**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017.**

**1.** **Present**: Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr Lowis, County Cllr. Cargill, Mrs. Banyard, Head teacher, Mr. Harrison School Governor, eleven members of the public and one member of the press.

**2.** **Apologies**: Cllr. Massey, Cllr. Fraser.

**3. Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests.**

No requests were received.

**4. School Safety Zone:** Toconsider how toimprove road safety around the village school. Church Road residents were invited to put forward their thoughts and suggestions to help us achieve this.

Cllr Ray welcomed members of the public reiterating that the object of this meeting was to address how to minimize risk to children and parents or remove it totally.

Two meetings have been held at the school with Debbie Poynton, Traffic & Road Safety Group, WCC, a report from the first meeting is appended to the Parish Council minutes dated 18th January 2017. The second meeting was held in March and it was agreed a feasibility study, road widening being one of the options, should be carried out. Before proceeding further it was suggested that a survey be carried out to obtain the opinions of the residents who are directly affected, hence the reason for tonight’s meeting.

Although not directly stated the suggestion of widening the road by taking over the exiting highway verge/footpath opposite the school did not appear to have been received favourably– it was felt that could cause vehicles to encroach on residents’ gardens/hedges as larger vehicles already often have one wheel on the narrow verge now to pass oncoming vehicles or parked cars.

The following ideas were put forward alongside those already stated in the email and letter received from residents ahead of the meeting.

        Remove hedge alongside playground and replace with good quality fence – Mr. Harrison felt this would increase the risk for children escaping and people climbing over into playground.

        Children going via churchyard to rear of school was a popular option. Mrs. Banyard had given this further consideration and was not totally against the idea.  Mr. Harrison said it would mean considerable alterations to the ‘back’ door and security measures and the school does not have the funding to do that.

* Mrs. Banyard advised that staggered school start times have been introduced in an effort to reduce the number of vehicles at any one time.

        Removing school wall and replace with more open fencing to provide better visibility and possibly allowing enough width for safety railings on the footpath.

        30mph considered too fast past a school where so many cars are parked, even 20mph would do serious damage to a child crossing in front of a moving vehicle.

        Caretaker to act as marshall in high visibility jacket at school start and finish times.

        Parents need to be more aware of the safety of their children when letting/getting them out of cars.

        Ask parents not to turn around in nearby driveways (old vicarage drive in particular). Also warn them that driving along a footpath is illegal and if caught can be prosecuted.

* Direct liaison with farm owners to point out to their drivers/contractors the danger of mounting the footpath in the vicinity of the school

Cllr. Ray thanked everyone for their suggestions and comments and

confirmed that these will be put forward to the County Council for

consideration. Copies of correspondence will be provided to all interested

parties.

County Councillor Cargill was attending a Wilmcote Parish Council meeting for the first time since being elected to the Alcester Division and provided us with brief details of his background and particular interests. He is Chairman of the West Area Planning Committee, a member of Alcester Town Council and a District Councillor for Bidford and Salford Priors.

Cllr. Cargill’s particular interests are traffic speed, he is involved with the Speedaware Team, and adult social care.

Cllr. Cargill said he will do as much as possible to help Wilmcote Parish Council and ask the Clerk to send him names of the Councillors and future agendas.

There was no further business to discuss and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45 p.m.