



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

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held Wednesday 24th March 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 were no members 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 **11th January 2021** 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 16/19, 10/20, 11/20, 12/20, 16/20 and 19/20 would be taken off. Action numbers 9/20, 18/20, 2/21, 3/21, 4/21, 5/21 and 8/21 would be marked as complete. Action number 14/20 would be marked as complete and decisions would be made under agenda item 12, Speed Cameras and Speedwatch. Action numbers 15/20, 17/20, 1/21, 6/21, 7/21, 9/21 and 10/21 would be carried forward.

7. Public Open Session

There were no members of public present.

8. Matters Arising and Correspondence

It was agreed that these would be raised as part of agenda item 11, Highways Improvement Plan (HIP).

9. Annual Review of Terms of Reference

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would amend item 3, “The committee will consist of a minimum of four councillors and a maximum of six” by removing the maximum number of councillors that could sit on the committee. This would go to Full Council for approval in April.

10. Review of Highways Committee’s Budget

The Clerk reported that there had been a spend of £2200 on a new Speedwatch Camera. The unspent amount carried forward would be £22,890 making the total budget for 2021-22 £32,890. The Chairman said there would be further costs in Ashurst and Old Groombridge.

11. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish

A dustbin lorry had reversed into a parked car in Northfields and the waste disposal operators had accepted responsibility. The Administrative Assistant had scheduled social media posts and news alerts about how to report a road traffic accident in Speldhurst parish.

12. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Chairman explained that his aim to use the HIP to inform committee meetings going forward. Locations would be listed by order of priority and a course of action would be agreed for each one based on the principles of education, engineering and enforcement (3 Es). Each location would be given a red, amber or green (RAG) status and progressed accordingly. The Committee welcomed the introduction of the HIP and suggested modifications, such as incorporating the current Actions Grid into the plan and tweaking the RAG assessment if needed. The Administrative Assistant would investigate making the plan into an Excel spreadsheet with different tabs using a cross reference. The Chairman then advised members about the items on the HIP and any progress.

1. B2110 Groombridge Hill
2. A264 Langton Road west from gateways
3. A264 from junction to Ashurst.

He said that he and the clerk had attended two meetings with KCC Highways via Teams and they had agreed, pending confirmation by the committee, that the speed limit from the 30mph at Langton Road would be reduced to 40mph. KCC provided a schematic plan and costs totalling £19,314.55 but SPC’s contribution was £15,000. This was welcomed by the committee and the expenditure would be put before Full Council in April.

4. Bird in Hand St – Cllr Myles and Mr Norton had submitted a draft Old Groombridge Traffic Improvement Plan which included BIH St. The Chairman said that any consultation with residents on the submitted report and ideas will need to be considered and approved by the Highways Committee and Full Council to allow all councillors to consider the propositions and discussion points raised. Much of the improvements were dependent on s106 money from the Burrswood redevelopment project and incorporated a vision of BIH St being 20mph. The Chairman thanked Cllr Myles and Mr Norton for their work on this. The clerk would submit the request for a Speedwatch site on BIH St.
5. A264 pedestrian crossing places. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said the requests lacked evidence and a Speedwatch site was sought along with SID data.
6. Broom Lane was to be removed from the HIP
7. Stockland Green Road – Cllr Rajah advised the Clerk that the speed limit was 40mph. Signs would be put up within two weeks. The Clerk was asked to request an ATC on the road.
8. Barden Road – The Chairman referred to the ATC results and it was decided to refer the matter for enforcement because the data indicates non-compliance.
9. Farnham Lane – there was much discussion about the problem. There had been further correspondence from local residents regarding the dangers to pedestrians. There were now more pedestrians using the lane and it was being used as a rat-run for school runs and this was exaggerated by the road works on the A264. No solutions were put forward. Mrs

Barrett suggested school children wear Hi-Viz jackets that could possibly be supplied by SPC.

CLlr Mrs Woodliffe left the meeting at 9.08pm due to work commitments.

13. Vision Zero

The Clerk explained the KCC road safety strategy of Vision Zero and its aim to have no more than 36 fatal road traffic accidents by 2026 and zero by 2050. It stated the strategy was a shared responsibility with parishes and it was agreed that Vision Zero would be used in communications with Kent Highways about traffic calming measures.

14. JTB – Near Miss Register

A one-year trial of a Near Miss Register had been announced by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The register would be used to assess where there was greatest risk of accidents occurring. Action could then be taken before somebody was either killed or seriously injured. Further details would follow.

15. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch

- a) The Clerk advised that Speedwatch would resume on Monday 29th March. He would liaise with Alan Watson from Speedwatch and confirm a new Speedwatch site on Bird-in-Hand Street. New sites had also been proposed on Barden Road. A new Speedwatch Camera had been purchased which would enable the Speedwatch teams from different villages to carry out sessions at the same time. The clerk would contact CSW about a new site on Bird in Hand Street.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to buy a speed data capture mini-SID, in order to have specific data when approaching other agencies about traffic calming measures, subject to approval by Full Council in April. (cost approx. £3,000).

16. Road Safety Signage

CLlr Langridge reported that it had been necessary to replace some signs due to graffiti. The Administrative Assistant would post on social media about this.

17. To consider new issues by Village (that are not on the HIP or action points)

- a) **Groombridge**
There were none.
- b) **Ashurst**
There were none.
- c) **Speldhurst**
The Administrative Assistant reported that there had been a request for further traffic calming in Speldhurst on the Langton Road and at the junction of Ferbies. It was agreed that she would send a copy of the meeting minutes to the resident which outlined what had been done by the Committee to address the situation.
- d) **Langton Green**
The Clerk reported that there had been a request for a 20mph speed limit in Langton Green. There had also been a request for a speed bump in Barrow Lane. He was asked to respond pointing out the stringent demands for traffic calming.

18. Items for information

There were none.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Chairman

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
9/20	Instigate a Zoom meeting with KCC Highways re progressing Groombridge Hill	Clerk	27/7	Complete
14/20	Investigate cost of new SID with Bluetooth technology	Clerk	18/11	Complete and further decisions would be made under agenda item 12.
15/20	Challenge use of SIDs in 20mph zones	Clerk/Chairman	18/11	Carried forward
17/20	Contact CSU regarding Speedwatch data requesting support from Police	Chairman	18/11	Carried forward
18/20	Contact KCC for cost of speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph on Groombridge Hill	Chairman/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	Carried forward
2/21	Add progress updates to the HIP for each location.	Chairman/Clerk	11/1	Complete
3/21	Contact Speedwatch volunteers to thank them for their contributions and to confirm that sessions will resume once lockdown over.	Clerk	11/1	Complete
4/21	Confirm owner of land on left of Farnham Lane, past Dornden Drive and before Speeds Farm.	Clerk	11/1	Complete
5/21	Carry out additional work on the HIP for traffic calming in Old Groombridge.	Cllr Myles, Mr Norton	11/1	Complete
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	Carried forward
7/21	Ask KCC Highways to do an ATC on Stockland Green Rd. Request data from recent Barden Rd ATC.	Clerk	11/1	Carried forward
8/21	Approach Enforcement about illegally parked cars on the	Chairman	11/1	Complete

	junction of Ferbies and Langton Road (nr Speldhurst primary school)			
9/21	Schedule regular posts across all media platforms using agreed key messages from Highways comms plan.	Admin Assistant	11/1	Carried forward
10/21	Record video about using parish portal to report highways faults.	Admin Assistant	11/1	Carried forward
11/21	Amend ToR	Clerk	24/3	TBA
12/21	Investigate making HIP an Excel spreadsheet	Admin Assistant	24/3	TBA
13/21	Progress Speedwatch sites on Bird-in-Hand St and Barden Rd. Request possible site on SGR	Clerk	24/3	TBA
14/21	Ask Full Council to approve purchase of additional speed capture data	Clerk/Chairman	24/3	TBA
15/21	Update social media and news alerts about graffiti on signage	Admin Assistant	24/3	TBA
16/21	Send meeting minutes to Speldhurst resident regarding measures taken to address traffic calming on Langton Road/Ferbies	Admin Assistant	24/3	TBA
17/21	Respond to residents regarding requests for traffic calming and 20mpg zones	Clerk	24/3	TBA