



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 14th July 2016 at 10.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Kerby, Mercieca, Turner and Mrs Watson and Mrs Norton

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

There was one member of the public present

1. **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.
2. **To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Mrs Lyle (prior engagement), Cllr Allen (holiday) and Mr Wheeler (prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated 19th May 2016 which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There was one member of the public present: Mrs Patsy Henley who had written to our MP Greg Clark about 20mph in December 2015. She had received a reply in March 2016 but wondered what the latest situation was and what she could do to help. The Committee updated her on the lengthy negotiations with KCC Highways and suggested that she write to the MP again, copying in Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet Member for Highways.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk advised the Committee that the sign “unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles” had been installed at the entrance to Stockland Green Road. Cllr Mrs Horne requested that another one be erected on the corner of Victoria Road and Constitution Hill Road on Southborough Common to warn drivers entering Stockland Green Road from Victoria Road which bypasses the one sign at the common. The Clerk will contact Highways. The Clerk said he had received a letter regarding white lines and traffic calming in St Mary’s Lane and had advised that it was a private road and responsibility was with the residents.

- 8. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The latest list had been updated and circulated. Police figures were about a month out of date.
- 9. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** Copies of recent emails had been circulated including a correspondence from Greg Clark MP's PA who had received a complaint from a parent that it was taking too long.
It was suggested that Speldhurst School could be more active in its support and write to the authorities (Greg Clark and KCC). The Clerk will raise the matter with the school at the beginning of the new school year.
It was also agreed that more parents should write complaining of the delays and the Council continue to lobby. The use of social media was also discussed to make the case.
- 10. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs):** The new SID has been rotated between Old Groombridge, Ashurst and Langton Green and is considered a success. The site at Speldhurst Hill is overgrown and cannot be used until KCC have cut it back and then will not be used while the gas works are in progress (see No.11).
It was noted that the permanent ISS is not working in Groombridge and Cllr Kerby will contact the residents whose hedge has grown too high.
- 11. Road closures** –The Clerk advised that Speldhurst Hill is due to be closed for 11 weeks for gas works from 25th July. SGN and KLT had visited the office that week to explain the reasons and how the diversions will work. There is a need for a full trench to be opened up to lay new piping and inserts cannot be used. It will be done in sections (Barden Road to Wallers first) and access will only be from one direction including residents.
- 12. To consider reports on the following issues by Village**
- a) Groombridge**
- There has been nothing further to report on the request from traffic calming measures.
 - Erosion of the Green at Groombridge by vehicles was discussed further and it was agreed to obtain quotes from a contractor to lay granite blocks in between the existing ones to include part of Bird in Hand Street.
- b) Ashurst** – Mrs Watson said that the SID was having effect, especially downhill.
- c) Speldhurst**
- Speldhurst Road – the Clerk had received a report from the Police of recordings taken at both ends of the road between Langton and Speldhurst. Speeds were recorded well in excess of the advised limits of 30mph and the Clerk was waiting to hear if the police will support a reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph between Burnt House Lane and the approach to the 30mph limit in the village.
 - Verge opposite Mead House, Speldhurst Road – it was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mrs Wheeler of Mead House giving permission for stones of an appropriate size to be installed on the green opposite to prevent deterioration.
- d) Langton Green**
- Lampington Row – the double yellow lines have now been installed.
 - Cars obstructing pavements and footways – it was agreed that there should be strict rules for using the leaflets. A Councillor should first take a photo of the offender's car parked obstructing pavements. If it is seen again then a leaflet can be placed and another photo taken. The evidence should then be sent to the Clerk for the records.
 - School crossing points – the Clerk will contact Tate fencing for a quote for an offset wooden barrier.
 - Bus shelter – The Clerk said that the bus shelter next to the Green at Langton Green had been hit and dislodged. He was waiting from KCC to report on whether the collision had

been reported to the police and how to proceed. It may need to be repaired via an insurance claim.

- 13. Speed watch** – no new sessions have been held since the end of May. The new version of speed watch equipment is available and this would be put to Full Council in August or September. Cllr Mrs Horne suggested that grants be investigated.
- 14. Entry Statements to villages (gateways)** – the delay in 20mph meant that gateways should be investigated. It was agreed that Cllrs Milner and Mercieca report on where the gateways should be located, what types to be used and have KCC quote for a decision by the Committee.
- 15. Parish Plan** – the Parish Plan has been circulated to all Councillors today. It was necessary for Councillors to assess the plan to see if what is said is fundamentally correct. Councillors should review it and consider the challenges and whether they require changes and why and report to the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Committee Chairman, copying in the Clerk.
- 16. Review of Highways Committee's Budget** – the Clerk reviewed the expenditure to-date.
- 17. Items for information** – Mrs Norton said the footpath leading up Groombridge Hill was overgrown. Cllr Mercieca mentioned that the wall opposite the shops on Langton Road was looking in danger of collapse.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon

Chairman