

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursery on Friday 3rd February 2017

Present

Acting Chairman Councillor (Borough and Parish) Colin Wileman, Councillors Ruth Goldstraw, Arthur Goldstraw, Robin Ludford-Brooks, Robert Bidgood, John Hoddy and Graham Lomas

Public

County Councillor Conor Wileman, Clerk Barbara Roe and one member of the public

Apologies

Chairman Councillor Brian Judd, Councillors Adrian Cowan, Marie Andrews and Vera John

Public Session

The attending member of the public wished to report his concerns over the installation of the speed humps and also discuss his long-term ideas for speed restriction in the area. He said that as a cyclist he was concerned about full length speed humps as they can be tricky for cyclists to negotiate but was not entirely against the idea as he recognised that something needed to be done.

He said he had observed that a large number of the traffic is through traffic.

His idea was to introduce two 20mph zones through the village and also a village hub in the area of Tesco Express – a drink/food outlet to attract walkers coming in from areas such as the woods - and two table top signs.

He also felt there was a need for two pedestrian crossings one at the top of Beaufort Road and one near Grafton Road. He felt it would be a good deterrent to try and make the traffic slow down.

Councillor Bidgood agreed with the pedestrian crossing as he lives near Tesco and said it is very dangerous for pedestrians trying to cross the road as he said visibility to the left of the roundabout is poor.

Councillor Wileman agreed that the roundabout was not fit for purpose at the moment.

Presentation by County Councillor Conor Wileman

It had been agreed at the full Parish Council meeting on 16th January 2016 that the speed humps on Beaufort Road would be an Agenda item at the meeting to be held on 16th February. The Council had since been approached by County Councillor Conor Wileman to hold an Extraordinary Meeting to secure a decision on funding from Brizlincote Parish Council. The reason the meeting was required to be called early was because the contractors wanted to proceed with the work in March.

As the Chairman, Councillor Brian Judd, was not available to attend he requested that Vice Chairman, Councillor Colin Wileman, act as Chairman for this meeting.

Councillor Conor Wileman produced a picture of the type of speed hump – called a speed cushion - to be installed called a ‘table top’. There would be a 200mm channel each side to provide drainage. He said it is a Department of Transport approved method of speed restriction.

There were three suggested sites for the speed cushions:

1. Just after Ashworth Avenue.
2. Just past Betony Way.
3. Just before Hargate Road.

The cost of each speed cushion would be £3,500 which included the removal of existing humps and installation of the new ones.

Councillor Bidgood said most of the accidents had occurred with traffic going down the hill and the problems were incurred due to the camber of the road and speed. Councillor Wileman said it was when cars were trying to ‘middle’ the humps and were getting too close and hitting the kerb. He also said that on at least two occasions the accidents have involved cars coming up the other way.

Councillor Bidgood asked if there would be signage. Councillor Wileman said there was existing signage but it is not very good, however new signage would incur further costs.

Councillor Bidgood said that when he adhered to the speed limit the cars came close up behind him.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks said he felt the solution would be three table top signs showing 20 mph and then if anyone had an accident it would be their own fault. Councillor Lomas asked if that could be done. Councillor Wileman said it could not be enforced but it may slow the traffic down. He also said that signage cannot be changed immediately, it has to be applied for as a traffic regulation and could take months.

Councillor Bidgood asked if the Parish Council is allowed to spend money on traffic calming. Councillor Lomas said it is allowed and Councillor Wileman said it would be allowed as we would be helping the residents.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks suggested we go for the three cushions.

Councillor Bidgood asked if it was possible to put rumble strips on top of the cushions but Councillor Wileman said we had to consider cyclists.

Councillor Hoddy suggested we start with just two cushions but Councillor Wileman said we would then have to wait again for the third. The date he had been given for Amey, the contractor, to start was 17th March. Further signage would take another 6 – 9 months.

Councillor Wileman said the total cost of 3 humps would be £10,500, he had £3,000 left in his fund so he would be asking £7,500 from Brizlincote Parish Council.

Councillor Goldstraw asked about funding from Highways and Councillor Wileman said that was where his £3,000 had come from.

Councillor Graham Lomas asked that if Staffordshire Highways said the Project had to go to public consultation, how much more would it cost? Councillor Wileman said that at the meeting he had attended with Highways, the Chairman and Vice Chairman this wasn't mentioned but he would check to ensure this was not necessary.

The installation of three cushions was proposed by Councillor Ludford-Brooks and seconded by Councillor Bidgood.

Councillor Goldstraw asked if this cost had been included in the budget and was told it was not and would be funded from Parish Council reserves. He asked who had funded the original humps and Councillor Wileman said it was Highways.

Councillor Goldstraw said he was not happy that the Parish had to be pay for the work and felt it should be paid for by Highways.

The proposition of three speed cushions was then put the rest of the Council and was approved by Acting Chairman Colin Wileman, Councillor John Hoddy, Councillor Bob Bidgood and Councillor Robin Ludford-Brooks. Against and declining to vote were Councillors Arthur and Ruth Goldstraw and Councillor Lomas. As it was a majority vote, it was agreed the work would go ahead subject to Councillor Wileman ensuring that the Project did not have to go to public consultation first.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 19.40.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th February 2017.

Note:

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Barbara Roe, the Clerk of the Council. Telephone 01283 814648 or email clerk@brizlinote-pc.org.uk. Correspondence should be sent to 47 Hall Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9BX.