Minutes

Resolved: that subject to the correction of an error in Item 9 (192273 should have read 193273) the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2019 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman.

4. Public participation session. None.

5. Community Working Group. Cllr Wesley reported that he had sent out emails seeking availability but had yet to receive any responses.

6. Road Closures, Footpaths and Communication. There had been no developments.

7. HALC Training Courses. Cllr Matthews expressed an interest in attending a Leading Lights course. All agreed that it was important for all councillors to update their initial training periodically and it was resolved to ask HALC to send a trainer to Cusop for all to attend a finance course, as well as bidding for a course place for Cllr Matthews in December.

8. Clerk Recruitment. Cllr Wesley reported that there had been three applicants for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. It was resolved to move ahead with interviews, Cllrs Wesley and Jardin agreed to take this on.

9. Parish Council Representative - Brynglas Planning Application Committee Meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman should attend the Planning Committee meeting in Hereford on 13th November in order to represent the views of the Parish Council objecting to this planning application.

10. Paths Partnership and Lengthsman Schemes. The Council asked the acting clerk to check whether the schemes were still operating, to appoint a new lengthsman and to ask the previous lengthsman to do emergency work in the meantime. Further discussion took place regarding trees and shrubs which overhang the pavement and the condition of the pavement opposite Snails Hill cottage in Cusop Dingle.

11. Playing Field Safety Report. It was acknowledged that it was good practice to conduct annual safety inspections/reports, although this year's report had yet to be done. This was because until the land transfer is resolved it was judged difficult to do. Cllr Jardin would pass details of the safety inspector that we had used previously to Cllr Wesley to follow up and commission an inspection and report when practicable.

12. Non-Authorised Developments. There had been reports of two potentially irregular developments within the Parish. It was resolved to ask the Planning Officer for Herefordshire Council to investigate and advise the Parish Council on these cases.

13. Councillors' Reports.

- a. Ward Councillor Hewitt's written report was noted, with thanks. She mentioned that she would be meeting Yvonne Coleman later and invited Cllr Evans to accompany her. She also explored the issue of how much consultation Herefordshire engaged in with the Parish Council, before leaving early to attend another engagement. Discussions over Section 106 money continued. It was noted that we were still waiting for an answer over our proposal to use some of it to pay the legal fees associated with the land transfer to the playing fields.

- b. Cllr Jardin reported that a team from Surrey University conducting a study on Community met him. They were interesting in issues connected with the growing number of second homes and the impact on the vitality of the community. He was going to attend a meeting run by Herefordshire Council on NDP's, which lose some of their weight once over 2 years old. Autela were now set up as payroll managers. Many grit bins have been damaged and the contents ruined and Balfour Beatty would need to replace them soonest.
- c. Cllr Hainge offered to attend Hay's Remembrance Sunday ceremony on behalf of the Parish.
- d. Cllr Matthews reported that road works emails via the website seem to be going down well, so will continue issuing them.
- e. Cllr Evans thanked Cllr Gilbert for cleaning out roadside ditches up Nantyglassdwr Lane. He had contacted Yvonne Coleman try and accelerate the issue of signage for Newport street and expressed frustration over the long delay in receiving Section 106 money from Herefordshire Council.
- f. Cllr Wesley reported that a contractor had been asked to replace the light bulb in Private Road.

14. Clerk's Report. Nil.

15. Finance.

- a. Cllr Jardin submitted the draft quarterly report, covering the first seven months of this year. It was provisional as he was waiting to receive a copy of one missing bank statement but there were no major areas of concern.
- b. Referring to the budget approved by the Parish Council last November, he reported that there were two minor items that were over budget because of increased insurance costs.
- c. The spending of Section 106 money on the pétanque court needed to be formally authorised by the Parish Council at its next meeting.
- d. The absence of a lengthsman and a clerk meant that spending was lower this year. Sufficient money had been set aside for the lengthsman and for footpaths, so it was unanimously agreed to keep the precept the same as last year at £8500.00.

16. Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be in January 2020, unless a Clerk could be recruited before then, in which case it would be in December 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.