

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council held in Cusop Village Hall on 19th January 2022

Present: Councillors I Jardin (Chairman), M Hainge, J Wesley and J Whittall.

In attendance: J Stannard (Clerk), Ward Cllr J Hewitt and thirteen members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence, Cllrs P Gilbert and D Evans.
2. **Disclosures** of Interests and Dispensations. None.
3. **Minutes.** Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the chairman.
4. **Public participation session.** Nick Blayney (Cusop Speed Awareness Group) suggested that one or two councillors should meet with Paul Norris of Balfour Beatty on his inspection of Cusop's roads in February. He also queried the purpose of the financial reserves being held by the council.
5. **Planning Applications. To comment on planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council.**

214506 - Land adjacent to Blenheim House, Church Road, Cusop Dingle, Hereford,

Full planning application for change of use of paddocks (sui generis) into 4 dwellings (semi detached C3) with ancillary home office spaces over carports to the rear.

Resolved: that the Parish Council objects to this application because:

a. the site stretches well beyond the Settlement Boundary and is clearly contrary to Cusop NDP Policy 1. Moreover the site's internal access road is obviously positioned to enable a much bigger development in the rest of the field beyond the Settlement Boundary.

b. Cusop is already well ahead of its Core Strategy minimum housing target and there is no justification for overriding Policy 1 at this stage. There are other options for the future direction of residential development in Cusop and it is important that all options are compared through a coherent process in which the community including other landowners can take part. The Parish Council expects to review the NDP once the revised Core Strategy starts to emerge.

c. the scheme would generate more traffic at a congested point on a narrow road close to a crossroads. The extent of the splays and the loss of roadside hedge are not clear from the drawings.

d. the site space to be taken up by double-garages with 26 square metre "home offices" overhead is at the expense of the size and dimensions of the main dwellings and the Council questions whether the latter are suitable for permanent accommodation.

e. the scheme would destroy a length of historic field boundary at the rear of the site, shown on early maps of Cusop.

f. in the event that Herefordshire Council is minded to grant consent a new hedgerow including standard trees, rather than post-and-wire fence, should be created along the north and east boundaries of the site

Proposed Cllr Wesley, seconded Cllr Hainge. Carried unanimously.

6. **Communication with the Community.** Deferred to end of meeting if time allowed
7. **Jubilee celebrations.** There was some doubt about how to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and it was noted that the date clashed with Hay Festival. It was agreed to liaise with Hay Town Council, and to ask parishioners for their views in the proposed newsletter.
8. **Banking arrangements.** It was noted that HSBC had introduced charges and the clerk was asked to look into moving the council's bank accounts in order to obtain free banking, and to report on this at the next meeting.

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- 9. Cusop Speed Awareness Group.** Ward Cllr Hewitt and Cllr Whittall reported on the likely impact on Cusop of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Hay, and said that discussions about the new speed limit were taking place between Powys County Council and Herefordshire Council. Bruce Evans (Engineering Manager, Herefordshire Council) and Ward Cllr Hewitt were pressing for the refreshing of the yellow lines adjacent to Hay and Brecon Farmers in Newport Street. Cllr Hewitt was also working to have the yellow lines on the Dingle refreshed, and for spot checks on parking to be made. She had asked for a pedestrian crossing to be provided by Booker's Edge. It was agreed to ask Herefordshire Council to create a Traffic Regulation Order providing double yellow lines in front of Booker's Edge in Newport Street. The reallocation of S106 monies was still being investigated by Herefordshire Council, and it was hoped that some of this money could be spent on improvements to road safety. Cllr Whittall reported that it would be possible to make a funding application to the West Mercia Police Safer Roads Team once Bruce Evans had provided costings for the traffic and road safety improvements proposed by the Cusop Speed Awareness Group. The clerk was asked to see if Ward Cllr Hewitt and Cllr Whittall could meet with Paul Norris of Balfour Beatty when he made his inspection of Cusop's C roads in February.
- 10. Councillors' reports.** Ward Cllr Hewitt reported that a new Director of Economy was in place at Herefordshire Council and that S106 monies were being organized into an improved framework. Public Rights of Way were being brought back in house.
- Cllr Hainge asked about a parishioner who was concerned about works being carried out at a neighbouring property. It was noted that members of the public could report breaches of planning controls confidentially to Herefordshire Council's planning enforcement section via their website.
- 11. Clerk's report.** The Clerk's written report was noted.
- 12. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting was set for 7pm on Wednesday 16th February, 2022.
- 6. Communication with the Community** (resumed). The Council discussed measures to improve its communication with the community. It was agreed that the Herefordshire Council engagement toolkit, the Cusop church welcome pack, The Link, Wye Local, and other possible channels should be reviewed and the publication of councillor names and photographs, possibly in association with their planning flyer rounds, should be considered, for discussion at the next meeting. It was proposed to include an article identifying the councillors in a newsletter to be produced by the clerk.
- There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....