



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 May 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom video conferencing

Present:

Bill Austin (chair)
Neil Gray
Trish Mullins
Andy Young
Stuart Griffiths
Kathryn Cook

1) **Apologies:** *To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence.*

No apologies were received

2) **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made

3) **Speeding:** *to receive a report from the Working Group on speeding, as previously distributed, discuss and approve future steps.*

The report into speeding on roads through the parish prepared by the working group was noted. The Chair noted the thoroughness and quality of the report. He noted that working groups do not have power to make decisions, but those need to be made by the full council.

The rest of the meeting included a detailed review of the report and its recommendations. Points discussed included:

Finance

Council noted that the proposed spend of £5,304 would add around one-third of the council's budgeted spend of £15,875 for the year. It was also noted that the council had reserves of £24,591, in excess of the normal level of 1 year's precept, so the spend could be funded from reserves if required.

Council also noted Financial Regulation 10 which requires the RFO to ensure that spend is lawful before placing any orders.

Requirement

Cllr Young said that at present there was a mix of qualitative and anecdotal evidence that there was a problem with speeding in the parish, and this presented justifiable reason for concern. In his opinion, the first stage was to obtain better and more quantitative evidence, which was the purpose of the proposal under consideration.

Cllr Cook pointed out that there had been a number of vehicles that had been unable to keep to the road due to excess speed.

Cllr Griffiths agreed that more data was needed.

Nature of the planned expenditure

Cllr Austin asked why a high-visibility exercise involving radar speed measurements was not considered?

Cllr Young responded that the two survey types performed different functions. VAS, as proposed in the report provided base line information and showed the pattern of how "normal" road usage varied from hour to hour and day to day; the visible "yellow coat" exercise was more educative, drawing drivers' attention, but as it would affect behaviour, the information it would gather would be affected and not represent the true position when the radar trap was not in operation. Equally, the information gathered from VAS could be of use to many people, including local residents.

Benefit to the community

Cllr Austin pointed out that the parish extended beyond Longdon village, and council needed to consider all parts of the parish.

Cllr Mullins noted that there was a danger of focusing exclusively on traffic "passing through", but a significant amount of traffic was generated by people coming to and from the parish itself, and they might be amongst the worst offenders through over-familiarity with the roads. Cllr Cook felt this supported the need to make the community aware of the scale and nature of the problem, which the proposal under consideration would enable.

Cllr Austin pointed out that there were already a large number of speed limit signs on the approach to Longdon, and that the council had a duty to consider alternatives . Cllr Gray felt they were ineffective, but that investigation of speeding behaviour was required to build the case for changing them.

Cllr Austin noted the report included an estimate of ongoing costs of £2,400 per year: council noted that this could be reduced if, for example, the lengthsman continued to service the camera equipment.

Cllr Mullins queried whether any external funding was available: the Clerk responded that at present the advice from the Road Safety Partnership was that no grant funding was available.

Following this discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Mullins and RESOLVED unanimously as follows:

1. To adopt and implement phase 1 of the strategy outlined in the report. Council are to reconsider further action at the end of that phase.
2. Subject to necessary checks as required by the financial regulations, to authorise the clerk to purchase 2 VAS units, as described in the report, up to a maximum overall cost of £6,000.

Signed:

Date: