



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

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 10.00am**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker and Mrs Waters

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mrs Norton and Mr Wheeler (both prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** All members had been approached about recent accidents in the Parish
4. **Minutes: RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting dated **17<sup>th</sup> May 2013** which have previously been distributed to all members, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
  - The cubs scout leader informed Cllr Mrs Podbury that road safety instruction was already covered.
  - The clerk was asked to follow-up with PCSO why photographs of an accident were not allowed.
  - The clerk was to re-request that the PCSO advise the owner of the car and van not to park on the pavement adjacent to the Texaco garage.
  - A letter had been received from Speldhurst School thanking the Parish Council for installing the new Interactive Speed Sign.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents in 2013 has been updated and circulated. The recent spate of accidents throughout the Parish has led to an understandable reaction from residents wanting traffic calming in their villages. The clerk reported that he was investigating the procedure for applying for speed cameras for Ashurst and Groombridge. He will review the gateways and priority systems situated at Bells Yew Green and on Halls Hole Road to see if they suitable for any of the villages in the Parish.

Mrs Waters said that residents were frustrated and there was a “them and us” situation. She said the Council needed to convince residents that they were working with them. It was agreed that an article should be written for the village magazines explaining what the Parish Council can and cannot do with regard to Highways matters. **The clerk will draft an article.**

8. **Speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the clerk reported that the ISS has been installed. This was a significant improvement for the approach to Speldhurst which should reduce accidents. Mrs Waters was sceptical but the school had written thanking the Council for the ISS. A sturdier post was needed and this was on order which will cost £220. Both companies have agreed to waive labour charges for the changeover.
9. **Fingerposts** – the fingerposts have been installed and we are awaiting payment of £590 from KCC.
10. **Maintenance**
- a) Over-grown hedges – an increasing problem this time of year. The area between Ewehurst Lane and Went Farm on Langton Road, Speldhurst and Kirby Court, Langton Road, Langton. There is also the problem of over grown area on Ashurst Hill. KCC Highways have cut back on the footpath opposite Went Farm but the hedge is down to the owner. They will not touch the area on Ashurst Hill. **The clerk will contact Town and Country regarding Kirby Court and try to ascertain the land owners of the other areas.**
  - b) Potholes and drains – there has been a lot of maintenance work carried out by KCC Highways in the last two months. Broom Lane and Barden Road are two roads that have had major works. There are outstanding holes in Stockland Green Road (location to be confirmed) and Burnt House Lane which the clerk will report.
11. **Ward Walks issues** – a number of issues had been flagged by residents. They range from speed of drivers, wild deer, no footpath on the bridge in Groombridge and parking. These will be answered direct to TWBC.
12. **Outstanding issues by village:**
- a) Speldhurst
    - Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The new scheme has been approved by Full Council and KCC has been given the go ahead and the final plans with signage is awaited. **The clerk was asked to chase the matter.** Parking restrictions outside the Post Office was discussed and **the clerk was asked to start the procedure for installing 30 minute wait restrictions.** The clerk will investigate the possibility of bollards on Barden Road to restrict cars mounting the pavement from Northfields to the junction of Furzefield Avenue.
    - Speldhurst Hill – had been resurfaced and speed was still an issue. Mrs Waters said that it was difficult exiting Wallers and asked if a warning sign could be installed with clearer 30mph signs.
    - Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – still outstanding but Barden Road would be done with the new scheme.
    - Parking – the situation in Northfields was worsening. An emergency vehicle could not get access recently because of parked cars. The committee will seek ideas from the community and ask the PCSO to monitor.
    - Posts at Southfields – the clerk reported that the posts will be installed in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> July.
  - b) Langton Green
    - Re-surfacing of certain roads – refer to previous minutes - KCC to repair Long Slip this year.
    - Erosion of grass verges at The Green - the clerk said that he had only just received a list of approved contractors and would obtain some quotes. However this work would not go ahead until SE Water had finished.
  - c) Ashurst
    - Ashurst Hill – speeding traffic - refer to minute item 7 – the clerk will investigate if a speed camera can be installed.
    - Flooding near Stone Ness – The remedial work has been identified and the order passed to the drainage team at KCC Highways. It will be done in the autumn.
  - d) Groombridge

- It was decided that The Green required some more stone blocks and the clerk was asked to acquire some. **He will investigate.**

**13. Speed Watch** – Cllrs Mrs Podbury had attended a session on Ashurst Hill on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July with the PCSO. Between 8am and 9am 11 vehicles were recorded travelling between 36 and 42mph. **The clerk was asked to contact PSE Rollinson to set up some training and to review permitted sites in September.**

**14. Review of Highways Committee's budget** – The cost of the ISS was included.

**15. Items for Information** – there were none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25am

Chairman