



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 Thursday 16th August 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Langridge, Parker, with Mrs Waters and Mrs Norton

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

1. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
2. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
3. **Apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Mrs Horne (previous engagement), Mr Wheeler (holiday)
4. **Minutes of the meeting dated 15th June 2012** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

The following correspondence has been received:

 - Email from KCC H&TD who are currently implementing the winter service plan for the TW area. Did we require another bag this year? It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that no bag was required.

Outstanding issues not on the Agenda were:

 - Bullingstone Lane – blocked culvert – **Clerk to action**
 - Deer Signs on Groombridge Hill – **Clerk to action**
 - Lower Green Road flooding – the Steward has requested the drainage team cleanse the gullies at Lower Green Road. **Clerk to monitor**
 - Excess water in Barden Road – **Clerk to action**
 - Hedge opposite Went Farm on site 15 – **Clerk to write again requesting it to be cut back**; if not completed within two weeks we will instruct a contractor to carry out the work and send him the invoice.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Update on speed reduction on A264/B2110** – The Clerk again chased up the implementation of the works and spoke to Laura Squires who had taken over the role from Stephen Noad on the member funded team. She had not been passed this job but said as the work seemed to have been done it could be installed possibly in six weeks (earliest). She had emailed the latest drawings. **Clerk to monitor.**

8. **Stone Cross** –The Clerk had spoken to Laura Squires on this member funded issue and was told that to implement the friction surfaces on an A road would need a road closure which required three months notice. She had put the notice in – **Clerk to monitor.**
9. **Monitoring of speed reduction accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents was updated and circulated. A4 posters have been put on notice boards and the website and now need to be placed in shops, if possible. The butchers in Langton have agreed to monitor crashes in their vicinity but more volunteers were needed.
10. **Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the Clerk reported that the cost of ISSs had come down and was now in the region of £3,500 - £4,000. He had spoken to H&TD about them and it was now possible to have a “dual legend” version which would flash “30” and “School” when open. H&TD would need to inspect and verify that it was feasible to install one there and then it could be implemented with member funding or direct to a company like Jacobs. **The Clerk will approach John Davies and if no funding is possible will progress the issue direct with H&TD.**
11. **Maintenance of verges** – it was generally considered that most of the verges were under control now and the Clerk updated the committee that a member funded lengthsman was being considered. The Clerk had received a price for strimming the grassy bank and this had been approved. He would instruct AI Garden Services to carry out the work in early September and also to do a mid-strim of the Clayton Lane exit at Claytons Lane. The Steward has asked for a team (assigned to Olympic duty) to clear the signs on the main roads in the Parish.
12. **Outstanding issues by village**
- a) Speldhurst
- Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The Clerk has spoken to H&TD about this and the department had other priorities at the moment (A264 Pembury new traffic lights) and any other work is delayed. **He was asked to continue to prioritise the issue.**
 - Speldhurst bus stop – The Assistant Clerk has received an email from KCC who have said that in their opinion the existing bus stop is most suitable and as there is no crash data for the last 3 years they will not be moving it. **Clerk to write to resident**
 - Speldhurst Hill – speeding and drains – Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that the road was to be re-surfaced at a cost of £77,000 by KCC. Mrs Waters asked that her concerns that a new road surface would exasperate the speeding issue be noted. The Steward has asked the drainage team to cleanse the gullies on the Hill.
 - Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – The Steward has raised an order for the double yellow lines to be repainted on Barden Road (41408918) and for the white lines to be installed at St Mary’s Lane/Northfields (41408917). This should be completed by the end of September. **Clerk to monitor**
 - Parking – the **Assistant Clerk to follow up** the issue of parking on the pavements.
- b) Langton Green
- Leggs Lane – H&TD in conjunction with SE Water had at last completed the job and it was considered to be excellent (if a little overdue). The committee noted their thanks to Jonathan Dean, the H&TD Steward, for his diligence on this matter. Cllr Langridge said that he was concerned that other leaks on the Speldhurst Road would spring up because the pipework was so old it was transferring the problem.
 - Re-surfacing of certain roads – the Clerk was asked to progress the re-surfacing of the roads off of Newlands. **Clerk to action**

c) Ashurst

- Flooding – The Steward reported that the drainage team had cleared the drain and had heard no further reports of flooding. The situation was much improved but it was considered that a much bigger drain was required. **Clerk to advise**
- d) Groombridge
- KCC have advised that they do not supply cases that can be fixed to a wall – only to bus stop poles and have concluded that there is no practical place to site a pole without encroaching on private land. KCC advised that there is no obligation on their part to display timetable information at every bus stop. KCC have posted copies of the time table for distribution. **The Clerk will place an article in the local broadsheet and continue to make the timetable available whenever possible.**

13. New Issues – there were no new issues

14. Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Langridge and Milner (all trained to use the equipment) had carried out a test run and the new equipment was in working order. It was agreed to place articles in the village magazines in October asking for volunteers to be trained. The Clerk had spoken to the PCSO who was willing to attend sessions if he was on shift but he might have problems attending because he does not have a car allocated. The CSW team would join the “Community Speed Watch in Kent” when more trained volunteers were available.
Mrs Waters is concerned that all this effort was being done to no avail. It seemed that statistics confirmed what we know but what is it achieving? She asked whether the Council had considered using facebook or twitter to get messages across. The Clerk said it had been considered but that a media policy was required first.

15. Update on Highways Committee’s budget - The financial position was noted.

16. Other matter arising from the minutes of 15th June 2012 – the outstanding issues had been noted under no.5.

17. Items for Information

Cllr Langridge asked the Clerk to find out why the speed setting on the speed camera on Langton Road was set at 43mph and why there had been no ticket for 2 years. **Clerk to investigate.**

He asked if any new Parish Council signs were required – the following locations were noted; Groombridge Hill; Burnt House Lane/Speldhurst Road and Speldhurst Hill.

He suggested that the kerb by the twitten (opposite the LGRG) be painted yellow to highlight the narrowing of the road. **Clerk to investigate**

Mrs Waters asked if the overgrown flora growing out of St Mary’s church wall could be cut back because it meant that children walking to school had to step in to the road to avoid the vegetation. The Clerk would request the church to have this done and would suggest this as a condition of the forthcoming grant.

Cllr Mrs Podbury asked if the PCSO could attend the next meeting. She also mentioned the convex mirror that had been knocked down opposite Burnt House Lane and said that KCC H&TD prohibited the use of these mirrors.

Mrs Norton said that KCC had patched pavements outside their house. She also said they had reported to the police that old BT cables had been taken up from manholes but had heard nothing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Chairman