



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

## **Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge (Chairman), Pendleton and Wheeler

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk, Mrs M Flemington – Asst Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** There were three members of the public present; Mrs Waters and Mr & Mrs Cruse

1. **Appointment of Committee Chairman:** It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Podbury and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that Cllr Langridge be appointed Committee Chairman.
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Apologies and reason for absence:** There were none.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no issues raised.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that he has had a reply from Ray Dines of KHS concerning crash records and statistics of personal injury in road traffic collisions. Records are provided by the Police and KHS do not have any alternative source of information and damage-only crashes are NOT recorded. KHS base their assessments on a three year period to establish a longer term trend.  
Groombridge Hill is a major issue in the parish and all accidents need to be recorded and reported to PC Howson. Cllr Pendleton said that the Kent and Sussex Hospital should have records of all ambulance call-outs to Groombridge Hill.  
Cllr Langridge suggested asking PC Howson to the next Committee meeting and the Clerk suggested KHS should be asked at some stage in the future.  
Consideration will be given in future to asking residents to help in reporting accidents; however there would be discussions with PC Howson beforehand.  
The Clerk recommended that the JTB be used selectively in future.  
The Clerk stressed that although there have been frustrations, Steven Noad of KHS and PC Rachel Howson of Kent Police are being very helpful. He also recommended that contact is developed with PC Cave who records accident statistics and recommends highway improvements.

7. **Terms of Reference:** Cllr Langridge suggested adding a further point under The Committee will... – ‘establish, maintain and update long-term contacts with Kent Highway Services and Kent Police.’

Cllr Mrs Soyke suggested that Mrs Waters should be asked to join the Committee as a member of the public. Mrs Waters accepted and Cllr Langridge welcomed her to the Committee.

Mr and Mrs Cruse were asked if they wished to join the Committee as members of the public. Mrs Cruse would consider it.

8. **Outstanding Issues by Village:** It was agreed that initially this would be a list of issues not in any order of priority. **Cllr Pendleton offered to prepare a schedule to assist with this.** Cllr Wheeler spoke to remind members that not all issues are worth pursuing, such as parking on the pavements which is not illegal.

**Speldhurst:**

- Double yellow lines
- ISS in Langton Road – may be linked to Local Needs Housing
- Barden Road – traffic calming in the village and possible speed limit reduction on dangerous bends outside the village
- Salt Bins
- Drainage on Speldhurst Hill

**Ashurst:**

- Speeding on Ashurst Hill – outstanding speed limit review by KHS
- Stone Cross bend – the chevron signs have not been reinstated and a deer warning sign is missing
- New - Potholes by Cockshotts Cottage in Groombridge Road – **Assistant Clerk to report to KHS**
- Flooding at Stone Ness

**Groombridge:**

- Accidents on Groombridge Hill - outstanding speed limit review by KHS
- Dangerous tree on Groombridge Hill (there are other trees requiring work when the road closure for this is in place)

**Langton Green:**

- Double yellow lines required opposite the improvements outside the Old Watson Hall
- ISS on approach to Langton from Speldhurst
- Speed limit review on the road between Langton Green and Speldhurst. County Cllr John Davies is pushing for 30-40-30mph rather than the existing 30-50-40-30mph

Cllr Mrs Soyke suggested having some Parish Council signs made for road warnings which could be placed on private land with the permission of the landowner. **Cllr Langridge will produce some examples for consideration.**

9. **Priorities:** It was agreed that the list of outstanding issues would be placed in order of priority at the next meeting.
10. **Items for Information:** Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the Speed Watch equipment has a fault and needs servicing. **A quote is to be obtained from the company in Rusthall.** She also advised that she had attended the JTB meeting at the Town Hall prior to this meeting and Speldhurst Traffic Calming was one of the issues following a complaint from Mr Brett of Furzefield Avenue. The JTB Committee supported the KHS recommendations.

Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that someone should attend the next JTB meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Langridge stated that the suggested locations for Speed Watch need to be assessed by the Police before any action can be taken. He also advised that the ISSs in Ashurst and Groombridge are not working all the time. **The Clerk will raise this with KHS.** He suggested that consideration be given to notices on the website and in village magazines and possibly the Courier reminding residents that they can advise the Parish Council of potholes in the roads which will then be reported to KHS. He also suggested that consideration be given to asking members of the public to report road traffic collisions and personal injury road traffic collisions.

Cllr Mrs Soyke raised the matter of overgrown road signs. **She will provide more details to the Clerk so they can be reported as necessary.**

The next Committee meeting will be held in mid-March.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Chairman