



**Speldhurst  
Parish Council**

*Working for the  
whole community*

Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

**Minutes of a Highways Working Group Meeting held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm  
Conducted via Zoom electronic communication**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Curry, Ellery, Langridge, Myles and Mrs Woodliffe with Mr Norton.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk, Mrs K Neve - Clerk and Mrs C Barrett – Assistant Clerk.

**1. To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**

No-one present intended to film, photograph or record the meeting.

**2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rajah (prior appointment), Scarbrough (work commitment), Turner (family commitment) and Mr Whittaker (prior commitment).

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**4. Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

**5. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Review of the action points**

The action points were reviewed. It was agreed that action points 15/20, 17/20, 9/21, 10/21, 11/21, 14/21, 15/21, 16/21 and 17/21 would be taken off. Action points 13/21 (Bird-in-Hand Street and Barden Road), 18/21, 20/21, 23/21, 24/21, 25/21, 26/21, 27/21, 28/21, 29/21, 30/21, 31/21, 31/21, 32/21, 33/21, 34/21 and 35/21 would be marked as complete. Action points 1/21, 6/21, 7/21, 12/21, 13/21 (Stockland Green Road), 19/21, 21/21, 22/21, 26/21 and 38/21 would be carried forward.

**7. Public Open Session**

A resident had been due to attend to discuss near misses at Barden Road, however, she had sent last minute apologies and it was agreed to defer the discussion until she was able to attend.

**8. Matters Arising and Correspondence**

The Clerk had received correspondence from James Hammond, the proposed developer of site 231 Langton Road, Speldhurst and a response had been given.

**9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget** – to review the expenditure to-date.

Having paid KCC Highways for the work on the speed reduction the balance available was £15,073.00

**10. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish**

Cllr Langridge had reported accidents at the Crockers Hatch Junction, Langton Green, and the lay-by near the Langton Green Shops. These had been added to the Clerk's accident report.

**11. TRO – 50-40mph A264 Ashurst and B2110 Groombridge Hill**

Work had been due to commence at the beginning of September, however, seven objections to the speed reduction had been made. The Clerks had gone through these objections with Kent Highways, who would now contact the objectors, explaining what was trying to be achieved and asking them to withdraw their objection. If there were still more than five objections, the proposal would need to go to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB).

Mr Norton noted there had been much support for the reduction in Old Groombridge and an action point was set for the Clerk to contact Kent Highways asking how many letters of support had been received. It was agreed that the Highways Working Group would prepare a full response to the objections if the JTB hearing went ahead.

**12. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) including consideration of any new issues by village**

**Old Groombridge**

- An action point was set for the Clerk to liaise with the Planning Officer assigned to the Burrswood development, so the working group would be informed once the development reached application stage and could be pro-active in securing S106 contributions to fund traffic calming (HIP item 4).

**Speldhurst**

- **Double yellow lines at the junction of Ferbies and Langton Road**

It was agreed to survey parked cars at this location on several occasions to help decide next steps. The same approach would be taken at the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road. An action was set for the Chairman and Cllr Langridge to organise and carry out the survey. Cllr Curry would join them if available. An action point was set for the Assistant Clerk to add these locations to the HIP.

**Langton Green**

- **Farnham Lane (HIP item 8)**

Cllr Langridge and the Clerk had established that, except for one property, the land in front of householders' gardens between Dornden Drive and The Great Footway was still owned by the original developer. He suggested that a pavement could be built on this land. An action point was set for the Chairman and the Clerk to scope out what might be possible with Kent Highways.

- **Langton Green Village Plan (HIP item 8)**

With Mr Whittaker unable to attend the meeting it was agreed that a discussion of the village plan would be deferred. An action point was set for the Clerk to add this to the next meeting agenda.

Cllr Curry left the meeting at 8.50pm due to family commitments.

### **13. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch**

a) The Chairman had spoken to KCC Highways regarding their concern at SPC having too many SIDs in the Parish and had agreed, with the working group's consent, that the parish council's oldest SID be decommissioned with a view to selling it on, and a new one, with extra data capture technology, be purchased. An action point was set for the Clerk to contact other parish councils asking if they would like to buy the old SID.

b) An action point was set for Cllr Curry, as the new assistant Co-ordinator, to arrange further sessions with volunteers.

Cllr Myles reported that he and other volunteers had carried out an initial Speedwatch session in Old Groombridge and planned to go out again that week.

With Speedwatch sessions now running in Langton Green, Speldhurst and Old Groombridge, it was agreed that the village co-ordinators should be in contact with each other to organise the handover of the equipment. An action point was set for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to seek permission from co-ordinators to set up a WhatsApp group for this purpose.

Cllr Ellery asked that all co-ordinators remind their volunteers of the threshold for recording speed as being lenient defeated the object of the exercise.

### **14. Road Safety Signage**

Cllr Langridge confirmed that all road safety signs had now been posted. He expressed frustration that there were still no signs produced by Speedwatch. An action point was set for the Chairman to raise this issue again with the head of Speedwatch.

### **15. Media**

The Assistant Clerk had shared recent Speedwatch data on the website and Facebook page, which had met with positive reactions. She was writing a piece for Langton Life magazine about how to report Highways faults.

### **16. Items for Information**

The Clerk reported that Kent Highways had shared information about their programme of maintenance works, including verge cutting and cutting back overhanging vegetation. This was useful information to have on as there had been several overgrown locations during the summer months, causing blind spots for drivers.

The Assistant Clerk reminded Councillors about the Electric Vehicle charge-point survey and asked them to share the link with their local networks.

The Clerk reported that the Chairman would be attending the A21 Safety Package consultations in September.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting ended at 9.13pm.

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
1/21	Monitor congestion caused by parking on the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road.	Cllr Langridge/Chairman	11/1	Carried forward (see 41/21)
6/21	Ask KCC if LG Primary crossing can be moved from Lampington Rd to the Twitten opposite LG village hall carpark. Arrange onsite meeting with KCC and other stakeholders.	Clerk	11/1	Carried forward
7/21	Ask KCC Highways to do an ATC on Stockland Green Rd in order to progress Speedwatch site	Clerk	11/1	Carried forward, Awaiting KCC Highways
12/21	Investigate making HIP an Excel spreadsheet	Admin Assistant/Chairman	24/3	Carried forward
13/21	Progress Speedwatch sites on Bird-in-Hand St and Barden Rd.	Clerk	24/3	Complete
18/21	Undertake training to become a SpeedWatch volunteer in Speldhurst	Cllr Ellery	28/6	Complete
19/21	Contact Kent Highways about A 30mph zone approaching Speldhurst village, between the 40mph and 20mph zones; Traffic calming measures that do not require street lighting; The cost of two outcrops	Clerk/Chairman	28/6	Carried forward
20/21	Liaise with Speldhurst Speedwatch Coordinator to recruit more volunteers.	Clerk	28/6	Complete
21/21	Write to the Community Safety Unit (CSU) regarding enforcement, giving details of Speedwatch dates, with a copy to the PCSO.	Chairman	28/6	Carried forward, awaiting set up of whatsapp groups to co-ordinate dates (see 47/21)
22/21	Chase Speedwatch signage	Chairman	28/6	Carried forward
23/21	Amend ToR and write appendix	Clerk/Chairman	28/6	Complete
24/21	Schedule regular media updates asking residents to report RTAs	Assistant Clerk	28/6	Complete
25/21	Email SGN re. planned road closures, asking for Drive Slowly	Clerk	28/6	Complete

	signs on Farnham Lane and Burnt House Lane where road narrows			
26/21	Ask County Cllr McInroy to take up a pricing discrepancy with Kent Highways concerning the cost of a new SID	Chairman	28/6	Carried forward
27/21	Ask Full Council for approval of additional funding for SID	Chairman	28/6	Complete
28/21	Put speeding sign up at beginning of Furzeffield Avenue	Cllr Langridge/Clerk	28/6	Complete
29/21	Publish appeal for Speedwatch volunteers in next Ashurst Broadsheet	Cllr Barrington-Johnson/Asst Clerk	28/6	Complete
30/21	Contact Kent Highways about progressing Old Groombridge road safety requirements	Clerk/Chairman	28/6	Complete
31/21	Add Old Groombridge road improvements report to HIP	Asst Clerk	28/6	Complete
32/21	remove Broom Lane from HIP	Asst Clerk	28/6	Complete
33/21	Walk Farnham Lane and report back with traffic-calming ideas	All local Councillors	28/6	Complete
34/21	Follow up Stockland Green Rd ATC progress with Kent Highways	Clerk	28/6	Complete
35/21	Share regular Speedwatch data media updates.	Asst Clerk/Cllrs Ellery and Turner	28/6	Complete
36/21	Obtain costings for a new finger post at junction of Burnt House Lane and Farnham Lane	Clerk	28/6	Complete - KN to let resident know decision
37/21	Confirm Speedwatch sessions can begin in Old Groombridge and notify Cllr Myles	Clerk	28/6	Complete
38/21	Put double yellow lines at junction of Ferbies and Langton Road on next meeting agenda	Clerk	28/6	Carried Forward
39/21	Contact Kent Highways asking how many letters of support received for 50-40mph speed reduction on A264 Ashurst and B2110 Groombridge Hill	Clerk	8/9	TBA
40/21	Liaise with Planning Officer for Burrswood development	Clerk	8/9	TBA
41/21	Survey parked cars over several days at junction of Cobhams and Barden Road, and junction of Cobhams and Ferbies, Speldhurst.	Chairman/Cllr Langridge	8/9	TBA
42/21	Add locations in 42/21 to HIP	Assistant Clerk	8/9	TBA
43/21	Contact Kent Highways to ask about making a pavement on	Chairman/Clerk	8/9	TBA

	Farnham Lane as per Cllr Langridge's findings			
44/21	Add Langton Green Village Traffic Plan to next meeting agenda	Clerk	8/9	TBA
45/21	Contact other parish councils asking if they would like to buy old SID.	Clerk	8/9	TBA
46/21	Arrange further Speedwatch sessions in Speldhurst	Cllr Curry	8/9	TBA
47/21	Seek permission from village SpeedWatch Co-ordinators to set up a WhatsApp group to co-ordinate dates and arrange handover of equipment	Clerk/Assistant Clerk	8/9	TBA