

Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Cusop Parish Council

Held in Cusop Village Hall on 15th April 2019

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

In attendance: N. Howard (Clerk). PC Roger Bradley (part) & PCSO Peter Knight (part).

- 1. Councillors' Acceptance of Office.** All five Councillors named above duly accepted their election to office and all signed the requisite documentation.
- 2. Election of Chairman.** Councillor Wesley was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Evans and this was seconded by Councillor Gilbert. Councillor Wesley was duly elected as Chairman by a unanimous vote.
- 3. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Councillor Wesley duly accepted his election to the position of Chairman and signed the requisite documentation.
- 4. Election of Vice Chairman.** Councillor Hainge was proposed as Vice Chairman by Councillor Wesley and this was seconded by Councillor Gilbert. Councillor Hainge was duly elected as Vice Chairman by a unanimous vote and accepted the position.
- 5. Apologies for absence.** None were received.
- 6. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations:** There were none declared.
- 7. Minutes:** Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2019 were a true and correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 10.** The Chairman then altered the running order of the Agenda to allow the only members of the public present (PC Roger Bradley and PCSO Peter Knight) to present a brief overview of the previous twelve months from a 'police perspective': -

PC Bradley reported: - "We are privileged to police an area of outstanding natural beauty within Herefordshire, and cover Peterchurch and the surrounding villages such as Vowchurch, Craswall, Madley, Dorstone and Cusop.

Our day to day work focuses on managing the risk of harm to residents and identifying those individuals causing that harm. We aim to make the Golden Valley area a safer place to live and work and you will see us out and about in the community.

Our Local Patrol Officers are PC Roger Bradley, PCSO Fiona Witcher and PCSO Peter Knight.

Cusop is a low crime area with only 2 reported incidents in the last twelve months, and the Golden Valley generally has seen less crime than usual.

The Parish (residents) are a very important asset, being 'our eyes and ears', and it is vital that contact is maintained.

It is imperative that 'Outbuildings' are kept locked and secure, as they can be vulnerable and are targeted by criminals with items such as quad bikes, chainsaws and other powered tools being at risk of theft.

Speeding is an ongoing issue and we are well aware of the hotspots. We are keen to educate and not necessarily prosecute and work with the local council and the Highways Authority to ensure appropriate levels of signage etc.

We work closely with the neighbouring forces in Hereford and Powys, and calls will be directed to them if we are unavailable. For example, when the Co-op was raided last month in the early hours of the morning the response was from Hereford and officers were on the scene within fifteen minutes, only just missing the perpetrators.

We will have a presence at the upcoming WTLGI Festival and will liaise with the on-site security to try and avoid any nuisance to residents.”

Councillor Wesley thanked PC Bradley for his report, and the PC Bradley and PCSO Knight left the meeting.

- 8. Council Member Vacancy:** The recent election left one vacancy for a Councillor to sit on Cusop Parish Council. As no advertising of the vacancy is required Councillors will make it known that such vacancy exists for a new member to be co-opted to sit. Nominations will be discussed and voted upon at a future meeting.
- 9. Other Appointments:** The position of ‘Footpaths Officer’ is being held in abeyance until the next meeting. The current Website Administrator (Alison Matthews) and Playing Fields & Support Group Volunteer (Andy Fryers) have kindly agreed to continue in their respective roles.
- 11. Community Working Group:** No update.
- 12. Councillors’ Reports.**
 - Councillor Wesley reported that there had been no developments in respect of the potential acquisition of the ‘strip of land’ at the Playing Fields.
 - Councillor Evans was concerned with the tardiness of Herefordshire Council (HC) in respect of the road/traffic issues in Newport Street. The Clerk to email HC with copy to (new) Ward Councillor.
 - Councillor Evans re-iterated the continued surface water problems in Nantyglassdwr Lane. It was agreed that the lengthsman would take an initial look.
 - Councillor Evans asked if the Clerk could procure 6 (Anti) Dog Fouling signs, that he was happy to put up. This was agreed.
 - Councillor Evans was concerned that the ‘muddy’ verge fronting a number of the new properties on Newport should in fact be ‘pavement’. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate, and report back.
- 13. Clerk’s Report:** The Clerk presented his report and correspondence.
- 14. Finance.** Councillors signed cheques for payment.
- 15. Date of next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th June 2019 and will take place at Cusop Village Hall starting at 1900 hours.

The meeting closed at 20:20 hours.

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