



Speldhurst
Parish Council

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whole community

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

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Monday 21st November 2011 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge and Hemming, Mrs Waters, Norton and Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Mrs Waters declared a personal interest – she is a frequent user of Speldhurst Hill.
2. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Hemming had been lobbied by a resident who had complained about the parking on Speldhurst Road on Saturday mornings; Mrs Waters had been spoken to about a resident's concerns of speeding on Speldhurst Hill; Cllr Langridge was spoken to by a resident of Stone Cross who would consider paying for larger signs to be erected rather than the size put up by the Council.
3. **Apologies and reason for absence:** There were none.
4. **Minutes of the meeting dated 16th September 2011** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were a number of issues
 - The traffic calming proposed by ERHA for the Ferbies area was not on the TWBC website. **The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy.** The Clerk had requested information prior to the meeting but none had been received.
 - An email was received from Mr Larkin regarding a speedwatch that was completed by the Parish Council and the **Clerk was asked to reply pointing out reasons why the speedwatch had been carried out.**
 - Email correspondence with Mrs Monti regarding crossing the A264. The committee agreed with the Clerk's suggestion that a petition by users from the school might influence KHS.
 - A letter from Mr Pinnell regarding his hedge. **The Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting with the owners.**
 - A letter had been received from KHS asking for the Parish Council to "Tell us what you think about the Highway Service". It was in the format of a survey. **The Clerk would complete and circulate for comments.**

6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present

7. **Outstanding Issues by Village and priorities:**

- Stone Cross – SPC signs had been erected. KCC Cllr John Davies has organised a meeting with John Burr, KHS Director and Bryan Sweetland, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste on December 2nd to discuss the issue.
- Update on Groombridge/Ashurst speed reductions – Jonathan Dean said that this was with Steven Noad who was trying to establish the exact costs of implementation. Apparently plans were well advanced and were due to be sent to SPC.
- Barrow Lane – SPC signs have been installed
- Double yellow lines in Speldhurst – no advance appears to have been made by KHS. This will be brought up at the meeting on Dec 2nd.
- Barden Road – traffic mounting pavement – a number of ideas were put forward including a one way system, double kerbs and a system that would narrow the road so that only one car can get through at a time. **The Clerk will contact KHS and check the portal to see if any progress had been made to an earlier request.**
- Land outside the old Watson Hall – A report by Cllr Hemming, based on the survey by him and Cllr Mrs Podbury, had been circulated which explained the problem of unsighted traffic from both directions. The Clerk had requested some double yellow lines to alleviate problems but KHS had responded that the accident statistics did not warrant any further action. However it was agreed that traffic appeared to be getting used to the narrowness and problems on this stretch of road. This would be taken off the list of future meetings.
- Granite kerbing in Penshurst Road – It was noted that the work had now been finished.
- Relining – erosion of lines at Heathgate corner, Speldhurst Hill including Smallbrook Corner - **Clerk to ensure that these are all reported via the portal.**
- New white lines at St Mary's Lane/Northfields – **Clerk to request**
- Pot holes – **Cllr Mrs Podbury to forward exact details of holes in Penshurst Road to the Clerk.**
- Accident reporting – it was agreed that there was little confidence in the accident reporting system. **Cllrs would identify hot spots** and a letter would be given to residents asking that incidents be reported.
- Parking in Langton Green – parking outside the Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings had deteriorated since the start of the football season. The LGSC had been requested to ensure that parents of children park in the school area and not in the road while building was still going on at the LGVH. It was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council that the LGCT be requested to open the grass car park on Saturday mornings only as soon as the extension was finished.
- An email had been received from Dr Philippa Smith regarding the homeward bound buses from school that let children off opposite the school in Speldhurst. There is no pavement and the children have to cross the road either in front of, or behind the bus. It was suggested that **the Clerk contact the bus company** to discuss the matter and to find a solution to the problem, suggesting that the private road further down might be a better option.
- Speldhurst Hill – speeding and drains – An email was received from Mr Johnson dated 29th September regarding speeding on the hill. This was a follow up to his letter dated 25th July (replied to on August 10th). He has suggested traffic calming possibly a half barrier system (as deployed in Lamberhurst and Bells Yew Green). Two problems were identified by the committee – funding and lighting – but it was considered that most residents would support the lighting if it meant safer traffic flow. No decision was taken and **the Clerk would have discussions with the Highways Steward** to consider the best way to progress this issue.
- Drainage – the KHS Steward, Jonathan Dean had emailed on 24th October to say that the drainage team aim to complete a number of roads in the Parish by year end. This list was circulated to members of the committee and included Speldhurst Hill, Ashurst Hill, Barden Road, Etherington Hill, Groombridge Hill, Langton Road, Northfields and Penshurst Road.

- Leggs Lane – the problem had been reported and KHS are trying to identify the water source. **Clerk to follow up.**
8. **Meeting on December 2nd with John Burr and Bryan Sweetland:** As mentioned before KCC Cllr John Davies has organised a meeting with John Burr, KHS Director and Bryan Sweetland, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste to discuss problems about Highways and their tardiness. It will be an opportunity to have a frank and open discussion and to point out outstanding issues and the problems from the Parish Council point of view.
 9. **Winter weather and salt bins:** A directive has been received from KHS outlining their preparations for the winter and this had been circulated. At a Environment Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27th September it was decided that parishes could now purchase their own salt bins. The bins would not be subject to the Kent Highways assessment criteria however an engineer would have to carry out a site visit to confirm the bin would not be an obstacle. Bins would have to clearly labelled as being PC property and would **not** be filled by KHS but by the parish. **It was strongly recommended that the Parish Council did not purchase any of its own bins because of the additional work and cost involved and the need to find volunteers and transport for distribution.**
 10. **Review of Highways Committee's budget:**

There had been no expenditure since the last meeting. It was anticipated that the expenditure towards the speed reductions on A264 and B2110 would happen before the financial year end.
 11. **Items for Information:**

Cllr Hemming to forward the speed watch results to the Clerk who would put on the website. The speedwatch equipment needs a repair – **Cllr Langridge to consult with Cllr Mrs Podbury**

Mrs Waters reported that paving had lifted and a drain was damaged on Speldhurst Hill – she would forward the exact location to the Clerk so he could report it via the portal. A request was made for the sidings to be cut back again along Speldhurst Hill. **Clerk to request**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman