



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

## **Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Hemming, and Langridge

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mr Wheeler

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Langridge proposed that Cllr Mrs Podbury be elected Chairman and Cllr Mrs Soyke seconded the motion. Cllr Mrs Podbury accepted.
2. **Voting for two new public members:** At the request of the Chairman Agenda item 7 was brought forward and Mr Wheeler and Mrs Norton were invited to join the committee, Mr Wheeler accepted and Mrs Norton was voted on in her absence
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Apologies and reason for absence:** Mrs Waters (business appointment) and Mrs Norton (holiday)
6. **Minutes of the meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.
7. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
  - The Clerk advised the committee that Kent Highway Services (KHS) was in a state of flux due to the impact of the funding cuts and would only be reacting to situations that had statistical support; otherwise they would be maintaining the infrastructure and nothing more. This meant that the liaison officers and possibly the main officer that he has been dealing with over the last two years would no longer be in place.
  - Speedwatch – there was disappointment that the number of sessions had been minimal but it was explained that training was still required and that the Police Constable qualified to do this was off sick. Sites have been approved by the Police but these have been changed and there are different rules and locations for volunteers. **The Clerk will contact PC Howson to progress the training. Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke and Langridge would formulate a list of possible volunteers.**

- The committee wanted it noted that the efforts of County Cllr John Davies in reducing the speed limit on the Speldhurst – Langton Green road were much appreciated.
- Signs – It was noted that the recent number of signs erected by the Parish Council had been an unqualified success and it was decided not to put up anymore for the time being.
- Drains – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that some drains had been cleared but the drains on Speldhurst Hill still needed clearing and also the footpath was overgrown. **Clerk to report to KHS.**
- The Clerk had been in contact with KHS regarding installation of the double yellow lines in Speldhurst and also when the barrier extension at the School would be completed. **Clerk to continue to chase up**

**9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** It was noted that only £18 had been spent year to date.

**10. Outstanding Issues by Village and priorities:**

- The appreciation was again noted for County Cllr John Davies's contribution towards the proposed project for the speed reduction on A264 and B2110. It was 50% of cost up to a maximum of £5,000. No date set for implementation as yet but it would now get priority as a member funded development. **Clerk to ask KHS for a schedule**
- Barrow Lane – the committee had been previously advised of an email from KHS requesting that the speed limit in Barrow Lane be set at 30mph and that signage be installed at a cost of £3,000-4,000 and would the Parish Council fund the proposal. Members required clarification from KHS as to why it was not 30mph as there were no signs to the contrary (after leaving a 30mph road). It was also noted that 85% of the traffic travelled at 32.7mph which was near the proposed speed limit. **Clerk to contact KHS seeking clarification.**
- Barden Road – An email had been received from a resident giving details of cars mounting the pavement endangering pedestrians and that this was partly caused by the double yellow lines. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that the pavement was too narrow for bollards. **Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Langridge and Hemming would organise an exercise over two different days during busy times to monitor the situation. The Clerk would contact KHS for their opinion on the matter.**
- Land outside the old Watson Hall – It was noted that work would start on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June but that KHS had decided to monitor the situation before installing double yellow lines opposite the islands.

**11. Items for Information:** The clerk advised that he had received an email from a parent at the Village House Nursery in Langton Green requesting that signs be installed advising drivers of young children crossing at the Twitten. The Committee agreed that Cllr Langridge would make a site visit and look in to erecting a Council sign. The Clerk advised that he was attending a KHS seminar in Maidstone on July 12<sup>th</sup> which was to explain the new structure of the organisation. He would try and obtain another seat. It was also noted that the vests ordered by the Council were all medium size and some Councillors might need a larger size. **Clerk to order 6 XL vests after Finance Committee approval.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.