



**Speldhurst
Parish Council**

*Working for the
whole community*

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

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Friday 18th January 2013 at 9.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker with Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Mrs Hull and Jonathan Dean (KCC H&TD) Steward (JD)

- 1. To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mrs Waters and Mrs Norton (both sick relatives)
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
- 3. Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
- 4. Minutes of the meeting dated 12th October 2012** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising and Correspondence:

Outstanding issues not on the Agenda were:

- Deer Signs on Groombridge Hill – The Steward confirmed that deer signs have been requested (41400648) but the request was rejected due to lack of incidents involving deer. **JD would forward any information to the clerk who would raise the issue with Earl Bournier (KCC H&TD)**
- Lower Green Road flooding – The gullies at the junction with Speldhurst Hill have been cleared and the situation is much better Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that there is running flood water during heavy rain across the road by the farm gate further towards Rusthall. **Cllr Mrs Podbury to show JD**
- Speldhurst Parish Council signs in Burnt House Lane – Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that one of signs could now be taken down as the convex mirror was now in place. **Cllr Langridge to action**

Correspondence – the clerk advised that he had received the following correspondence that had not been previously circulated:

- KCC H&TD have written via email dated 8th January advising that effective 28th May 2013 more controls will be in place to ensure that organisations avoid works at busy locations at critical times. (Kent Lane Rental Scheme KLRS)
- An email had been received from TWBC dated 9th January asking for comments on its parking study. Members were asked to email any comments to the clerk who would reply. <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/portal>

- 6. Public Open Session:** Cllr Mrs Hull asked if the issue of cycling along the A264 (originally raised at the Environment WG meeting) could be progressed – it was considered unsafe and official use of the pavement was suggested a possible way forward. JD advised this was a PROW matter (Jonathan Bibby KCC). **Clerk to contact JB**
She said that the Village Hall in Speldhurst was poorly signed and asked if new signs could replace existing ones to show it. **Clerk to investigate and report**
- 7. Update on speed reduction on A264/B2110** – This project was now complete
- 8. Stone Cross** –Cllr Mrs Soyke had requested that one of the 50mph signs that is attached to a dangerous bend sign opposite Manor Court Farm be moved because it indicated that it was safe to travel at that speed. This has been forwarded to KCC H&TD and has been initially rejected because it is within the parameters allowed. **The clerk will make further enquiries.** There is a matter outstanding on this project between KCC and residents concerning a footpath but apart from this the matter is now complete.
- 9. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents was checked and is up to date. A new list for 2013 will be started and the public would be encouraged to become more active reporting accidents. **Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Langridge to action**
- 10. Langton Green Primary School – KCC expansion plans** – the feasibility study had been received from Judith Lees on Wednesday 16th January. There was much discussion on the issue and the committee considered the highways issue was paramount and without any improvements it would be difficult to support the plan.
- 11. Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the clerk reported that the owners of Speldhurst Nurseries had given permission for an ISS to be installed on the verge however KCC H&TD had advised that because it is on private land they could not install or adopt it. Because of trees it was unlikely that solar power would be effective and therefore it would need an electric connection and meter.
The clerk was asked to make further investigations (e.g. was the ISS in Ashurst on private land) and to keep the owners of the nursery informed.
- 12. Overcrowded school buses** – parents were being encouraged to write to KCC complaining about this but to-date only one complaint had been received. This would be mentioned in the newsletter and village magazines.
- 13. Safer Rural Travel** – Cllr Mrs Podbury was studying reports from other Counties and one suggestion was to reduce the number of signs thus making drivers more aware when they see a sign.
- 14. Fingerposts** – the clerk reported that KCC H&TD had offered £590 towards the two wooden posts. He needed to contact the owner of Hollonds Gardens to get permission to replace the old sign and then he would order.
- 15. Consideration of consultation paper from DCLG speed limits for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads** – after much discussion it was **AGREED** to reject any increase in the speed limit of these vehicles. **Clerk to inform KALC and Cllr Mrs Podbury to inform JD of local roads that are regularly used by HGVs.**
- 16. Maintenance of verges**

 - a) it agreed to take this item off the agenda
 - b) overgrown hedges – the hedge opposite Barden Mill was considered in need of cutting back. **Clerk to action**

17. Outstanding issues by village:

a) Speldhurst

- Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. **The Clerk was asked to prioritise the issue.**
- Speldhurst Hill – speeding and drains – the road was due for re-surfacing next month and the subject would be re-visited once it is done
- Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – The clerk reported that the double yellow lines have yet to be repainted on Barden Road (Order 41408918). Mr Wheeler suggested that double yellow lines were also needed on Barden Road Opposite the junction with Furzeffield Avenue. **Clerk to investigate**
- Parking – the clerk had requested the PCSO to monitor the village when possible
- Bullingstone Lane – JD reported that some remedial work had been carried out but the budget was limited and it was a small lane compared with other more pressing issues.
- Conservation pavement on Speldhurst Hill – JD said he would have the kerb repaired when the re-surfacing was being done.

b) Langton Green

- Re-surfacing of certain roads – JD said that his department had said that the road surfaces were an aesthetic issue and not safety critical. **The Clerk will approach County Councillor John Davies** to see if progress can be made on the re-surfacing of the roads off Newlands.
- The clerk said that parking at the The Hare was a seasonal issue and should be monitored to ensure that it does not become a more permanent one.
- The white lines at the entrance to the Village Hall and the Speldhurst Road were in need of repainting. **JD to report**

c) Ashurst

- Flooding – The Clerk reported that the drains had been cleared but during heavy rain flash flooding occurs. The committee asked JD to ensure that a report from the KCC H&TD drainage engineer is carried out and that it included improvements. **JD to progress and report**
- Chafford Park kerbs – **JD to investigate**
- Drains at Clayton Lane – JD was advised of the problems and will investigate.

d) Groombridge

- There is still some damage at The Green that is need of repair. **JD will have the necessary repairs made.**

18. New Issues:

- Penshurst Road pot holes to be reported
- White van parking next to Texaco garage – the clerk has reported the issue to the PCSO
- A264 – from TW to Langton Green – potholes in need of repair
- Stockland Green Road – JD to investigate

19. Speed Watch – Cllrs Mrs Podbury reported that more sessions will be carried out in the near future

20. Update on Highways Committee's budget – There has been no change since the meeting on October. The contribution to the upgrade at Stone Cross of £3,500 was expected to be invoiced soon.

21. Items for Information – there were none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11am

Chairman