



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

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground
on Friday 27th February 2015 at 11.00am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Langridge (Chairman), Mrs Horne and Barrington-Johnson with Mrs Norton, Mrs Watson and Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean – KCC Highways Steward (arrived 11.50am)

There were no members of the public present

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting:** Nobody present intended to film, photograph or record the meeting
2. **To accept apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Parker (family reasons)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **5th December 2014** 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:** there were matters arising that were not on the agenda
8. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced and circulated an updated report produced by the PCSO. Cllr Mrs Horne said there had been a recent non-injury accident at the junction of Burnt House Lane and will provide further details.
9. **Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The Clerk reported that the Schools submitted their information and the traffic surveys had been carried out. **He was asked to contact TWBC Cllr Caroline Derrick to ask what the next steps were to be.**
10. **Maintenance:** It was generally agreed that pot holes are being repaired but there are still a few to be maintained and that new ones are appearing all the time in the current weather conditions. Cllr

Langridge suggested that all Councillors were duty bound to report potholes to KCC Highways and not leave it to residents.

11. Traffic Surveys: The Clerk reported that the Kent Camera Partnership is slow to respond but that Ashurst Hill and possible Groombridge Hill should qualify for a mobile unit. **The Clerk to request an update from the Kent Camera Partnership.**

12. Outstanding issues by village:

a) **Speldhurst**

- Barden Road - the Clerk had received a response from KCC which advised that temporary traffic lights are not viable. **It was agreed that the Clerk request double yellow lines on the corner to extend to North View**
- Flooding at Smallbrook and Broomhill Farm – KCC Highways have put in a gully on the Lower Green side of the road which has alleviated that area of flooding but the flooding on the other side of the road is a problem. **The KCC Highways Steward is investigating possible solutions.**
- Broomhill Road – Cllr Barrington-Johnson attended a meeting with Rusthall Parish Council (RPC) and the Freight Transport Association. **The Clerk was requested to contact RPC to find out who would action the points raised at the meeting.**
- Parking issues – **it was agreed to put up appropriate signs outside Speldhurst Post Office requesting residents to park considerately and to advise the Post Office and possibly ACRK. It was agreed to have these professionally made, and to change the laminated signs at the doctors.**
- Sign post corner of Furzefield Avenue – this work should be carried out by the end of March by KCC.

b) **Langton Green**

- Traffic at The Hare crossroads – this was discussed following the survey carried out by Cllrs Langridge and Barrington-Johnson. **The Clerk was requested to draft a letter to the resident who expressed concern to say that consideration will be given to the installation of posts to prevent cars mounting the pavement at the junction.** Cllr Langridge will ask Cllr Soyke what she thinks about the likelihood of getting any 'road widening' on the other side of the road from The Hare to allow better access to traffic turning left and to stop cars mounting the pavement.
- Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – Town & Country are due to install the bollards by the end of March. It has been reported that school traffic is still parking in Lampington Row and causing an obstruction to residents.
- Lower Green Road – the Clerk has received an email response from KCC.
- Sign post at Silcocks Farm – the new fingerpost has arrived and will be installed by the Groundsman.
- Emergency access to narrow roads in Langton Green – there was a recent incident where a fire engine was unable to gain access and it was agreed to consider a letter drop to residents in such roads.
- Footpath at Park Farm – **the Clerk to draft a letter advising the resident that there is a public footpath at the rear of the property which connects back to the pavement by All Saints Church.**

c) **Groombridge**

- Request for traffic calming measures – after discussion it was agreed to ask Trevor Myles of Old Groombridge Conservation Group to discuss the matter with Speldhurst Parish Council.
- Complaint of speeding traffic in Bird In Hand Street – nothing further to report at present.

13. Bus Shelters: The Clerk confirmed that the application has been made to TWBC for the two bus shelters in Langton with a contribution to be made by SPC of £1,000.

14. Speed Watch:

a) Cllr Langridge said that he is trying to recruit new volunteers because many of the present volunteers were unavailable at the busy times. Mrs Watson said that a neighbour is interested and she would provide their details. The Clerk advised that PCSO Joe Pearson has asked to borrow our speedwatch equipment. It was agreed he could do so.

b) It was agreed to pursue the installation of Speed Indicator Devices throughout the parish and to consider the locations in each village for the posts to support the devices. The Clerk was requested to find out more information - who decides where they are situated? Who is responsible for moving the device? Could we share the cost with neighbouring councils? Cllr Langridge asked members to think about where the SIDs should be located in each of the villages.

15. CCTV: After discussion it was agreed by a vote of 4 in favour and 2 against to progress the idea of CCTV but with some reservations. It will be considered within the Parish Plan if there is demand.

16. Entry Statements to villages (gateways): The Clerk reported that Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council had not been able to provide any useful information about their village entry statements and **he will contact other Parish Councils for information on materials etc.** Cllr Mrs Horne offered to speak to Councillors from other Parish Councils who have been involved with the installation of village entry statements.

17. Review of Highways Committee's budget: The Clerk had circulated the figures and advised that the following items are still to be paid for; three traffic surveys, new finger post, contribution to two bus shelters and the refurbishment of the Furzefield Avenue finger post. Expenditure for next financial year may include Speed Indicator Devices and village entry statements.

18. Items for Information: Mr Wheeler reported flooding in Broom Lane, Langton Green. **The KCC Highways Steward will investigate.** Mr Wheeler said that he had spoken to the garage manager regarding the 'coffee cup' display at the Texaco garage on Langton Road. He said that the van which persistently parks on the road is a bigger hindrance, although the Committee noted that there is nothing that can be done about this. Cllr Langridge said that in line with the agreement in the previous Committee meeting a letter should be sent to the Texaco garage regarding the location of the 'coffee cup' and requiring it to be moved. It was mentioned that when the planning application came before SPC for a new 'stacker' at the garage concerns were raised by the planning committee and a resident about the dangers of partially blocked views when leaving Salisbury Road onto the A264. **The Clerk to action this.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.37pm

Chairman