

## **SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**School Crossing Patrol - Eastcott (Min.190 – 31.07.18)      Full Council – 11 September 2018**

### **1. Introduction**

The position regarding the removal of the school crossing patrol was discussed at the Planning & Environment Committee on 31 July 2018 and it was agreed that the Clerk should find out more information and a report be made to the next Full Council Meeting.

### **2. Report Details**

- 2.1** The legal power to provide a School Crossing Guard is with the Highway Authority which is Swindon Borough Council. Although the Parish Council has the General Power of Competence, this cannot be used in this case, as only the Highway Authority has the power to control traffic.
- 2.2** The Parish Council would therefore not be able to employ a School Crossing Guard directly and the only way the Parish Council could assist would be to provide a financial contribution to Swindon Borough Council to cover the cost of employing a member of staff.
- 2.3** This would be a Policy Decision for the Parish Council to make as it would mean the Parish Council funding a function which was the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council. It would also be a revenue item which would continually have to be included in the budget.
- 2.4** Swindon Borough Council have confirmed that there is one School Crossing Guard at Welcombe Avenue (Goddard Park) that is still in operation and as well as the School Crossing Guard at Eastcott Road, another one has been withdrawn in the last 2 years at Westcott Place (Robert Le Kyng).
- 2.5** Cllr S Pajak had been informed of the cost of providing a School Crossing Guard of £3,290 but on further investigation this was only a very basis indication and did not cover any overheads. Swindon Borough Council originally suggested that the posts could be filled by volunteers, but this would be a large commitment and the volunteers would still be subject to the same rules as staff at Swindon Borough Council. This did not look like a viable option.
- 2.6** The Clerk has investigated further with Swindon Borough Council on how the process would work if the Parish Council wanted to go ahead. The email reply, which is attached, indicates that this would be a new venture for Swindon Borough Council and they have taken the decision that they would not be able to provide this service due to lack of staffing.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1** That the email from Swindon Borough Council confirming that the service is not being offered to Parish Council be noted.