



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 10th October 2014 at 11.00am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Langridge (Chairman), Mrs Horne, and Parker with Mrs Waters, Mrs Norton, Mrs Watson and Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean – KCC Highways Steward

Cllr Langridge welcomed Mrs Watson to the committee

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 Barrington-Johnson (holiday)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Mrs Waters had been approached by residents about parking outside the post office in Speldhurst
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **18th August 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:**
 - The Clerk advised members to 'google' 'crash map' for information on recorded crashes in the area that involved injury.
 - He advised the committee that he had received two complaints from members of the public about cars parking on the pavement outside the Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) on Saturday mornings during football training. He had spoken to the Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) who are dealing with the matter.
 - Overgrown hedge in Farnham Lane – Mr Dean has spoken to the owner of Speeds Farm who has the matter in hand
 - Stonewall Park Road - road surface at western end has deteriorated. Mr Dean to inspect and report.
 - The Clerk confirmed that the deer signs were now up

- 8. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced an updated report – it was noted that there has been a lull in the number of accidents recently, however commercial vehicles, using back roads such as Burnt House Lane and Broom Lane, have been seen driving at excessive speeds presumably guided by Sat Nav. KCC has a website for reporting this – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/lorries-and-hgv/lorry-watch>
- 9. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The Clerk had forwarded an email from TWBC regarding the campaign which said that KCC will consider funding works to implement 20mph zones if the schools produce evidence of need in line with Travel Plan objectives. Other funding for street furniture, for example, will have to come from TWBC and Parish Councils. **To assist in this campaign the committee has requested that a traffic survey be carried out at or near both schools and the Clerk was asked to submit a request to the Finance Committee for funds to be made available from the Highways budget.**
- 10. Maintenance:** It was generally agreed that pot holes are being repaired but there are still a few to be maintained. The drain opposite the Manor House near the George & Dragon was still in need of repair and flooding on the A264 opposite the Texaco Garage was reported.
- 11. Traffic Surveys:** The Clerk had spoken with the Kent & Medway Camera Safety Partnership (KMSCP) who advised him that where they had previously thought there might be a widening of their remit to install cameras, that would include consistent speeding as well accidents, this was not in fact going to be the case. There were two accidents recorded in Ashurst on ‘crash map’ which would indicate that they could be eligible for a temporary camera (in a van that would visit the area on a monthly basis). Groombridge had no such accidents recorded and would therefore not qualify but a specialist unit could visit the area to carry out speed checks. **The Clerk was requested to make further investigations.**
The Clerk was also asked to submit a proposal to the Finance Committee for a Traffic Survey to be installed on Speldhurst Hill.
The Clerk has also investigated the possible use of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which is different from an Interactive Speed Sign (ISS) because it is temporary and can be moved to different sites. The Clerk has asked for KCC Highways for clarification on any restrictions that there are on a Parish Council purchasing its own SID and is investigating costs.
- 12. SE Water** – Cllrs Langridge and Milner will meet SE Water at 2pm on Thursday 16th to inspect the works.
- 13. Outstanding issues by village:**
- a) **Speldhurst**
- Barden Road: The Clerk emailed KCC Highways on 12th September regarding the possible extension of double yellow lines and a possible trial run of stop-go traffic lights at peak times but had had no reply. He has now logged the enquiry again.
 - Flooding at Smallbrook and Broomhill Farm – the recent extreme weather had caused both areas to back up and flood again despite works by the drainage team. **Mr Dean to investigate and report.**
 - Broomhill Road - It was agreed to meet with Rusthall Parish Council to discuss installing signs restricting large lorries. **The Clerk was asked to arrange a convenient date and time.**
 - Parking issues – TWBC advised that the second tranche of the traffic consultation would probably be delayed now until 2015/16 depending on resources and funding. **The Clerk was asked to advise TWBC that the Parish Council would consider funding any signage and to copy Greg Clark MP in on the correspondence.**
 - Sign post corner of Furzefield Avenue – KCC Highways have been quoted £580 by a contractor to professionally renovate the old metal signpost but funding would not be available until the next

financial year. The Committee agreed to recommend paying for the refurbishment and the Clerk would request a contribution from KCC in the financial year 2015-16. **The Clerk will propose this at the November Full Council meeting.**

b) **Langton Green**

- Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – KCC Cllr J Davies was liaising with T&C to install posts in Winstone Scott Avenue.
- Lower Green Road – the Clerk had emailed KCC Highways on 12th September about a proposal to install countdown markers on the approach to Rusthall but had received no reply. He had now logged the enquiry via the Steward.
- Sign post at Silcocks Farm – the Clerk had obtained a quote of £350 to replace the signpost. KCC Highways would contribute the standard amount but not until 2015-16. **The committee agreed to propose to Full Council that this be installed by the Parish Council and the Clerk will invoice KCC in the next financial year.**
- Exit from Burnt House Lane – the Clerk referred to two complaints from residents about the precarious exit from Burnt House Lane on to Speldhurst Road. The Clerk had forwarded the correspondence to KCC Highways who had replied saying that because there had been no reported accidents in the vicinity that it did not warrant special signage other than was there already. The Committee agreed that the exit was dangerous because of the speed of traffic travelling south towards Langton Green. The Steward said that he will order that the lines be refreshed and a larger sign indicating the junction is installed. Cllr Langridge would also install a Parish Council sign ahead of the junction. **The Clerk was asked to write to the correspondents.**

14. Bus Shelters: The Committee agreed to investigate the installation of a shelter near the junction of Farnham Lane and the Langton Road and the **Clerk was asked to approach TWBC to see if funds were available.**

15. Speed Watch: The Clerk had been in contact with the PCSO who had supplied dates when he was available. Cllr Langridge suggested two sessions; one for the week beginning 20th October and another the week afterwards. **The Clerk was asked to arrange for volunteers.**

16. Website: The website is due to be upgraded and it was agreed that when this is done the page will be changed to include links to reporting pot holes, dead animals and other useful information.

17. Review of Highways Committee's budget: The Clerk advised the committee that there was £16,758 outstanding as of the date of the meeting. Expenditure to-date had been on Traffic Surveys (£1,250) and works at The Green (£2k). **The Clerk was asked to list possible future expenditure for the next meeting in light of the suggestions to date.**

18. KCC Highways Seminar – Cllr Langridge and the Clerk will be attending a seminar on Monday November 17th and will submit a report on major issues

19. Items for Information:

- Cllr Parker reported that the lights between Dornden Drive and Newlands on the A264 Langton Road had not been working for some time. **Mr Dean will report the issue.**
- Mrs Norton said that the Parish Council signs needed refreshing. **Cllr Langridge will investigate.**
- Cllr Langridge is still investigating the possibility of gateways
- Mrs Waters said that the road surface at the junction of Penshurst Road and Bullingstone Lane is in poor condition.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm

Chairman