



**Speldhurst
Parish Council**

*Working for the
whole community*

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 17th January 2014 at 10.00am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker, with Mrs Norton and Mrs Waters

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean, Steward KCC Highways & Transportation (left at 10.20am returned 11.20am)

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mr Wheeler - prior engagement
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne was lobbied about potholes in Stockland Green Road
4. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **7th November 2013** which have previously been distributed to all members, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - An email had been received that morning from KCC regarding a road casualty reduction strategy for Kent. **Cllr Mrs Podbury and the clerk would reply on behalf of the committee.**
 - Notification that a tree was unsafe on land belonging to Hollonds Farm on the A264 and was to be felled that morning meant that Mr Dean would have to leave the meeting. He reported that he had taken over Rusthall. He had placed an order for gully work to be carried out on the corner of Lower Green Road/Smallbrook Farm
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
7. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents in 2013 has been updated and circulated. Only two accidents had been reported since the last meeting and both had occurred on the same day at the top of Groombridge Hill – both cars went off the road. It was noted that the main sign on the approach to Langton Green was down but it was not known if this was down to an accident or the storm.
The clerk advised the committee of another change in PCSO and he was optimistic that the information of RTCs would resume.
Cllr Mrs Horne asked Mr Dean if he would look at the junction of B2110/A264 to see if there was too much advertising in the area which might distract motorists.

8. Maintenance and storm damage

- a) Storm damage – there were a number of reports of trees coming down mostly affecting the A264 which had in turn affected some of the side roads where traffic was diverted especially Farnham Lane. The island at the junction of Bullingstone Lane was damaged but this was probably due to the SE Water works. Stockland Green Road was muddy and a tree was down in Lower Green Road which had disrupted the tarmac – Highways are aware and will deal with it.
- b) Potholes and drains – some remedial work had taken place on the worst potholes along Langton Road A264 (at a cost of £5,000). Mr Dean confirmed that 50mm was the depth that KCC considered a hole to be in need of repair.

9. Ward Walks

- a) The majority of issues raised on the report related to highways. Cllr Mrs Podbury had made a start reviewing the issues but it was evident that they would need to be looked at by a small group to give recommendations. Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Horne and Langridge would meet with Cllr Parker or Mrs Waters to substitute if needed. Some site visits maybe necessary. Mrs Waters suggested that a different approach might be needed to make drivers observe the limits and the gateways were again discussed and **the clerk was asked to make further enquiries about them.**

10. Outstanding issues by village:

- a) **Speldhurst**
 - Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The work had been completed by KCC and support was received from residents but there were some others against. Overall it was considered a success but it will be re-visited in six months. KCC will cut back overgrown trees that are covering the new signage and it was **RESOLVED that the clerk will purchase new reflectors for the barriers. The clerk was requested to request that KCC review the lining on that stretch of the road to see if they consider it to adequate.**
 - Speldhurst Hill – a tree was felled in the storm on 23rd December causing damage to a gas pipe under the road which caused disruption over the Christmas period and in to the New Year. Despite this Mrs Waters said that the team that worked on the repairs were very good and she asked if a letter could be sent to that effect. **Clerk to action.**
 - Re-lining –the double yellow lines in Barden Road had been re-painted but the clerk has requested KCC to re-visit this as the work was not satisfactory.
 - Parking – ACRK had made enquiries on behalf of the post office. The clerk had re-directed them to TWBC who will be reviewing the areas covered this year.
 - Mr Dean had officially requested that the owners of Holly Tree Cottage cut their hedge back further.
- b) **Langton Green** – Cllr Mrs Podbury asked if Cllr Stanyer had sent a report about the accidents he mentioned at the January Full Council meeting. It had not been received in time for the meeting.
 - Lower Green Road – the clerk had made two site visits, the last one with Steven Noad of KCC Highways who has stated in the past that this is not a Highways priority because of the lack of statistics. The clerk said that the 30mph signs were definitely too near the village and needed to be moved back to give motorists more time to slow down. He suggested that a speed check survey be made opposite No.119 at a cost of about £550 and the cost and information would be shared with Rusthall Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend this expenditure to Full Council for approval.
 - Erosion of grass verges at The Green - this work was now finished by SE Water and the clerk said he would get some quotes to put before the committee for a kerb along grass. **Clerk to action.**
 - Path/service road outside the properties on The Green - the clerk asked Earl Bourner, KCC District Manager, for an estimate for the improvements (pot holes and resurfacing) which he quoted at about £5,000. The funds set aside for these improvements were in the Amenity Budget and he

would be requesting that these works be carried out by KCC in the new financial year. A contribution by SPC would ensure this work is done as it was not safety critical.

- An enquiry had been received by a resident regarding several heaps of tree debris left along the grass verge on the A264 Langton Road between Newlands and Dornden Drive. **The clerk will report this to KCC.**
- c) **Ashurst**
 - Ashurst Hill – speeding traffic – the clerk has had no further correspondence from KMSCP – he will continue to ascertain the possibility of a speed camera
 - Flooding near Stone Ness – the clerk has raised this issue several times with KCC and, following pictures taken by Cllr Mrs Soyke which were sent on, it is now with the Highways Drainage Manager.
 - See 10d)
- d) **Groombridge**
 - Groombridge Hill – speeding traffic - see Ashurst hill.
 - **The clerk was asked to investigate the purchase of stone blocks for The Green.** This is still outstanding.
 - Deer signs – following KCC Highways decision not to erect signs because, in their opinion, there were not enough accidents reported involving deer, the clerk had made enquiries about some SPC signs. These would be made of the same material as the current warning signs and 10 would cost £95. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that these be purchased. Two would be put up on Groombridge Hill (one each way) and also in Ashurst.

11. Speed Watch

- Cllr Langridge had volunteered to take over speed watch and he would forward some dates to the clerk that he was available to meet the PSE for a training session and to view new places for the tests to be carried out. **The clerk would then contact the Police to arrange training.**
- The clerk also asked the committee to consider the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in the parish as well as the ISSs which were presently in use. SIDs were not permanent but moved from location to location and could relay different messages to motorists (i.e. thank you if you were within the limit or a smiley face). **The clerk was asked to investigate further.**

12. Website

- a) a website page had been introduced and it would be renamed “Latest Highways News” and only used for recent or future happenings

13. Review of Highways Committee’s budget – The clerk produced a report. There had been no change since the last meeting.

14. Items for Information

- Mrs Waters said that the bus company was still running a single decker bus operation which was standing room only. She would forward the name of the bus company to the clerk to make enquiries.
- Cllr Mrs Horne will initiate some work on furthering the cycle paths in this area.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.40am

Chairman