



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 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 10.30am

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Horne (left at 11.15am), Langridge and Parker with Mrs Waters

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk and Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

- 1. To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mr Wheeler and Mrs Norton (both prior engagement)
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
- 3. Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
- 4. Minutes of the meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.

**5. Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

There had been no correspondence that required discussion or decision at this meeting. Outstanding issues not on the Agenda were:

- Salt bags – The Clerk advised that a new one tonne salt bag has not been ordered because the bag delivered last winter remains unused, but more rock salt will be ordered. He advised that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys is preparing a snow policy. Cllr Mrs Podbury confirmed that the salt bins around the parish will be topped up during the winter by KCC Highways and Transportation Dept (KCC H&TD).
- Deer Signs on Groombridge Hill – The Steward has confirmed that deer signs have been requested (41400648)
- Lower Green Road flooding – The gullies at the junction with Speldhurst Hill have been cleared and the situation is much better Cllr Mrs Podbury and Mrs Waters advised that there is running flood water during heavy rain across the road by the farm gate further towards Rusthall. **Clerk to report to KCC H&TD.**
- Flooding in Barden Road –. The Steward has advised that the drains are clear. **Clerk to monitor.**
- Hedge opposite Went Farm on site 15 – The hedge has been cut back
- Langton Green Speed Camera – The Clerk reported that the Kent and Medway Camera Safety Partnership confirmed that the last ticket issued by this camera was February 2011 and they confirmed that the camera is in working order. He was requested to ask that the speed setting on this camera to be checked.
- Speldhurst Parish Council signs in Burnt House Lane and Farnham Lane – Cllr Langridge reported that he has put these signs up.

- Request for the kerb on the traffic calming island to be painted yellow to accentuate the island, Speldhurst Road, Langton Green – The Clerk reported that no modifications are permitted by KCC H&TD.
- St Mary's Churchyard wall – The Clerk advised that the overhanging vegetation will be cleared as part of the repairs to the wall.
- Gipps Cross Lane -The area outside the bungalows is being resurfaced by TWBC today.

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

**7. Update on speed reduction on A264/B2110** – The Clerk reported that the 50mph signs are in place but some drivers believed this was a speed limit increase rather than a speed limit reduction. An article will be put in all village magazines clarifying the speed limit reduction. **Cllr Langridge to prepare the article.**

**8. Stone Cross** –The Clerk reported that the three month notice period for this work is running and that the work should be carried out in November/December. This will complete the improvements but the area will continue to be monitored in case further works are necessary.

**9. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents was checked and is up to date.

**10. Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the Clerk reported that a dual-legend version ISS would need to be sited on the grass verge belonging to Speldhurst Nurseries to cover traffic entering Speldhurst. **Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Langridge to contact the owner of Speldhurst Nurseries to see if they would give permission for an ISS to be sited on their verge.**

**11. Maintenance of verges** – Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that KCC H&TD are cutting verges/hedges today on some of the main roads to clear road signs but that there are still many overgrown signs on side roads. **Councillors to notify the Clerk of any overgrown signs on side roads so that he may pass a list to the Steward for action.**

**12. Outstanding issues by village:**

a) Speldhurst

- Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The Clerk is still in discussion with KCC H&TD about possible solutions to this problem. If no response is received he will take the issue to a more senior level.
- Speldhurst Hill – speeding and drains – The Clerk reported that the road is to be re-surfaced soon and that the drains have been cleared. Cllr Mrs Podbury and Mrs Waters reported that speeding is a major issue.
- Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – The Clerk reported that the double yellow lines have yet to be repainted on Barden Road (Order 41408918) but that the white lines at St Mary's Lane/Northfields have been finished. **Clerk to monitor.**
- Parking – **Clerk to monitor and request PCSO to patrol.**
- Bullingstone Lane – The Clerk reported that KHS are carrying out some temporary repairs soon and also that a major water leak has been found.

b) Langton Green

- Re-lining on certain roads – has all been completed – none outstanding at present.
- Re-surfacing of certain roads – the Clerk suggested approaching County Councillor John Davies to see how the re-surfacing of the roads off Newlands could be progressed. **Clerk to contact JD**

c) Ashurst

- Flooding – The Clerk reported that the drains had been cleared but during heavy rain flash flooding occurs. The situation is much improved but it is considered that a much bigger drain is required. **Clerk to liaise with the KCC H&TD Steward.**
- d) Groombridge
- There is nothing to report but the 50mph signs need monitoring and consideration may be given to an ISS advising of dangerous bend.

### 13. New Issues:

- Barden Road – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the road by Barden Mill is in a very poor state of repair. **Clerk to report to KCC H&TD.**
- Parking by The Green, Langton Green – Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Parker commented that cars are parking further out into the road because the edge of the green/road has been eroded. The Clerk advised that this is privately owned land.
- Parking at The Hare, Langton Green – Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Langridge reported that cars are regularly parked out into the carriageway particularly at weekends. **The Clerk to speak to the Manager of The Hare.** Cllr Langridge asked whether a left filter lane at The Hare junction onto the A264 could be considered.
- Speldhurst Hill conservation pavement – Mrs Waters reported that at the bottom of St Mary's Church steps some of the kerbing is collapsing into the highway drain. The Clerk had already reported this and **will remind the Steward.**

**14. Speed Watch** – Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Langridge and Milner (all trained to use the equipment) had carried out two speed watch sessions recently with the Police. Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that there are problems with the speed watch locations being different to the Police ones and that there are still some problems with the equipment. **Cllr Langridge to establish the cost of trading-in the existing equipment for better more reliable equipment.** After discussion it was **AGREED** not to pursue the idea of sharing the speed watch equipment with other local Parish Councils. It was noted that the police involvement has been a great improvement.

**15. Update on Highways Committee's budget** – There has been no change since the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The contribution to the upgrade at Stone Cross of £3,500 was expected to be deducted in December.

**16. Other matter arising from the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012** – outstanding issues had been noted under no.5.

### 17. Items for Information

Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk attended a KCC H&TD Seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Notes of the Seminar have been circulated and they both reported that it was excellent.

Cllr Mrs Podbury asked if Safety Campaign information from highways could be circulated. The Clerk reported that the list of questions suggested by Cllr Milner to be asked of Chief Inspector Faulconbridge at the Full Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November will be sent to her in advance.

Cllr Langridge expressed his concern about many children having to stand on the school buses. **The Clerk will ask County Councillor John Davies if anything can be done about this.**

Cllr Parker said he had heard that KCC Education is considering a two class entry every year at Langton Green Primary School. This will have long term parking implications.

**Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk will complete and submit the KALC Parish and Town Council Highways Survey.**

Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that the next Committee meeting is held in January 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon.

Chairman