



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 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.30pm**

---

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

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk

1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a prejudicial interest in the footpath at Stone Cross
2. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
3. **Apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Langridge (prior engagement)
4. **Minutes of the meeting dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 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
  - It was noted that the double yellow lines have been installed in Speldhurst in January.
  - Cllr Langridge emailed requesting the road leading to bungalows at the end of Gipps Cross (owned by Town & Country) be looked at because it services a disabled unit and is in a poor state. **The Clerk will contact T&C/ KHS**
  - The Clerk referred to correspondence with Mr Pinnell and his letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011 regarding the hedge outside Kent Cottage. He had requested that the cutting back of the hedge be left till spring. The Clerk noted that the matter was overdue and he would request that it be done as soon as possible. It was also noted that the minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> September referred to the hedge being outside Kent House which was incorrect and the correct address was Kent Cottage. **Clerk to email.**
  - The Clerk referred to an email from a resident who had requested that the central white line outside Courtenwell be extended to include the traffic calming opposite the Recreation Ground in Langton Green. **The Clerk to contact KHS.**
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Terms of Reference** – two amendments were made – the number of members of the public that can be appointed to the committee was increased to three and the wording regarding the number of meetings to be held each year was reduced from six to a minimum of four meetings per year

8. **KCC Street Lighting consultation** – KALC had emailed a proposal from KCC to reduce energy costs by turning off some street lighting. This had been referred to the committee by Full Council and a reply was required by Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The committee noted that KCC has stated that it will NOT

- switch off any street light in any street before midnight
- switch off any street lights in town centres, areas with CCTV, antisocial behaviour areas, at busy road junctions, roundabouts or known traffic accident areas

The committee debated the issue noting that the Parish was mainly rural and unlit and the part of the Parish that would be most affected was the A264 through Langton Green and two small side roads. Taking these factors in to consideration the committee approved the scheme and **requested the Clerk to inform KALC accordingly.**

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

- Stone Cross – the Clerk had spoken to Mr Noad (KHS) who advised that drawings for the improvement scheme were almost complete. The main plan was to improve and upgrade the signage and posts, possibly realign the centre line and install an ISS on the approach from Ashurst opposite Manor Court Farm that would warn “SLOW DOWN – BEND”. The majority of the funding is being paid from Cllr Davies’s member fund and Mr Noad was advised that the Parish Council would fund another ISS on the approach from Tunbridge Wells should there be any available space on a verge. Cllr Mrs Soyke was the landowner and he should talk to her. Mr Noad was also advised that the Parish Council wanted the high friction surface extended to both bends and he would include an option of this as well as a second ISS when he completes the costing exercise.
- Update on Groombridge/Ashurst speed reductions – Mr Noad advised that the application for the speed reductions was to be advertised in the paper this weekend (19<sup>th</sup> Feb) and on site thereafter. If no objection the reductions could be installed by April or May. **The Parish Council will write in support** of the proposal and members will encourage residents to do the same.
- Barden Road – traffic mounting pavement – no progress to date had been made but Mr Noad will give the matter more priority as other matters are completed. **The Clerk will progress the matter**
- Land outside the old Watson Hall – it was noted that traffic has managed the new island development without incident.
- Granite kerbing in Peshurst Road – It was noted that KHS informed the committee that they do not stock granite kerbs.
- Relining – it was noted that due to budgetary constraints the relining of certain roads that have been requested such as Heathgate corner and Speldhurst Hill including Smallbrook Corner, will not be started until the new financial year.
- New white lines at St Mary’s Lane/Northfields have been requested before – see above
- Pot holes – it was noted that requests to fill pot holes had been completed by KHS
- Accident reporting – accidents were being reported to the Clerk and it was agreed that there was little confidence in the accident reporting system. No progress on hotspots had been made.
- Parking in Langton Green – the car park at LGRG was now fully open on Saturday mornings to accommodate the football club. The parking in the lay-by in Langton Green would be diarised to be reviewed in 2013.
- No progress to date had been made on the email 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. **The Clerk to 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 – the committee was unsure of how to progress the issue highlighted by Mr Johnson regarding speeding on the hill. There had been no major incident and this would be used by KHS to discourage further reviews of the road.

It was noted that the drains had been cleared by KHS.

- Leggs Lane – KHS has attempted to resolve the issue but the initial attempt was unsuccessful. The water has been identified to have chlorine and SE Water have repaired a damaged hydrant. The matter is being monitored by the Highways Steward, Mr Jonathan Dean.
- It was agreed that KCC Highways & Transportation Department had improved dramatically over recent months and that the Steward system was seen as a great success (Jonathan Dean was doing an excellent job communicating and generally assisting). **The Clerk was asked to write to John Burr** informing him of the committee's view on behalf of the Parish Council.

**10. Review of new traffic signing system** – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that a new signing system was being introduced.

**11. Winter weather and salt bins** - The committee agreed that KHS had coped with the first snow fall on February 5<sup>th</sup> extremely competently and thought a letter should be sent complimenting them on their efforts. **Clerk to write** (see item 9)

**12. Review of Highways Committee's budget** - The financial position was noted.

**13. Items for Information**

- It was noted that the sidings on Speldhurst Hill had been cut back but the area below Wallers had not been done. **Clerk to request**
- The KHS Steward would be putting articles on highways matters in local magazines
- The pavement opposite the George & Dragon (church side) was breaking up – **Clerk to investigate**
- The siding by the pond on Speldhurst Road opposite Went House required cutting back – **Clerk to report**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman