



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 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca, Turner (arrived 7.43pm) and Mrs Norton

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

There were no members of the public present

1. **Election of Chairman:** It was **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr Milner as Chairman of the committee.
2. **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.
3. **To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** Mrs Lyle, Mrs Watson and Mr Wheeler (all prior engagement)
4. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne was spoken to regarding the speed of traffic on Speldhurst Hill.
6. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
  - The Clerk said that a new Highways Steward has been assigned to the Tunbridge Wells area. Her name is Faye Mahoney and she started in April. The Clerk reported no contact had been made to-date.
  - Earl Bourner, the Highways Area Manager, informed the Clerk that a big campaign of find and fix was due to start. He asked Councillors to confirm areas that required attention and he will forward them on.

- 9. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The updated list was circulated. He was still awaiting an updated list from the PCSO. There were three accidents updated, all reported by members of the committee.
- 10. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** A cheque for £500 has been sent to KCC Highways for a request for a quote from a KCC consultant.
- 11. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs):** The mobile SID has been installed in Ashurst from 4<sup>th</sup> May. The direction was changed on 18<sup>th</sup> May to west facing and it will be changed every two weeks to other sites by the Groundsman. An additional order had to be made for two additional brackets and clips at a cost of about £120 because the order from KCC did not include the correct number. Cllr Kerby informed the Clerk that the ISS in Groombridge was not working. The Clerk will report the malfunction.
- 12. Road closures –** The Clerk said that he had received two complaints from Speldhurst residents who were not aware of the recent closure of Barden Road even though the notice was on the SPC website. The matter was discussed and the general opinion was that the information boards placed by KCC had informed most people of the works but it was agreed that Northfields had been particularly impacted. The Committee considered options of informing residents but did not consider there was a duty beyond informing via the website. It was hoped that when the new website is working that there will be an option for residents who want to be informed of local matters to be done so electronically. It was noted that Groombridge Road was closed but no notice had been given.
- 13. To consider reports on the following issues by Village**
- a) Groombridge**
- The Clerk advised that the OGCG had received a disappointing reply from Cllr Balfour but the local PCSOs have, in response, been active carrying out some speedwatch sessions.
- b) Ashurst –** there was nothing reported
- c) Speldhurst**
- Speldhurst Road – the Clerk was yet to contact DC Pate. He will draft a request for the Police to support 40mph for approval by the Chairman.
  - Verge opposite Mead House, Speldhurst Road – KCC will repair the verge because it will be difficult for them to prove who caused the damage (despite some earlier photo evidence supplied by SPC). It had been suggested that the Clerk investigate the cost of installing posts on this verge to prevent this happening again. KCC Highways quoted a price of £150 per bollard and the Clerk was asked to get another quote from Tate Fencing.
- d) Langton Green**
- Hare crossroads - The Clerk is arranging for installation of a post on the verge.
  - Lampington Row - The Clerk advised that proper notice had been advertised prior to installation.
  - Cars obstructing pavements and footways – there was much discussion on this issue and several cases were highlighted especially in Barden Road and the Langton Road, Langton. Councillors were frustrated at the lack of enforcement and suggested that polite notices be placed on cars that serial offend. The Clerk suggested wording based on other Councils' leaflets and it was agreed that this be put before Full Council.
  - School crossing points – the Clerk referred to an email forwarded by Cllr Mrs Lyle about another incident of a van overtaking a car that had stopped to allow children to cross. Cllrs agreed that the best course of action was for the school to engage a crossing person but they were not sure how much priority this was being given by the school.

- 14. Speed watch** – a speedwatch session had been carried out on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May by a team in Groombridge. Another session was to be carried out on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May by the Recreation Ground led by Cllr Mrs Lyle.  
The Clerk advised the committee that he had received an email that said that Guy Rollinson had resigned from the Police. When a new coordinator was employed it was agreed to see if a site could be set up on Penshurst Road.
- 15. Entry Statements to villages (gateways)** – the Clerk said that because of the delay of the 20mph perhaps gateways should be looked in to further with a view, depending on cost, of installing them over a period rather than all at once. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain some quotes.
- 16. Parish Plan** – it was agreed to review the plan when the findings had been finalised.
- 17. Review of Highways Committee's Budget** – the Clerk gave out copies of the expenditure to-date which included the purchase of the SID and pole installation (£5,450), the fee for KCC consultation (£500) and a ladder to help the Groundsman move the SID to a different location and change the battery.
- 18. Items for information** – Cllr Mrs Horne said that she was not sure that the sign warning large vehicles not to use Stockland Green Road had been installed. She asked if one could be installed for Broomhill Road. The Clerk will investigate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Chairman