

CUSOP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 13th March 2024 at 19.00 at Cusop Village Hall**

Present

Councillors: Nick Blayney (in the Chair), Christopher Kemp, John Levers and David Evans.

In attendance

Clerk Helen Tinson – on behalf of HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils); Ward Councillor Phillip Price; and 11 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Julia Whittall. Cllr Paul Elkington was absent with no apologies.
2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests:**
 - 2.1. Cllr Nick Blayney declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 7 (Highways), 8 (Cusop Playing Fields) and 13 (Dog waste bins); and Cllr Chris Kemp declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5c (financial donation to Hay and District Dial-a-Ride). There were no written requests for dispensation.
3. **Open Session:**
 - 3.1. **Ward Councillor Report:** Cllr Price gave a verbal report on matters excluding the S106 update (as this was discussed later) which included:
 - 3.1.1. Herefordshire Council's budget for 2024/25 has been approved at a meeting of full council. Council tax will be increased by 4.99%.
 - 3.1.2. Additional funding has been secured: £250,000 for the Lengthsman Scheme; £250,000 for PROW network to attend to closed footpaths and bridges; and £450,000 for local drainage work - PC's will be notified during the month on how to apply.
 - 3.1.3. A meeting has taken place with Dept of Transport Officers concerning financial support for the Western Bypass – the full report will be published on 20th March.
 - 3.2. **Golden Valley Police Report:** There were no officers in attendance, but a report had been submitted and published on the website (www.cusopparishcouncil.gov.uk). It was noted that no crimes have been reported in the parish since the last meeting. There were no questions raised and the report was taken as read.
 - 3.3. **Representations from the Public:**
 - 3.3.1. Several concerns were raised by multiple attendees about the 'How the Light Gets in' festival. Concerns were raised about:
 - 3.3.1.1. The 5-year duration of the licence application – considered too long
 - 3.3.1.2. Noise emanating from the campsite after the festival had ended and the subsequent disturbance for residents, particularly residents of Bookers Edge
 - 3.3.1.3. Current licensing to 1.30am – considered too late

- 3.3.1.4. Parking on the private road at Bookers Edge by festival goers and obstruction for emergency vehicles
- 3.3.1.5. Lack of supervision of campsite leading to socially unacceptable behaviour
- 3.3.1.6. Location of campsite so close to residents (noise, overlooking issues, antisocial behaviour)
- 3.3.1.7. Health and Safety concerns about cars parked too closely to tents
- 3.3.1.8. Noise monitoring stations – to be moved closer to venue
- 3.3.1.9. Light pollution from use of lasers
- 3.3.1.10. Organisers haven't fulfilled their assurance to contribute something back into the community

In response, a representative from the festival answered questions about the licence and pledged to provide cones for Bookers Edge; to investigate the possibility of moving the cars closer to the village and the campsite further away; to increase supervision of the campsite with two security guards supporting the night porter; and that no lasers, special effects or pyrotechnics will form part of the festival.

It was RESOLVED: to call an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to consider a response to the concerns raised and a formal response to the licence application.

- 3.3.2. A member of the public raised concerns about the drainage between Bookers Edge and the entrance to the Co-op which frequently results in significant floods. It was noted that major works are to be scheduled for that section of road in due course and anticipated that the road levels will be addressed at that time.

10 members of the public left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2024:

It was RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true and proper record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

5. Finance:

5.1. Finance Report:

Members considered the Finance Report circulated ahead of the meeting. There were no questions raised and the report was taken as read.

5.2. Payments:

It was RESOLVED: to approve the following invoices for payment:

- 5.2.1. GWG Tree and Garden Care, Lengthsman, £144.00 including VAT
- 5.2.2. HALC, Clerk Meeting Cover 14.2.24, £285.17 including VAT
- 5.2.3. HALC, Clerk Meeting Cover 13.3.24, £321.17 including VAT

5.3. Donation to Hay & District Dial-a-Ride:

Cllr Christopher Kemp left the meeting in accordance with his Declaration of Interest.

Members considered donating £100 to Hay and District Dial-a-Ride.

It was RESOLVED: to donate £100 as above.

Cllr Christopher Kemp returned to the meeting

5.4. Bank Mandate:

Members noted the resolution made at the last meeting to add further signatories to the Unity Bank mandate. Cllrs David Evans and John Levers gave their permission to be added to the mandate.

It was RESOLVED: to add Cllrs Evans and Levers to the mandate (Cllrs Blayney and Kemp).

6. Cusop S106 Traffic Calming Measures:

6.1. S106 Traffic Calming Measures Update:

Members noted that three reports providing background information have been published on the website. The reports were taken as read. At the last meeting, Cllr Price was asked to seek clarification on four questions:

- 1) Could Cllr Price seek absolute confirmation that the S106 open spaces/playing field money can be spent on maintenance, and over a 5-year period until 2028 (rather than 3 years);
The S106 Officer at HC is waiting for the Parish Council to provide a schedule of maintenance. It was noted that Cllr Blayney has prepared a 12-month schedule of maintenance and proposed that he develop this over a 5-year period.
- 2) Could Cllr Price seek absolute confirmation that Cllr Harrington had obtained approval from the developer to modify the S106 agreement;
There is nothing in writing that confirms approval had been obtained from the developer to modify the S106 agreement. HC cannot legally enforce a modification but can request that a modification is granted. Members were informed that this carries a risk of the developer withdrawing funds as the S106 money is not being spent mitigating risks identified at the start of the development.
- 3) Could Cllr Price confirm the value of funds contributing to the scheme from the Welsh 20mph scheme;
It was confirmed that £45,000 has been given by the Welsh Government to cover the three schemes, two of them being in Cusop.
- 4) Could Cllr Price obtain a properly costed and developed scheme that can be considered at the next meeting.
The fully costed and developed scheme has not yet been finalised but funds allocated are expected to be in the region of £50,000. Cllr Price advised that HC have agreed to fund any shortfall.

Cllr Price reported that he had asked several further questions and will forward the response in due course:

- 1) He required a plan for the implementation of the 20 mph speed restrictions on Hardwicke Road and Newport St - now provided
- 2) A working plan of the delivery of the extended speed on those roads - now provided
- 3) A plan of additional speed slowing measures on said roads
- 4) A plan for resurfacing the road after the Dwr Cymru installations, including the design

- 5) What is the cost of resurfacing and is it in the 2024 budget? - and how much can be got from the Welsh contribution
- 6) What proportion of the S106 fund can be used to fund the full engineering scheme, as has been discussed over recent years.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Blayney will develop the current schedule of maintenance (12-months) for the playing field to a 5-year plan and present this for consideration at the next meeting.

It was RESOLVED: to request Cllr Price approaches the developer with a 'without prejudice' question to ask if they would have any concerns in modifying the S106 agreement.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Blayney raise the drainage issue with Herefordshire Council's Engineering Manager to request the works are carried out prior to resurfacing.

It was RESOLVED: to defer any further decision to the next meeting.

6.2. PCC Grant for Village Gateways:

Members were informed that the grant submitted for the supply and installation of Village Gateways (£5104.00) has been successful. Herefordshire Council's Engineering Manager is to provide a quote via BBLP to install them at the same time as the new speed signs.

7. Highways:

7.1. Issues to register with BBLP:

- 7.1.1. Members noted that repairs to the Dulas bridge and pavement have been completed. The Dingle pavement has been referred to the Asset Team and it is anticipated this will be addressed in the next financial year.

7.2. Llyswen Zonal Scheme:

Members were informed that a letter will be sent to residents and businesses towards the end of this week. It was reported that Broad Street and Newport Street to Nantyglasdwr Lane will be closed from 22/4/24 to 9/5/24, between 1pm and 8pm with no vehicle access. Works will cease for one month for the festival and resume on 10/6/24 to the end of July. Works on Newport Street will be carried out under traffic light control from July onwards. The diversion arrangement via Clifford is for light vehicles only. Nantyglasdwr Lane will be closed at the bottom end of the lane and will be open for residents only.

8. Cusop Playing Fields and Community Garden:

Members noted that the 12month maintenance schedule prepared is to be developed into a five-year plan to be considered at the next meeting.

9. Website:

Members were informed that the transfer of the domain for www.cusop.net is progressing. Funding is being agreed between the Village Hall and the Church Council.

10. Lengthsman Activities:

10.1. Update on Lengthsman Activities:

The Acting Clerk presented a brief update on the Lengthsman Scheme following an update requested from BBLP between meetings. It was reported that £1738.00 of the Lengthsman Scheme funding remains available, together with the matched funding for drainage works. Members were encouraged

to assess their Annual Maintenance Plan and engage the Lengthsman to carry out works as a matter of urgency.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Blayney would identify urgent works with the Lengthsman and engage him to carry out any work that would fall under the remit of the Lengthsman Scheme before the end of March. Further drainage works for completion during the 24/25 year would also be identified.

Cllr Phillip Price left the meeting.

10.2. Tasks for Lengthsman:

Members considered a report that overgrowth on the pavement on Hardwicke Road (from The Meads to Nantyglassdwr Lane and beyond) needs to be cleared. It was noted that these works can be reclaimed under the Lengthsman Grant.

It was RESOLVED: to ask the Lengthsman to carry out the works as soon as possible and prior to 31st March.

10.3. Lengthsman Contract for 2024/25:

Members considered the advert for the Lengthsman contract for 2024/25.

It was RESOLVED: to post the advert on the website and Facebook page.

11. Footpaths:

11.1. To consider the appointment of a Parish Footpaths Officer:

Members were informed that the outgoing Parish Footpaths Officer has drawn up a job description and the job description will be advertised on the website and Facebook page.

11.2. PROW Defects:

No issues were raised to report to the PROW team at Herefordshire Council.

11.3. Footpath Signs:

It was reported that the outgoing PFO has agreed to accompany Cllr Evans on a parish walk to identify the locations for new footpath signs.

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Evans and the Lengthsman would identify which locations would require new posts.

11.4. Replacement of Stiles:

Members briefly considered a programme to replace stiles with gates along the PROW network within the Parish.

It was RESOLVED: to defer until a new PFO has been appointed.

12. Flooding of the Dulas Brook:

Members briefly considered drawing up a Flood Plan for the area.

It was RESOLVED: to defer until later in the year.

13. Review of Dog Waste Bins:

Members noted that a report had been circulated with the meeting papers and published on the website for public consultation. The report was taken as read.

It was RESOLVED: to ask for feedback via the website and Facebook and defer further discussion for three months pending public response.

14. Possible sites for Local Authority Treescape Fund:

14.1. Consider possible sites for tree planting:

Members noted that the request for sites has been published on the website and Facebook since 28th February, but that no response has been received and no sites identified.

14.2. Shrubs for the border at the Co-op:

Members considered a proposal to write to the Globe concerning the purchase of shrubs for the border at the Co-op. It was noted that the border is on private land and therefore a private matter for the Co-op.

It was RESOLVED: to take no further action.

15. Clerk Recruitment:

Members were informed that the previous applicant is no longer available and there have been no further applications. It was noted that HALC would not put forward anyone who was not suitable for the position.

It was RESOLVED: that the Chair and Vice Chair would carry out any interviews moving forwards and present their recommendations to full council for decision.

16. Items for the Next Agenda:

- 16.1. To consider a report on HC's Rural Settlement Hierarchy Meeting (19/20 March)
- 16.2. To consider the date of the Annual Parish Meeting
- 16.3. To consider the 5-year maintenance schedule of the Play Area and Field

17. Date of the Next Meeting:

- 17.1. **Extra Ordinary Meeting:** Thursday 21st March at 7pm at Cusop Village Hall
- 17.2. **Ordinary Meeting:** Wednesday 10th April at 7pm at Cusop Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.

SIGNED DATE