

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cusop Parish Council
held in Cusop Village Hall on 19th May 2021**

Present: Councillors J Wesley (Chairman items 1-2), I Jardin (Chairman items 3-11), J Whittall, M Hainge and D Evans.

In attendance: J Stannard (Clerk) and Ward Cllr J Hewitt (items 9-11).

1. Election of Chairman:

Members noted the resignation of Cllr Wesley and expressed gratitude for his many contributions to the community.

Cllr Wesley proposed, and Cllr Hainge seconded, Cllr Jardin as Chairman. Agreed.

2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The meeting received Cllr Jardin's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman:

Cllr Jardin proposed, and Cllr Evans seconded, Cllr Hainge as Vice-Chairman. Agreed.

4. Apologies for absence: None.

5. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations: None.

6. Minutes.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman.

7. Other appointments:

The following appointments for 2021-22 were agreed:

Honorary parish footpaths officer: Mrs S Marsh

Website administrator: Mrs A Matthews

Playing Field Volunteer Supporters Group representative: Mr A Fryers

The Clerk was asked to thank all of them for their contribution to the parish.

8. Public Participation Session: No members of the public were present.

9. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Whittall reported on her meeting with Powys Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe and Anita Wright to discuss traffic problems in Newport Street. The Cusop Speed Awareness Group were meeting on May 24th. Surface water continued to be a problem to the householders at the front of the Bookers Edge development. Crossing Newport Street was dangerous, particularly for the elderly and for families with young children.

Cllr Jardin asked whether the council had to accept the ring-fencing of the Bookers Edge S106 monies, and asked for this matter to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Signed.....

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Ward Cllr Hewitt reported that she would be meeting Cllr Ratcliffe to discuss speeding on Newport Street and Hardwicke Road, and that Hay was being considered for a pilot study to reduce speeds to 20mph in the town.

Cllr Hewitt told the meeting that the new CEO of Herefordshire County Council was proving to be very proactive, and that his interest in each Ward Councillor's burning issues was very welcome.

Cllr Evans told the meeting that the surface of Newport Street was breaking up, and was not fit for purpose. He believed that the necessary repairs were the responsibility of Herefordshire County Council, and were not related to the creation of the Bookers Edge estate. Cllr Hewitt reminded the meeting that Herefordshire County Council was catastrophically short of funds.

Cllr Hainge told the meeting that several householders in Cusop Dingle were suffering from rat infestations. It was not felt that the Parish Council could help with this, and so he was advised to recommend the affected householders to contact Environmental Health.

Cllr Wesley reported that he had recently attended a very useful Chairs' Chat meeting via Zoom, and was disappointed that only 25 Parish Councils were represented, out of a total of 133 in Herefordshire. It seemed likely that council meetings would eventually be hybrid, taking place in person and being streamed live online. If this were the case, then an internet connection would be needed in the Village Hall.

He asked for Playground equipment repairs and renewals to be discussed at the next meeting, and for Andy Fryers to be invited to address the meeting about what was needed.

10. Clerk's Report. The Clerk's written report was noted.

11. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would be on Wednesday 23rd June, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed.....