



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 Friday 8th April 2011 at 10.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Langridge (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Wheeler and Mrs Waters

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: There were no members of the public present

- 1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** There were none.
- 2. Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Langridge had been in conversations with Mr Pitt of Blue Cottage, Groombridge Hill regarding speed reduction measures.
- 3. Apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Pendleton (Business appointment)
- 4. Minutes of the meeting dated 17th January 2011** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.
- 5. Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
- 6. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk advised that an email had been received from KHS advising that the request for double yellow lines in Speldhurst would go before the TWBC Joint Transportation Board (JTB) on Monday 18th April because there had been one objection. Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Langridge would attend and **the clerk would see if PC Howson could attend.**
- 7. Review of the KHS report on Ashurst/Groombridge speed limits and recommendation to Full Council on whether the Parish Council should fund the speed reductions:** The clerk advised the committee that he had approached John Davies to see if he could help with funding from his member fund but he was advised that at the present time his money was allocated for other projects. The cost of the speed reduction was estimated by KHS to be £6-7,000 for both roads and there was much discussion on whether to recommend that the Parish Council should pay for the road improvements. Other sources of funding was discussed but it was decided that none, other than the KCC member or KHS, was to be had.
The clerk said that he would write to John Burr, Director of KHS to make sure that KHS had no funds for the project, and if this was the case the committee recommended that the Parish Council fund the speed reductions. This would be voted on Monday 11th April at Full Council.

8. **Outstanding Issues: The speed signs** produced at the APM and installed on locations at Barden Road and Speldhurst Road by the Langton Green Primary School had been an unqualified success. It was proposed to place more signs; By Vistas on the approach to Speldhurst Primary School; possibly one by the George & Dragon approaching the Langton Road junction; Barden Road towards Bidborough and one was needed on Speldhurst Hill approaching the junction of Stockland Green Road (but no site identified as yet); on Groombridge Hill going up the hill (by Blue Cottage) where a post needed cementing and going up the hill at Ashurst. After these were installed the impact would be reassessed and further signs would be limited, possibly some might be rotated.

Speedwatch; three sites had so far been identified and approved at the War Memorial at Langton Green Church; The Green at Groombridge and by the phone box in Ashurst but none as yet in Speldhurst. Volunteers (some from new Councillors) were required.

Drains; there were still completely blocked drains on Speldhurst Hill, Stockland Green Road and Franks Hollow. Manhole covers had not yet been properly reset on Speldhurst Hill.

White lines; by Smallbrook farm required repainting. Double yellow lines on Barden Road at the Church end requiring re-lining.

Parking on pavements and double yellow lines; The shops on Langton Road, Langton Green. **The clerk to request more visits from traffic wardens and PCSO. He was also asked to contact PC Howson about official “No Parking” tickets.** The committee would consider having parking signs made if the problem continued.

Tree at Groombridge; Clerk to chase up KHS

9. **Items for Information:** The clerk advised that he had requested a six monthly meeting with KHS to review outstanding issues.

Cllr Wheeler said that he would like to stay on as a public member of this committee and asked if it could be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr Langridge said that due to too many commitments he would be stepping down as Chairman but would stay on the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.25am.

Chairman