



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

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.30pm
Conducted via Zoom electronic communication**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Turner, Scarbrough, Rajah, Langridge and Myles with Mr Norton. Cllr Barrington-Johnson attended in an ex-officio capacity

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs C Barrett – Administrative Assistant

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

There were none.

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 **18th November 2020** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Review of action points

The action points were reviewed. It was agreed that action numbers 5/20, 7/20, 8/20, 13/20, 16/20, 19/20 should be taken off and 1/20 should be taken off and added to the HIP. Action numbers 10/20, 11/20 and 12/20 would be discussed at the end of the meeting. Action numbers 16/19, 6/20, 9/20 14/20 17/20 and 18/20 would be carried forward.

7. Public Open Session

Mr Saunders confirmed that he was attending the meeting to hear progress on Highways matters.

8. Matters Arising and Correspondence

The Clerk had received an email about the state of the road on Dornden Drive and had acknowledged receipt. He had also received an email about a deep puddle in the road outside Langton Green Service Station, which he had reported on the parish portal. A further email had

arrived requesting double yellow lines at the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road. After discussion about the extent of the congestion caused by vehicles parking on this junction, it was concluded that since this was a new request, members of the Committee would monitor the situation and add it as a new action point.

9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget

The current financial position was circulated. The Clerk reported a small expenditure on road signs. A budget allocation of £10,000 for 2021-22 had been confirmed by Full Council on 7th December.

10. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish

There had been one accident reported on Farnham Lane which had involved a van crashing into a parked car. The Police had been in attendance.

11. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

It was agreed that Councillor Pate would add progress updates to the HIP for each location, with the aim of using the HIP to inform meeting agendas going forward. Councillor Pate would liaise with the Clerk on this.

12. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch

- a) The Clerk reported that Lockdown had brought progress to a standstill as Speedwatch sessions had not been able to go ahead. It was decided that the Clerk would contact Speedwatch volunteers to thank them for their contributions so far and to confirm that sessions would resume once the current restrictions were over (new action point)

The Clerk had met with Alan Watson, Kent Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator. Mr Watson had agreed to split the villages in the parish and look at potential new Speedwatch sites. The Clerk was now waiting to hear back from him as to next steps.

It was agreed to investigate the cost of a second new camera (new action point)

- b) The clerk was asked to clarify with KCC what a "safety enforcement camera" is. Was it a speed camera or a different type of SID (carried forward action point) and to also confirm the cost of a data capture SID.

13. Road Safety Signage

Councillor Langridge had deployed road safety signs in Langton Green and Speldhurst. Further sites on Farnham lane, the A264, Ashurst and Groombridge were on his list. Councillor Rajah nominated Stockland Green Road for 4 signs and the Clerk reported that a request had been made for signs on Furzeffield Avenue. It was agreed that Councillor Pate would add this information to the HIP, which would then be used to determine the hotspots needing signage going forward. A further action point was set for the Clerk to confirm who owned the land on Farnham Lane, on the left past Dornden Drive and before Speeds Farm.

Cllr Pate thanked Cllr Langridge for his hard work in designing and procuring signs for the parish and then installing at the agreed sites.

14. To consider issues by Village

Groombridge

- Mr Norton reminded the Committee of the possibility of a Developer contribution toward traffic calming measures as part of the re-development of Burrswood.
- Councillor Myles asked if it was possible to request a 20mph speed limit at the entrance to the village. After some discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Myles and Mr Norton would work on the plan for traffic calming in Groombridge. Cllr Pate would update the HIP to include 20mph request.

Cllr Scarbrough left the meeting at 8.30pm due to work commitments.

Ashurst

- The request for speed reduction on the A264 from 50-40mph was ongoing.
- Flooding would be taken off the agenda.

Speldhurst

- It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Kent Highways to do a traffic count on Stockland Green Road. He would also request data from the ATC which had taken place on Barden Road.
- It was agreed that Councillor Pate would approach Enforcement about illegally parked cars on the junction of Ferbies and Langton Road at drop-off and pick-up time at Speldhurst Primary School. The clerk would enquire about specific costs for double-yellow lines.

Langton Green

- It was agreed that Farnham Lane should be kept as a hotspot on the HIP.
- The Clerk and Chairman had communicated with the Head Teacher at Langton Green Primary School in December. They agreed that the School Crossing person would be more effective at the Twitten opposite the entrance to Langton Green Village Hall car park. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Kent Highways if the official crossing could be moved. A further action point was set for Cllr Pate to add Langton Green Primary School and surrounding roads to the HIP.

6. Action Point – the use of Social Media

The Committee gave the Administrative Assistant feedback on the Highways Communications Plan for 2021. The key messages and approximate wording on reporting RTCs, reporting faults and on Speedwatch were agreed. Cllr Turner volunteered to record a short video explaining the benefits of reporting highways faults on the parish portal.

15. Items for information

The Clerk urged all members of the committee to study the Highways Works Requests Information Pack when considering any local improvements, not just for the costs but the criteria involved. Mr Garry Saunders was invited by the Chairman to comment and he said that vehicles were certainly not adhering to the 20mph speed limit in Furzefield Road

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.12pm

Chairman

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
16/19	Bus shelter costs for installation and insurance liability	Clerk	25/11	Carried forward
9/20	Instigate a Zoom meeting with KCC Highways re progressing Groombridge Hill	Clerk	27/7	Carried forward, Awaiting KCC Highways
10/20	Schedule bi-monthly posts on social media asking for reports on accidents in the parish	Admin	18/11	Complete
11/20	Schedule posts on social media requesting the public to report faults on the KCC Highways Portal	Admin	18/11	Complete
12/20	Post on social media reports from Speedwatch sessions	Admin	18/11	Complete
14/20	Investigate cost of new SID with Bluetooth technology	Clerk	18/11	Carried forward
15/20	Challenge use of SIDs in 20mph zones	Clerk/Chairman	18/11	Carried forward
16/20	Produce SPC road safety signage for use on certain locations	Cllr Langridge/Clerk	18/11	Complete
17/20	Contact CSU regarding Speedwatch data requesting support from Police	Chairman	18/11	Complete, awaiting CSU
18/20	Contact KCC for cost of speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph on Groombridge Hill	Chairman/Clerk	18/11	Carried forward
19/20	Add Stockland Green Road, Farnham Lane and Langton Road (A264) to HIP	Clerk	18/11	Complete
1/21	Monitor congestion caused by parking on the junction of Cobhams and Barden Road.	Cllr Ellery/Cllr Langridge/Chairman	11/1	TBA
2/21	Add progress updates to the HIP for each location.	Chairman/Clerk	11/1	TBA
3/21	Contact Speedwatch volunteers to thank them for their contributions and to confirm that sessions will resume once lockdown over.	Clerk	11/1	TBA
4/21	Confirm owner of land on left of Farnham Lane, past Dornden Drive and before Speeds Farm.	Clerk	11/1	TBA

5/21	Carry out additional work on the HIP for traffic calming in Old Groombridge.	Cllr Myles, Mr Norton	11/1	TBA
6/21	Ask KCC if the LG Primary crossing can be moved from Lampington Rd to the Twitten opposite LG village hall carpark	Clerk	11/1	TBA
7/21	Ask KCC Highways to do an ATC on Stockland Green Rd. Request data from recent Barden Rd ATC.	Clerk	11/1	TBA
8/21	Approach Enforcement about illegally parked cars on the junction of Ferbies and Langton Road (nr Speldhurst primary school)	Chairman	11/1	TBA
9/21	Schedule regular posts across all media platforms using agreed key messages from Highways comms plan.	Admin Assistant	11/1	TBA
10/21	Record video about using parish portal to report highways faults.	Cllr Turner	11/1	TBA.