

## **Minutes of a Meeting of Cusop Parish Council held in Cusop Village Hall on 21st February 2018**

**Present:** Councillors J Wesley (Chairman), D Evans, A Fryers, and M Hainge.

**In attendance:** I Jardin (Clerk), Herefordshire Cllr P Price, Mr L Harris, Mr S Street, and PCSO F Witcher (items 1-4).

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Gilbert due to lambing and Cllr Mrs Wordley due to illness.

**2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations.** None.

### **3. Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Public participation session**

Mr Harris proposed that an Italian system of traffic lights that turned red to stop speeding vehicles should be tried out on Hardwicke Road. Members and Cllr Price encouraged Mr Harris to write to the transport minister, local MP Jesse Norman, to seek his support for a trial of the system and also agreed that the response should be on the agenda of the next meeting.

PCSO Witcher said she was aware of concerns about speeding on Hardwicke Road, supported Mr Harris's proposal, and drew attention to the possibility of installing temporary monitoring equipment to assess the extent of the problem. She said she was also aware of concerns about parking outside Upper Dulas and advised that parking there was not a problem unless it was an obstruction, in particular if it left too narrow a space for emergency vehicles to pass, or blocked the pavement, or was too close to the junction; the local police team would keep an eye on the situation.

Mr Street said that he had just installed off-road parking for Upper Dulas and was concerned that other vehicles continued to park outside on the road, often on the pavement, and obstruct other vehicles and pedestrians.

### **5. Planning Application**

P171854/RM - Land East of Newport Street, Cusop. Proposed removal of condition 6 of planning permission 160679 (reserved matters application for 26 dwellings) to allow for a financial contribution to be paid in lieu of the onsite affordable housing provision – latest information.

The Clerk reported that the case officer had now confirmed that the District Valuer's report had concluded that the site was viable with the delivery of the low cost affordable housing units on site, that she had requested that the developer withdraw the application or it would be refused, and that that she was discussing with the developer technical changes to the S106 agreement. The Herefordshire housing officer and Cllr Price had confirmed that these changes were necessary to facilitate low-cost market housing rather than social rented housing because Herefordshire Council had been unable to find a social landlord willing to take on the units, and there was no question of reducing the number of units on site. The Clerk also reported that the case officer had not so far replied to his request for discussion of the allocation of the other S106 contributions and that he had submitted a FOI appeal to Herefordshire Council which had advised it would respond by 3rd April.

Cllr Price said that the low-cost market alternative would ensure that the units were sold below the market rate - for example current figures suggested £106,000, a 39% discount, for a two-bedroom house – to buyers with established financial need, and could only be sold on at a similar discount to other buyers with established financial need; however, he was still pushing to see whether a social landlord could be found; priority for the units would be given to those with a Cusop connection, then to those with a Herefordshire connection, and finally to those with a connection outside the county; it was important that maximum publicity was given to ensure that all the units were taken up and no future argument against affordable housing provision created; regarding the other S106 contributions the case officer had told him that she would welcome input and he recommended that the Parish Council should invite her to its next meeting.

Members agreed that the availability of affordable housing units should be publicised in the next newsletter and Hay Town Council should be kept informed and that the case officer should be invited to the next meeting to discuss the allocation of the other S106 contributions.

#### **6. Lengthsman Scheme**

It was agreed that the Council should continue the lengthsman scheme in 2018/19 in the absence of Herefordshire Council grant and should submit the annual maintenance plan as requested by Balfour Beatty, along with an application for Parish Paths Partnership grant.

#### **7. RBL Commemoration of the end of the First World War**

It was agreed that the Council should thank the Royal British Legion for its invitation and confirm that the Parish Council would like to be represented at the Commemoration.

#### **8. Councillors' Reports**

The Chairman reported that a resident had contacted him about works being carried out next to Blenheim House (the Clerk was instructed to investigate planning position of any works there); he had drawn the attention of the owner of Nantyglasdwr House to broken branches overhanging the road; he and other councillors had cut up and removed a fallen tree at the Playing Field. The Chairman also asked whether other Members were receiving the HALC Information Corner email (they confirmed that they did not and it was agreed that in future the Clerk should circulate it).

Cllr Fryers noted that the new Hay Primary School had now opened and Clifford Primary School had a new head.

Cllr Evans noted that the Footpaths Officer had not yet contacted him about dog mess signs for Nantyglasdwr Lane (the Clerk was instructed to pursue this).

Herefordshire Cllr Price drew attention to the current public consultation about routes for the Hereford Western Bypass.

#### **9. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's written report was noted. The Clerk further reported that the Globe manager had confirmed that they expected the festival at the Globe to finish no later than 2.30am (he was instructed to ask whether this referred to the Globe or the riverside field or both); that a resident had written to ask for action to be taken to enforce the speed limit on Hardwicke Road (it was agreed this should be on the agenda of the next meeting); that a resident had complained about 'no parking' signs mounted on the boundary wall of Upper Dulas and asked whether the parish or district councils had the power to insist on their removal (the Clerk had sought advice from Balfour Beatty who confirmed that the signs had no legal standing and, because they were trying to control use of the highway illegally, should be removed – the Clerk was instructed to reply to the resident with this information); that Herefordshire Council had invited the Parish Council to sign up to its 'litter pledge' (it was agreed not to do so).

#### **10. Finance**

**Resolved:** to make the following payments:

- £321.26 to Ian Jardin for Clerk's salary, expenses and re-imbursements for Jan 2018,
- £18.00 to Getmapping plc for annual subscription to online mapping service,
- £368.75 to HALC for annual HALC/NALC subscription.

**11. Date of next meeting** would be Wednesday 21st March 2018.