



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

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Village Hall on Monday 23rd January 2017 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Lyle, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca with Mrs Norton and Mrs Watson

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

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:** Cllr Turner and Mr Wheeler (both prior engagement)
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 **21st November 2016** 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:** An email had been received from a resident requesting support for a zebra crossing at The Hare junction. The issue was discussed and site/ funding problems were recognised. However the Committee did not want to be negative at this stage and asked the Clerk to see if it was feasible from a safety audit point of view. The resident would also be encouraged to garner support to add weight to her request.
8. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** Expenditure to-date was reviewed and the Clerk updated the Committee on projected expenditure. Available funds for Highways projects stood at £26.5k with committed expenditure of £1.9k (bus stop repair – the insurance payment has already been received); £6.3k gateways and £19k for 20mph. In April additional funds of £20k will be allocated and he expected a further £5k to be spent on gateways; he estimated a further £10k on the 20mph project, which included the reduction from 60-40 on the Speldhurst Road, and the balance to fund a new mobile SID.

- 9. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The Clerk had contacted the PCSO for an update but had not had a report in time for the meeting. It was acknowledged that, despite consistently requesting residents to inform the Council of accidents, hardly any information was being recorded. This meant that the database was almost totally dependent on Police records which means that it is not an independent record.
- 10. Parish Plan** – The Council Chairman had written letters to leading members of the community requesting they visit the Parish to see traffic issues. Speedwatch was discussed and it was acknowledged that the new Community Speedwatch (CSW) move to an online database has caused disruption within the local area because few people who had previously volunteered had signed up to the new system. No session had been carried out since August and a further push was required to motivate people to sign up. Once this was done a Police training session would be booked.
- 11. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools** – Progress was being made. The Clerk advised that the ball-park figure of £19k, estimated by KCC, did not include consultation for the reduction in the speed limit in Speldhurst from 30mph to 20mph. KCC would consult for an additional £700 which the Committee considered worthwhile because of the importance of ensuring that the correct procedure was followed. Payment for the design of the advisory signs has been made. The Clerk said that initially only advisory signs would be used in Langton and if satisfactory savings would be made.
- 12. Entry Statements to villages (gateways)** – Four gateways have been ordered and will be installed at Groombridge, Ashurst and two between Speldhurst and Langton.
- 13. To consider reports on the following issues by Village**
- a) **Groombridge**
- Traffic calming measures is now being dealt with under the Parish Plan
 - The sets have been installed and this will be taken off future agendas
 - ISS – this has been dismantled and consideration will be given to purchasing another SID to replace in the new financial year.
- b) **Ashurst**
- ISS - The Clerk informed the Committee that the ISS had been removed.
 - Bus stops - Mrs Watson will investigate whether one is needed in Ashurst and the Committee will make a decision once the information is received.
- c) **Speldhurst**
- Parking - The recent incident where cars in Northfields were sprayed with yellow paint was noted. Residents affected notified the Police who made enquiries.
 - Flooding at Lower Green Road - KCC Highways have repaired the wall of the bridge and cleaned the drains. The area will be monitored when there is heavy rain. Cllr Mrs Horne said that the gas company who had worked on the road had advised her that the gulleys on Speldhurst Hill were clogged and she asked the Clerk to investigate whether gully-clearing on Speldhurst Hill had been done and that a deeper cleansing be requested.
- d) **Langton Green**
- Speldhurst – Langton speed limit – The cost of this was not included in the recent email submitted by KCC Highways and will need to be approved by Full Council.
 - School crossing points - an advert appeared in Langton Life but no one has come forward. Approval has been given for the wooden structure to be erected along the footpath by the Vicarage.
 - Repair to the bus shelter - the bus shelter has been repaired and moved further back. It was noted that graffiti has been sprayed on the new shelter.
 - Parking outside the shops – The Council Chairman is making further investigations in to the problem being experienced by one of the shopkeepers.

- Road/footpath at The Green – the Clerk had received an email from a resident complaining about cars using the small road/footpath as a cut-through. The Clerk had made some initial investigations and found that the road is owned by KCC who cannot restrict vehicles because it is a public highway. The Committee expressed concern because the road is used as a footpath and is regularly used by schoolchildren. They were also concerned because the grass area is being eroded by vehicles. KCC said that the Parish Council could take ownership by a “Stopping Up Order” but this process is likely to cost in excess of £4,000 and then it will be responsible for future maintenance. The Committee asked the Clerk to seek more information before any decision is made.

14. Speed watch

See 10. Parish Plan

15. Items for information

- Cllr Milner said that Cllr Mrs Podbury had sent details of a parking survey in Tunbridge Wells which could result in reduced parking for non-residents in the town.
- Cllr Mrs Horne said there had been positive feedback on the mobile SID

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman