



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

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Friday 17th May 2013 at 10.30am

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

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Christian Ward-Davies and Mrs Katrina Lyle (Governor, Langton Green Primary School)

1. **Election of Chairman: RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Mrs Podbury as Chairman. She noted that this will be her last year as Chairman because she will have served three years in that role.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** There were none.
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne – various potholes; Cllr Parker – speeding concerns at Langton Primary School and Mrs Waters – recent accident in Speldhurst
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting dated **15th March 2013** which have previously been distributed to all members, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - Emails had been received on the morning of the meeting from the Pallas family about the speed of traffic on Ashurst Hill. This issue would again be re-visited.
 - A crash had occurred at 4pm on Thursday 16th May outside the LGRG when a car was hit by a large double-decker bus. This would be added to the data.
7. **Public Open Session:** Mrs Lyle explained that she was a new governor and was there primarily to observe. She said she wanted to improve communication between the school and the parish council.
8. **Terms of Reference:** The clerk submitted a new version of TOR which brought them in line with other committees. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that they be adopted by Full Council at the next meeting.
9. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents in 2013 has been updated and circulated. There have been several accidents already but one in particular involving a car making

contact with a cub scout crossing the road by St Mary's Church was discussed in detail. The parent has written a number of emails laying the blame for the incident on all councils, including SPC. There was much discussion about the incident and the committee considered that the email should be responded to outlining the work we are doing creating our own data base of accidents and that volunteers are needed for speed watch. **The clerk to write a reply. Cllr Mrs Podbury asked the PCSO if he could contact the cubs and raise road safety awareness.**

The clerk outlined guidance recently received from KCC regarding 20mph zones. They must be self-policing i.e. supported by traffic calming which would need to be visible (street lighting). These zones are not KCC's preferred policy and more detail is being sought. Mrs Waters asked if the village has ever been asked whether they would want this as it has always been assumed that Speldhurst did not. This will be considered but was thought appropriate for a parish plan.

Inspector Wilshaw of Kent Police had sent an email outlining when accidents are reported to KCC, which normally involves a personal injury.

At a recent accident a councillor was asked by police not to photograph an accident. **PCSO Ward-Davies was requested to enquire why this was not allowed.**

- 10. Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the clerk reported that the ISS was on order and he had ordered a pole to be installed. The school had advised him of term dates (including inset days) for the next two years and said that the device should flash that the school was open between 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm. The committee discussed this and decided that the time in the afternoon should be extended from 3.00-4.30pm to include after school activities. **The clerk will contact the company to request that this is changed.**

Cllr Parker reported that three people from the Langton Green Primary School had attended the Rural Society AGM and had brought up the subject of the need for improved traffic management in Langton.

- 11. Fingerposts** – the fingerposts have been installed and the clerk will now invoice KCC for £590.

12. Maintenance

- a) Over-grown hedges – Holly Tree Cottage – the owner has been written to by KCC who will follow this up.
- b) Potholes and drains – the clerk confirmed that both Barden Road and Stockland Green Road were on the KCC to-do list.

13. Outstanding issues by village:

- a) Speldhurst
 - Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The report from KCC had been circulated and overall it was considered to be very good. There is a cost to the SPC of about £2,300 and subject to a site visit to confirm the details it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that this expenditure be undertaken to improve safety in this area.
 - Speldhurst Hill – had been resurfaced over the Bank Holiday. The drain and kerb repair outside St Mary's Church is still outstanding but is on the to-do list.
 - Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – orders were in place for re-lining.
 - Parking – the PCSO is continuing to monitor the village especially outside the church.
 - Bullingstone Lane – the situation would be monitored.
 - Posts at Southfields – it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Groundsman be used to install a number of new posts. The price of the posts would be investigated and the proposal put before either Full Council or the Finance Committee for approval.
- b) Langton Green
 - Re-surfacing of certain roads – The Highway Steward informed the clerk that KCC will repair one road a year at a cost of £15,000. Long Slip would be the first road.
 - The clerk said that vehicles had eroded the grass verge at The Green where there was no kerbing. He recommended that the kerb be extended from the crossroads to prevent further

wear. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend this action subject to costs and the clerk was requested to obtain quotes to present to Full Council.

- The PCSO was requested to speak to the van driver who parks his van on the A264 next to the Texaco garage because it was considered a safety hazard.
- c) Ashurst
- Flooding near Stone Ness – The remedial work has been identified and the order passed to the drainage team at KCC Highways. It will be done in the autumn.
 - Chafford Park kerbs – no further work was suggested at present.
 - Drains at Clayton Lane – low priority.
- d) Groombridge
- Recent closure of Groombridge Road has again caused some damage to the green. Mrs Norton suggested a deterrent was needed to stop motorists from eroding the grass such as large stones. **Cllr Mrs Podbury will organise a site visit.**

14. Speed Watch – Cllrs Mrs Podbury had attended the speed watch conference and said that the police were giving this a renewed priority. She met PSE Rollinson of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team who will visit the parish, help train and review locations. It was agreed to target specific groups and try and get at least one person from each to volunteer. When the numbers were sufficient he would be asked to come to the parish.

15. Review of Highways Committee's budget – The only expenditure to date was the cost of the fingerposts and this would be offset by KCC's contribution. It was expected that the cost of the ISS and installation would be included soon.

16. Items for Information – Mrs Waters said she had reported a car for over taking on Speldhurst Hill to the police number 101 and encouraged others to do so.
Mrs Norton asked if we were advised when cycle races were being held because there had been several recently and they seem to like Groombridge Hill.
The owner of Post Office, Mrs Aron had phoned the clerk about inappropriate parking outside of the Post Office. She asked if time limited parking could be introduced and if her driveway could be marked to stop parking in front of it. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.10pm

Chairman