



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

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Village Hall on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne (arrived 7.40pm), Mrs Lyle, Allen, Turner, Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio) and Mrs Watson

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

There were no members of the public present

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 and reason for absence:** Cllr Mercieca (holiday), Mrs Norton and Mr Wheeler (prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated 14th January 2016 which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - The Clerk said that Jonathan Dean, the long serving Highways Steward, has moved to another area of Highways. This means that for the time being this area will be without a Steward. An Engineer has been appointed to the area – his name is John Reynolds.
 - An email had been received from Mr Poynter asking if he could manage the land outside his property. Councillors had no objections and the Clerk would contact KCC to make enquiries.
 - There were three items outstanding from the last minutes. The Clerk was yet to establish ownership of the wall opposite the shops in Langton; The post at The Hare junction was yet to be installed and the posts near the Farm Shop.
8. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The updated list had been circulated and had recently been updated by the PCSO. It was noted that no incidents had been reported to the office (including the one on 2nd March that involved land belonging to SPC) and the list was from the

Police. Although this was informative, the point of SPC having an independent record of accidents was to check that data was being recorded properly. DT suggested that the new website have a facility for recording accidents on line.

9. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools: The Clerk referred to the response from Mr Corcoran (KCC Highways) and there was a long discussion on how to respond. It was agreed to pursue the option of having a KCC Consultant prepare a formal quotation to carry out an outline design for each scheme at a cost of £500, which was approved by The Chairman and Vice-Chairman under their delegated authority.

10. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs): The Clerk confirmed that KCC had advised that installation was imminent. The Clerk had received an email from a resident from Langton Green suggesting that the SID would be better positioned at the eastern end of the A264 in due course when the installation of further posts is being considered.

11. To consider reports on the following issues by Village

a) Groombridge

- The Clerk advised that the OGCG had written to Cllr Balfour and the Kent Chief of Police to complain of speeding traffic. The local PCSO has been asked to carry out speedwatch checks there, which is the response from the Police, but he does not have a machine to do it with.
- The problem with drainage in Bird in Hand Street had been reported

b) Ashurst

- Mrs Watson advised that the problem concerning a drainage ditch that takes water from the road (A264) to the Mill Stream seems to have been resolved.

c) Speldhurst

- Parking issues – the sign has now been installed outside the Post Office
- Stockland Green Road – the Clerk has been advised by Highways that the sign “Unsuitable for HGVs” has been installed.
- Speldhurst Road – the speed survey was carried out. The Clerk referred the results to Highways who suggested that it could justify a reduction from 60mph to 50mph if the Police would support it. The Committee asked the Clerk to request that the Police support 40mph.
- Verge opposite Mead House, Speldhurst Road – the condition of the verge has been reported to KCC Highways and the issue is with their Enforcement team. It appears that some reinstatement has been done but it has since been churned up again.

d) Langton Green

- The crossroads by The Hare – the post has not been installed yet
- Lampington Row, Langton Green – TWBC will advertise the request which can take months before installation.
- The Clerk has been in contact with the PCSO regarding a request from a resident who used a motorised wheelchair and a dog and was forced to go on to the road because a van was constantly parked blocking the pavement. The PCSO will speak to the owner of the vehicle.
- An incident had been reported to the Police about a driver who was not prepared to allow parents and children to cross at the twitten. The PCSO had attended a crossing in response to the report.

12. Bus Shelters – the Clerk advised that the two shelters have been installed.

13. Speed watch – one session has been carried out on 29th February outside the LGRG. The next one is due on Monday 21st March in Ashurst. Figures have been reported resulting in Police contact with a driver who has been caught three times.

Following a request from a resident the Clerk was asked to seek a new site for speedwatch on Penshurst Road.

14. Entry Statements to villages (gateways) – there has been no progress to date

15. Parish Plan – Cllr Turner explained to the committee that the draft action plan was at the early stages and it was not proposed that the committee should respond at this stage. It had been included because the working group had recommended that SPC approach the candidates who are standing for the office of Kent Police & Crime Commissioner to request more police enforcement of the law on speeding on rural roads that have constant problems. It was agreed to do this.

16. Review of Highways Committee's Budget – because of the lack of progress with 20mph a large amount would be carried forward – about £18,500 should the SID be installed this side of the financial year otherwise the amount would be £23,800. The budget for next year is £10,000 and most of the total would be put towards the 20mph scheme.

17. Items for information

Cllr Mrs Horne asked if the “new layout” signs in Barden Road/Speldhurst Hill/Penshurst Road should be taken down as it was no longer a new scheme.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman