

Proposal and Recommendation for Parish Council to Renew Data Licenses for AutoSpeed Watch Cameras

Background

The Stoke St. Michael Parish Council purchased two AutoSpeed Watch cameras in January 2024. These are installed at:

- Coal Pit Lane** (southbound traffic entering the village).
- Long Cross Bottom** (northbound traffic before the chicane).

Over the past year, these cameras have proven effective in monitoring and recording persistent speeding offenses. Regular verification and analysis of the data have enabled collaboration with local law enforcement to address frequent offenders.

The first year of the license was included with the purchase of the cameras. For subsequent years, an annual renewal is required.

Proposal

Renewal of Licenses for the Period 7th January 2025 to 7th January 2026

- Cost of license renewal for each camera: **£179**
- Total for two cameras: **£358**

Inclusion of License Fees in the Annual Parish Budget

- To ensure uninterrupted operation, it is recommended to allocate **£358 annually** for these licenses in the council's budget.

Avoidance of Additional Fees

- If licenses are not renewed by the expiry date (7th January 2025), a **re-registration fee of £94 per camera** will be incurred, bringing the total to **£546**.
- Lapsed licenses result in camera de-registration, necessitating:
 - Return of units to the supplier for re-registration and repairs.
 - Additional postage costs for the process.

Risks of non-renewal

Operational Downtime

- Lapsed licenses will cause the cameras to stop functioning, losing valuable data on speeding offenders.

Increased Costs

- Delay in payment leads to re-registration fees and potential maintenance costs, imposing a financial burden on the council.

Loss of Deterrent

- Without operational cameras, the council loses a critical tool to address traffic safety, undermining efforts to reduce speeding in the village.

Recommendation

The council should:

Approve the payment of **£358** at the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 12th December 2024 to renew the licenses ahead of the expiration date

Incorporate the annual license renewal cost into the parish's annual budget to avoid future disruptions and financial penalties.