



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

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground
on Thursday 29th May 2014 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Horne, Langridge, and Barrington-Johnson with Mrs Waters and Mrs Norton

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman:** **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Langridge as Chairman
2. **To accept apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Parker (prior engagement) and Mr Wheeler (holiday)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne had been approached regarding a problem with residents in Barden Road placing their dustbins behind the new barriers blocking the pathway – Mrs Waters will speak to the residents. Cllr Langridge has been asked when speed watch sessions will take place (see item 13)
5. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **24th March 2014** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The signpost at the junction at the west end of Leggs Lane has collapsed and is in need of replacement. The Clerk was requested to obtain a quote for a white painted post with offset fingers with black lettering and to ask KCC Highways to contribute the standard amount towards it.
8. **Terms of Reference:** Cllr Langridge suggested that the number of members of the public be increased from 3 to 4 (without voting rights) so that each village could have a representative if it were possible. There were no other changes and they would be submitted to Full Council for approval. He will also request for another Councillor to join the committee.
9. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced an updated report with one serious accident in Speldhurst and a number of accidents at the top of Groombridge Hill and along the A264 Langton Road. The Clerk reported that he had been advised by the steward that a high friction surface was being considered on the corner of Groombridge Hill.

- 10. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The campaign was being led by TWBC Cllr Caroline Derrick and had recently made the front pages of the Courier. Both local schools have supported the campaign.
- 11. Maintenance:** It was noted that there are a number of areas still to be repaired but the majority are in the KCC schedule.
- 12. Outstanding issues by village:**
- a) **Speldhurst**
- Barden Road has been closed for more repairs and a final surface treatment is scheduled for June 5th. The barriers were still considered to be effective. The Clerk produced a drawing for 3 more barriers to be installed along Barden Road between Northfields and Furze Field Avenue at a cost of £1,200. There were restrictions on the number of barriers because of drop kerbs and utility services. The committee decided that it would require a site visit and therefore any financial decision would wait until the Finance meeting and no decision would be made at Full Council.
 - Speldhurst Hill and flooding at Smallbrook – has been reported and is with the drainage team (enquiry no. 41400920 raised on 17/04/14) who are sending notifications to landowners to enforce the clearance of their ditches where gullies feed into.
 - Parking – outside the post office – we are awaiting the rural consultation from TWBC
 - Flooding at Broomhill Farm – enquiry raised with the drainage team (no. 41400953)
- b) **Langton Green**
- A264 – the proposed double lines near the local butchers has been objected to and we await a decision. The Clerk suggested that limited parking may be an alternative to reduce parking at the pinch point because it appears that two cars are now parked there on a semi-permanent basis. Cllr Langridge said he would speak to the owners of the butchers to see if the cars could park elsewhere.
 - SE Water is due to close Speldhurst Road, Langton Green in the summer of 2014, which was first notified to the Council in October 2013. The original notification said the closure will be from the entrance to Lampington Row to 400 metres just past Courtenwell during the summer break. The Clerk has established that the works will stop at Winstone Scott Avenue so access to the Village Hall will be possible from the north end and has been sent a map with diversions which was distributed and there was much discussion on the matter. The committee expressed their concerns over the potential serious issues arising from the closure and felt there should be more advanced warnings in Tunbridge Wells so that traffic does not arrive at the villages (either Langton Green or Speldhurst) and then have to find another way round. It also queried why the works required 41 days and it recommended that the Council consider writing to SE Water saying that the length of time was unacceptable and requesting that the time be reduced as much as possible. The committee also said that there should be articles in the village magazines and the council newsletter to make residents aware. The committee re-iterated that they were not pleased with the state of the verges after the works and asked the Clerk to ask SE Water to make good the reinstatement.
 - Broom Lane – the Clerk reported that a resident had raised concern at the size of some of the tankers using the lane and the damage they were doing to the verges and tarmac.
 - Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – KCC Cllr J Davies was liaising with T&C to install posts in Winstone Scott Avenue.
 - Lower Green Road – Since the traffic survey the Clerk, with Rusthall Parish Council, will ask for either the 30mph limit be moved 250yds or countdown markers be installed advising of the change in speed limit. He will report before any action is taken.
 - Erosion of grass verges at The Green – The Clerk met with KCC Highways and they will be sending a cost for installation of kerbing along with an estimate of works on the service road.

c) **Ashurst**

- Ashurst Hill – the Clerk has contacted the company that carried out the traffic survey on behalf of KCC to conduct one on both Ashurst Hill and Groombridge Hill. The cost of £1,200 for two surveys will be put to the Finance Committee on 23rd June. The results of the surveys will determine the next course of action.
- Flooding near Stone Ness – nothing further to report
- Deer signs – the Clerk will contact Cllr Mrs Soyke for instructions where they are to be erected.

d) **Groombridge**

- Groombridge Hill survey – see Ashurst Hill
- The Green – two large stones are required to prevent cars doing further damage to the green.
- Deer signs – the Clerk will liaise with Mrs Norton where she considers the right places to erect the signs.

13. Speed Watch: It was decided that sessions would start again in Langton Green without a PCSO but the Clerk would contact the PCSO for Speldhurst and Groombridge and ask for availability to attend sessions there. The Clerk reported that the Police had carried out three surveys recently in the parish and was awaiting some statistics from them.

14. Website: the Clerk asked for further suggestions for the website

15. Review of Highways Committee's budget: There was no expenditure year to date and the budget of £20,000 was untouched.

16. Items for Information: There were no items of information

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman