

# BRAUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 19 July 2021 at 8pm** at Braunston Village Hall.

Carole Brown, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Emlyn Smith, Cllr William Cross  
**Present:** John Harry, Chris Bichard (Chair), Peter Allen, Carole Brown (Clerk), Jim Attack, Richard Beadman, Jane Ellis, Cllr Lucy Stephenson, Cllr Edward Baines
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Baines and Chris Bichard declared an interest in the planning application 2021/0736/FUL Wood Lane
3. **Public Time:** No members of the public were present
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13 May 2021** It was proposed by Chris Bichard and seconded by John Harry that the minutes of the meeting were a true record and were signed off by the chairman Chris Bichard
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2021** It was proposed by Peter Allen and seconded by John Harry that the minutes of the meeting were a true record and were signed off by the chairman Chris Bichard
6. **Lime Tree on the Green:** Nothing to report
7. **Traffic Calming Rutland County Councillor Lucy Stephenson** (*Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change; Chair Highways and Traffic Committee*) attended the meeting to discuss traffic calming in Braunston.  
Cllr Attack presented the concerns which the Parish Council and working subcommittee had presented to the Rutland County Council (RCC)

## **Traffic Surveys**

RCC had undertaken four traffic speed surveys since 2016; all but the last one showed that the need for traffic calming was indicated. The Parish Council objects to the results from this 'satisfactory' survey since heavy rain and significant flooding occurred throughout Rutland during the week of the survey; the results were thus not representative of usual traffic patterns. This last survey was taken in November 2019 and since that survey the RCC has put in place a policy which prevents retesting for a further three years. Since the residents of Braunston are quite clear that traffic speeds have not improved the Parish Council undertook its own four-week survey in the spring of 2021. The survey used equipment similar to that used by the authorities and the data was analysed in the same manner, this survey showed that speeds were consistently much higher than the acceptable 85 percentile limit of 35mph.

The survey results presented to the RCC were rejected on the grounds that the survey and analysis had not been carried out by the RCC or one of its approved contractors. The Parish Council's question whether this was formal RCC policy had not been answered.

Cllr Attack said that, because the data clearly demonstrated that speeds were excessive, and hazardous to villagers, the Parish Council's priorities after reviewing the RCC Policy, were: 40mph buffer zones, Speed Cushions and the Oakham Road road-marking scheme.

Cllr Stephenson explained the budget for works was limited and that, traffic calming solutions were usually only implemented by RCC when serious accidents, involving fatalities or serious injury, had occurred; she then addressed the possible solutions:

## **40mph Buffer Zones**

Cllr Stephenson said that advice from the Police and RCC engineers was that a 40mph buffer zone was not an acceptable solution. Cllr Attack expressed his disappointment at this decision since, in the Parish Council's view, the RCC Traffic Calming Policy and

DfT guidance suggested buffer zones in precisely the circumstances which are present in Braunston. Examples could be seen in Empingham and other Rutland villages in similar circumstances. Cllr Stephenson confirmed that she would re-address the issue with the Police and Highways engineers.

### **Speed Cushions**

Cllr Stephenson confirmed RCC's objections to the provision of speed cushions on the grounds that:

- 1 They were not acceptable to the emergency services
- 2 They would need to be lit at night
- 3 They would incur regular maintenance costs

Cllr Bichard pointed out that speed cushions (unlike humps and tables) **were** acceptable to the emergency services as their vehicles could straddle them, and that many examples were in place throughout Rutland.

### **Oakham Road Road-Marking**

Cllr Stephenson confirmed that works were to be undertaken shortly.

### **Speed Indicator Devices, Community Speed watch, and village entry 'gates'**

Cllr Stephenson suggested that it would be appropriate to install one of the new generation of Speed Indicator Devices (SID), which records the speed of all vehicles passing in both directions; she suggested that the Parish Council could apply the funds raised to the purchase of an RCC installed SID.

Cllr Stephenson raised the possibility of Braunston forming a Community Speed Watch with the help of the police. Several Parish Councillors had some experience of the last time this was run, in 2009. The general impression was that it diverted a lot of villagers' time, was ineffective and frustrating, and brought a lot of abuse from offending motorists, who were never sanctioned.

The purchase of village 'entry gates' was raised; Cllr Stephenson would investigate whether they were considered suitable.

The Parish Council considered the primary issue of demonstrating that speed through the village were excessive had not been accepted by Cllr Stephenson or the RCC and requested that Cllr Stephenson review the acceptability of the Parish Council's data, and whether a formal RCC policy prevented its acceptance. Cllr Stephenson will revisit this with Highways Dept.

8. **Play Area:** Information on grants for proposed works are being sought
9. **Church Clock Chime Repairs:** The Church has approved a grant amounting to £3,000 has been approved and works are planned to go ahead
10. **Church Metal Bench:** Will be removed, repaired and re-sited elsewhere in the churchyard, a new wooden bench will be put in its place

### **11. Finance**

- a. **Accounts/Bank Reconciliation/Budget** Were examined and discussed, it was proposed by Jim Atack and seconded by Richard Beadman that it was a true and correct reflection of the bank accounts and they were initialled by the Chairman
- b. **Audit report** Was discussed recommendations for the implementation of financial regulations would be carried out by Carole Brown (Clerk) and Richard Beadman

### **Payments to be Made**

BDG Mowing (May)	£340.00
BGD Mowing (June)	£340.00
ROSPA (Play Area)	£107.40
Clerk Expenses	£18.77
Chair Expenses	£9.00
LRALC (Training)	£25.00

Hills Accountant £63.60

Janet Taylor (Land Registry) £9.00

It was proposed by Jane Ellis and seconded by Chris Bichard to pay the outstanding invoices. The cheques were signed off by the Chairman Chris Bichard and Richard Beadman

## **12. Planning**

### **Applications Received**

2021/0684/CAT 21 Church St (Tree)

2021/0463/CAT 27 Cedar Street (Tree)

2021/0593/FUL 27 Brooke Rd

2020/0237/FUL 24 Knossington Road

2021/0736/FUL Wood Lane Dog Paddock: Was discussed at length and objections were made on the grounds of; change of use of agricultural land, moving from dog walking to dog training, size of proposed building and car park (30 spaces) causing unsustainable levels of traffic

### **Applications Approved**

2021/0522/CAT 10 Wood Lane (Tree)

2021/0575/CAT 4 Church Street (Tree)

2021/0667/CAT 3 Brooke Rd

2020/1473/MAO Land Off Braunston Road Oakham: Jane Ellis attended the planning meeting and made strong objections based on; use of the local Plan to circumvent planning procedure and due process, lack of material planning considerations and lack of consultation. Cllr Baines went to some length to explain that due process was almost certainly not followed by the RCC in approving the new development, despite this the plans were passed

**13. Correspondence:** None

**14. Items for next Agenda:** Jubilee Beacons

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:58hrs**

**Carole Brown, Clerk to the Parish Council**

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