



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

**Minutes of the Highways Committee Meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2026
in the Parish Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground**

MEMBERS PRESENT Cllrs Norton (Chair), Cleaver, Farley, Turner (Vice-Chair), with Mr Myles and Mr Langridge.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS PRESENT: There were none.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: No members of the public were present.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs K Neve, Clerk and Miss S Neve, Deputy Clerk.

1. TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING

The Clerk recorded the meeting for administrative purposes.

2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Littlefield (work commitments), Mrs Dooley (work commitments) and the Parish Administrator (unwell).

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

Cllr Norton had been lobbied by a resident regarding cycle races/events in the Groombridge area. This matter was raised under item 9b).

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes previously distributed to all Members be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

7. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS

The Clerk reported that all current actions points had been completed.

8. REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE'S BUDGET

The Clerk reported that £15,000 had been agreed for the next financial year, 2026/2027. An earmarked reserve of £30,000 remained unused. It was noted that this budget was in addition to any Tunbridge Wells Borough Council grant funding through the Parish Grant Fund.

9. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP) (INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF ANY NEW ISSUES BY VILLAGE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CORRESPONDENCE, RECENT ACCIDENTS, SPEEDWATCH, AND MEDIA)

Councillors noted the substantial work undertaken since the previous meeting on HIP proposals which had been submitted under the Tunbridge Wells Parish Grant Fund initiative.

Cllr Norton thanked Cllr Farley and Mr Myles for reviewing the submitted plans and explained that, following representations from the parish council and a local resident, revised proposals had been received from Kent County Council (KCC). These included red road markings at key locations, despite initial reluctance. Updated costings indicated the Langton Green scheme to be approximately £10,000 and the Groombridge scheme approximately £9,000, both within the £25,000 threshold.

Cllr Norton agreed to review the final drawings to ensure they reflected the agreed changes following which the Clerk would liaise with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) to confirm that the revised, costed plans were acceptable.

Cllr Norton would update the resident and thank him for his constructive suggestions. He would also respond to a resident of Courtenwell, Langton Green, who had written with his reservations for the HIP priority of a pedestrian crossing, explaining that any proposal would be subject to a formal public consultation.

a) Langton Green

- **Informal Consultation Lampington Row**

The Clerk reported that the results of the informal consultation for school keep clear signs had been positive and would relay this to KCC and request a timescale for completion of works.

- **Parish Highways Improvement Plan Grant**

Councillors noted that the application had now been made under delegated authority by the Chair of the Highways Committee and Clerk for the Parish Highways Improvement Plan Grant.

NON-HIP Items

- **Safer Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Links between Langton Green, Rusthall, the Commons and Royal Tunbridge Wells**

Councillors noted the Engagement Report from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the results of which had been broadly positive.

Cllrs Norton, Turner and the Clerk had attended a meeting with TWBC on the route, who explained that the first phase of the route would be the section within Rusthall parish. The section in Speldhurst parish was likely to be 12-18 months away. Formal proposals would be subject to a formal consultation process. As previously reported, the proposals would tie in well with the parish council's HIP priorities.

- **The Grange Parking Issues**

The parish council had been made aware of incidents of dangerous parking by The Grange, Langton Green, which had prevented emergency vehicles from accessing the road. KCC had been contacted but a satisfactory response had not been given. The Clerk would follow up with KCC.

- **Verge and Pavement Parking – Longmeads**

A resident had noted that the verges at Longmeads were being destroyed by parked cars. Councillors noted that the most severe issues appeared to lie outside the parish boundary. The Clerk would raise the matter with Rusthall Parish Council.

- **Proposed deer warning sign on Speldhurst Road, Langton Green**

A resident had written requesting the installation of deer warning signs on Speldhurst Road. The Clerk was asked to post on the Council's social media channels inviting residents to report deer-related incidents, which could then be collated and forwarded to KCC.

b) Groombridge

Councillors reviewed the updated HIP proposals. Some previously suggested measures had been removed as unnecessary or inappropriate for the conservation area, reducing costs.

Concerns had been raised about Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements through Bird in Hand Street. The Clerk would check routing restrictions and signage and consider further representations if necessary.

NON-HIP Items

- **Blocked Drain at Groombridge Green**

Mr Myles reported that the recurring issue of the drains at Bird in Hand Street were blocked again. The Clerk would follow up with KCC.

- Cllr Norton explained that he had been lobbied by a resident regarding cycle races/events in the Groombridge area. A cycle race had taken place the previous Sunday involving over 1,000 cyclists without prior notice or any road closures which was considered dangerous. The Clerk would follow up with KCC to enquire if they were aware of the races.

c) Speldhurst

Cllr Norton reported that the parish council had made efforts to include improvements at Etherington Hill in the parish grant application; however, KCC had advised that they did not have the resources at present, although this was not discounted for the future. Traffic speeds were not as high as anticipated, but there had still been a significant number of accidents. Councillors agreed to seek to progress this matter further in due course, as it was already included in the Council's HIP.

NON-HIP Items

- **School Parking/Dragonfly Farm**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the owners of Dragonfly Farm to request the use of their car park during school times, subject to business constraints. They confirmed that this arrangement was already in place following discussions with Speldhurst Primary School. It was noted that Dragonfly Farm was closed on Mondays, and the Clerk was asked to contact them to ask whether they would be prepared to open the car park on Mondays to accommodate school parking.

d) Ashurst

NON-HIP Items

- **SpeedWatch**

Councillors noted the difficulties in establishing SpeedWatch activity in Ashurst and agreed that no further committee time should be allocated unless volunteers came forward.

10. FOOTPATHS/PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)

Councillors noted that the interactive map was not very easy to use. The Clerk would circulate a map to all footpath volunteers.

Mr Myles reported that “No Trespassing” signs had been installed at Burrswood and that residents had been in touch to query the situation, including whether the route was a permissive path. The Clerk would contact the Public Rights of Way Officer at Kent County Council to establish the status of the right of way at Burrswood.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL

There were none; however, the Chair would provide an update on the TWBC parish highways grant funding application at the next Full Council meeting.

12. ISSUES FOR COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC

- Progress on HIP submissions and grant funding.
- Deer-related incidents and reporting.
- School parking reminders.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem
- H&T Parish Seminar Presentation 2025 and Q&A
- Road Safety & Active Travel Group newsletter.msg
- RSATG Newsletter (Oct-Dec 2025)
- Date of Next Meeting – 29th June 2026
- Cllr Norton thanked the Clerk for her work and noted that this would be her final Highways Committee meeting prior to leaving her post.
- Mr Langridge advised that the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) was undertaking a joint project with Rusthall Parish Council to survey lampposts on the A262 to assess whether they could support the weight of flower planters. The project was being funded by LGVS. He also confirmed that the planters installed in the lay-by on Langton Road had proved successful in preventing problem parking.
- Cllr Farley advised that a request could be made to Kent Police for a speed enforcement van survey, noting that supporting data from SpeedWatch may be required. The Clerk would continue to liaise with Kent Police regarding possible surveys for SpeedWatch enforcement vans and would contact the local Police Officer to seek support for SpeedWatch sessions. Cllr Farley would provide contact details.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8:46pm.

Chair

ACTION POINTS

Action No.	Action	Owner	Date Created	Status
01/26	Speedwatch – Cllr Farley to forward contact details for the Speedwatch Camera Van to be able to assess suitable locations. Contact PC Whitehead regarding her joining a SpeedWatch session.	Cllr Farley Clerk	23/02/26	
02/26	Circulate footpaths map to councillors.	Admin	23/02/26	
03/26	Follow up with KCC and TWBC re parish grants application.	Cllr Norton / Clerk	23/02/26	
04/26	Update resident regarding his suggestions for parish grant application and advise realistic time scale.	Simon Norton	23/02/26	
05/26	Follow up with LGP school re school flashing warning lights activation.	Clerk/Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
06/26	Contact LGP school for an update on the crossing patrol person/team. Ask PTA for support.	Clerk/Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
07/26	Chase KCC Streetworks team regarding The Grange. If Yellow lines take longer request KEEP CLEAR sign.	Admin	23/02/26	
08/26	Contact Rusthall Parish Council re verge parking at Longmeads.	Clerk	23/02/26	
09/26	Put post on social media re deer issue so we can build a case.	Admin/Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
10/26	Check if Bird in Hand Street, Groombridge, is marked as a narrow lane on GPS. If not request listing.	Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
11/26	Contact KCC re blocked drain at Groombridge Green. Mr Myles to provide enquiry reference number.	Mr Myles	23/02/26	
12/26	Contact Dragon Fly re use of their car park on a Monday when they are shut.	Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
13/26	Contact KCC PROW Officer re No Trespassing signs at Burrswood.	Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
14/26	Follow up with organisers of the cycle event/race on 22/2 as there were no road closure signs or pre-warning. 100s of cyclists and vehicles on road at once and it was dangerous.	Deputy Clerk	23/02/26	
15/26	Follow up with KCC on results of Informal Consultation for Lampington Row and request timeline.	Clerk	23/02/26	
16/26	Respond to Courtenwell resident regarding his email on the parish grant application consultation.	Cllr Norton	23/02/26	
17/26	Update current HIP document.	Cllrs Norton/Turner and Clerk/Admin	23/02/26	