

## **EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, commencing at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall.

### **20mph scheme Report and Motions**

The Clerk explained that in late 2024 the Traffic Regulation Order was issued and the project costed. This meant that the final design of the only scheme Highways is prepared to implement is known and that cost is some £24,000 at 2024/25 prices.

The Clerk explained that Suffolk County Council rules only permit a scheme to be introduced where the current mean speed is not significantly in excess of 24 mph.

He explained that to establish the streets where the scheme could possibly go Suffolk Highways had deployed measuring equipment in four locations for a week in May 2021 and the results were:

- a) On Church St. Mean speed 25/26mph with 15% of vehicles above 30 mph
- b) On High St. Mean speed 21/22mph with 15% of vehicles above 27/28 mph
- c) On Prentice St. Mean speed 14mph with 15% of vehicles at above 18 mph
- d) On Lower Rd. Mean speed 24/26mph with 15% of vehicles travel above 30/33 mph.

He said that, in summary, on Prentice St over 85% of vehicles are travelling at less than 18mph and that the number exceeding 20mph by any significant margin is very small and that on the other streets about 15% of vehicles go above 30 mph with the average vehicle going about 25mph.

He explained that the Parish Council had questioned the number of signs proposed and received the following response:

'If the 20mph repeater signs are spaced at distances greater than 300m, then the speed limit cannot be enforced. We know that the police do not routinely enforce 20mph speed limits and for this reason they ask that we design them to be self-enforcing. However, if there was a regular issue with excessive speeding, for example if a vehicle was reportedly driving through the village daily at 70mph, then the police may be willing to carry out enforcement, as long as the repeater signs are at the agreed spacing'.

He explained to Councillors the motions on the agenda telling them that legally Council could not bind itself to accepting the result of a village poll but could declare that it would take full account of the result.

### **Motions:**

- 1) That the Parish Council encourage electors at the Parish Meeting to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> to require a Parish Poll to ask the question '*Should the Parish Council ask Suffolk County Council to implement the proposed 20 mph scheme at a cost of £24,065.46 + VAT at 2024/25 prices? There will be an inflationary uplift to 2025/26 prices.*'

The Parish Council to take full account of the result of that Poll at a meeting as soon as reasonably possible after the poll has been conducted.

Should Motion 1 pass then Motion 2 falls away.

- 2) The Parish Council requests Suffolk County Council to implement the proposed 20 mph scheme at a cost of £24,065.46 + VAT at 2024/25 prices. There will be an inflationary uplift to 2025/26 prices. Project to be funded by Neighbourhood CIL.

The uncommitted Neighbourhood CIL fund is, he said, £53,000.

Cllr Lamont explained that 63% of respondents to the LNP1 questionnaire voted for a 20mph speed limit along with other projects listed in LNP1. As a result, the Parish Council had started a project to develop the scheme, initiated by Carroll Reeve in 2019, described in "20mph position paper to SCC 5". This had taken place prior to LNP2 being started.

He acknowledged the support of County Cllr Lindsay funding the development work and sponsoring the application.

He reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had pushed for the scheme to cover more of the village

including Melford Rd. He explained that this had not been supported by Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council and in response the PC had installed two Speed Indicator Devices at a cost of £8,000.

Cllr Lamont explained the impact of the signage describing it, in his opinion, as being less than some feared hearing about the total number of signs.

He said that the proposed 20mph repeater signs had been positioned to limit the amount of new street furniture making use, where possible, of existing signposts and lampposts informing Councillors that within the Conservation Area there will be 12 new signage locations (but only 2 new posts) and that outside the conservation area but within the 20 mph limit there will be 10 new signage locations. The headline figure of 73 signs, he said, contained many signs placed back-to-back and so counted as being two new signs. He displayed pictures of the changes in sensitive locations.

Cllr Mitchell expressed her disappointment at the limitations placed on the scheme placed by Highways commenting that the streetscape has already been much compromised by motor vehicles, lampposts, wheelie bins etc. She expressed concern at the speeds of vehicles on Melford Rd and speculated that the Governments Housing Target might lead to further houses being built on the Melford Rd making further measures to control the speed of vehicles on the Melford Rd possible at some point in the future. She concluded that a partial scheme is better than not at all commenting that she feared that a low turn out in any village poll and that she considered Motion 1 had not addressed that possibility.

Cllr Morrey thanked Cllr Lamont for all his hard work on the project, Cllr Ranzetta concurred. She said that considered it not reasonable or fair that a Council consisting of less than a dozen Councillors make a decision of such magnitude. She said that she supported a village poll saying that Councillors should work to encourage a high turn-out.

Cllr Domoney asked who would advise Garmin and others of the new limits. The Chair responded that she did not know.

Cllr Ranzetta said that she agreed with Cllr Morrey commenting on the number of new residents since 2016 and that these new residents of the village should be given a chance to express their opinion. Cllr Robinson concurred.

Cllr Sherman told Councillors that one of the questions in the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire will ask Members of the Public whether they want a 20mph scheme. He said that this would avoid the £1,000-£2,000 cost of a village poll.

Cllr Mitchell reiterated her concerns about the possibility of a low turn-out. Cllr Lamont reminded Councillors that the motion was to take 'full account of the poll' and so a low turn-out could be considered at that time. Cllr Mawford spoke of the difference between a poll and a referendum.

#### **Motion:**

That the Parish Council encourage electors at the Parish Meeting to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> to require a Parish Poll to ask the question '*Should the Parish Council ask Suffolk County Council to implement the proposed 20 mph scheme at a cost of £24,065.46 + VAT at 2024/25 prices? There will be an inflationary uplift to 2025/26 prices.*' The Parish Council to take full account of the result of that Poll at a meeting as soon as reasonably possible after the poll has been conducted.

**Proposed:** Cllr Ranzetta **Seconded:** Cllr Morrey.

**Decision:** Carried. Cllrs Ranzetta, Morrey, Bourne and Robinson voted in favour. Cllrs Lamont and Mawford voted against. Cllrs Sherman, Falconer, Mitchell and Domoney abstained.

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