



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

Minutes of a Parish Vision Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall on Thursday 17th June 2010 at 1.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chairman), Mrs Soyke (who left the meeting at 2.30pm), Langridge, Pendleton and Mrs L Dollimore, Mr J Syers and Mrs A Norton

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk, Mrs Flemington - Asst Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Langridge proposed Cllr Mrs Podbury be elected as Chairman. This was unanimously **AGREED**.
The Chairman welcomed Mrs Norton to her first committee meeting and also Mrs Flemington.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None received
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:** None received
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** None received
5. **Minutes** of the meeting dated **6th April 2010**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.
6. **Matters Arising**
TWBC announced that the Ward Walks planned for this year have been postponed until 2011.
7. **Results - Update**
Volunteers – **Cllr Langridge will re-send the holding letter/email to the volunteers. Cllr Mrs Soyke would do the same in Ashurst, and Cllr Pendleton Groombridge.**
8. **Next Steps**
 - Summaries – Main Issues – in order of priority (similar response from all 4 villages unless stated otherwise)
 - **Speeding** was the number one issue across the Parish. Speldhurst Road and Langton Road, Speldhurst were considered the biggest issue.
 - Request repeat speed camera visit from Police for all villages. Parish Council to organise another Speedwatch campaign and organise Speedwatch training. An average speed camera is to be considered for Langton Green and if this is not feasible an ISS, along with one for Speldhurst (after the successful installations of an ISS in Ashurst and Groombridge, which remain the priorities). An ISS showing the actual speed of cars is considered to be more effective than an ISS simply showing the speed limit. The siting of future ISSs was to be discussed at a future date. Parish Council to contact Withyham PC regarding its plans for Groombridge.
 - The Hare junction was still considered an issue.

- **Parking on Pavements** – The Clerk to investigate with KHS the possibility of one-way street systems in Northfields, Speldhurst and First Street Langton Green.
- **Buses** – major problem is timetable being indecipherable to bus users. Buses are very regular in Rusthall but not in the Parish villages. Consideration to be given to linking the Parish with the 281 service to Rusthall.
- **Oversize vehicles** – The bridge over the River Grom at the bottom of Groombridge Hill is a listed structure – could it have a weight limit placed on it.
- **Cycling** – it is considered that there are no practical solutions because the roads are not wide enough.

Other Issues

- **Crime** was not considered a major problem
- **Education** – priority should be given to local residents. **Action - Schools to be informed.**
- **Maintenance of the Parish** – Generally considered good. Issues with overgrown hedges but these are dealt with individually.
- **Climate Change - Recycling** – Cllr Brown setting up Environment Committee. Recycling information will be put on new Parish Council website. Emptying of recycling bottle banks was not considered to be frequent enough.
- **Dog fouling** – Bins and education – the installation of more bins would be considered but without enforcement or education it is not always successful. Cllr Langridge and Mrs Dollimore to walk main Langton footpath and will report.
- **Litter** – just a few problem areas. Best solution is litterpicking using volunteers
- **Train Services** – problems for Ashurst with only 4 coaches on many trains and a number of services at peak times do not stop at Ashurst. Commuters were also using Eridge because of the free parking. It is not possible to commute to London using buses to get to train stations.
- **Gatwick air traffic** – no real problems identified
- **Improvement Schemes** – suggestions of more bulb planting.
- **Footpaths and Bridleways** – lots of work already underway. Investigate insurance for Shadwell Woods Working Party.
- **Mobile Post Office** – Clerk and Cllr Langridge to research what services it can offer and if there is scope to combine it with the existing mobile library service.
- **Playgrounds** – Langton Green considered very good – Speldhurst considered to be in need of updating by those who use it regularly.
- **Improvements to Parish Council** – new website – possible newsletter twice a year in March and September – Annual Meeting – suggestion boxes in village halls

- **Content and Presentation:** The Presentation is to be based on the Questionnaire with a summary for the whole Parish and results for the individual villages on the website.

- **Target Dates:** Report of recommendations for approval at the full Council meeting on 5th July 2010 with the aim of publishing the results at the end of July.

- **Action:**
 - Prepare report of recommendations for approval at the council meeting on 5th July 2010
 - Make contact or follow up contact with all volunteers
 - Parish Vision update on website
 - Request repeat Speed camera visit from Police for all villages
 - Further Parish Council Speedwatch exercise
 - Contact Withyham Parish Council regarding vehicle speeds in rest of Groombridge
 - Investigate whether the listed bridge in Groombridge qualifies for a weight limit
 - Investigate possibility of one-way traffic in Northfields, Speldhurst and First Street, Langton Green
 - Put recycling information and easier to read version of local bus timetable on website
 - Volunteers for litter picking
 - Separate list required for KHS matters

9. **Youth:** Youth Questionnaires highlighted the biggest problems was a lack of meeting places and public transport. By far the most demand for a new outdoor activity was for tennis courts in the Parish. **Cllr Mrs Podbury to contact Youth worker Andy Hobbs.**

Cllr Mrs Soyke will keep Cllr Mrs Podbury informed of developments with regard to the YMCA Youth buses

Suggestion for a Junior Parish Council

10. Items for Information: There were none.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm

Chairman