



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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 9.30am**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Langridge (Chairman), Mrs Horne (arrived 10.00), and Parker with Mrs Waters, Mrs Watson and Mr Wheeler

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jonathan Dean – KCC Highways Steward (arrived 9.45)

There was one member of the public present

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting:** Nobody present intended to film, photograph or record the meeting
2. **To accept apologies and reason for absence:** Mrs Norton (prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **10<sup>th</sup> October 2014** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** Mrs Hensley attended to enquire about the progress of the request for a designated parking space outside the Village Post Office in Speldhurst. The Clerk said that TWBC had informed him that there are currently no proposals to advertise further on-street parking bays in the Borough in this financial year. External funding was possible if there is a public benefit or operational need but it would cost £2,000 and does not necessarily raise the profile of the proposal. The committee agreed to investigate other ways of helping the shop, which could include signage, before considering any expenditure.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** An email had been received from Mr Myles from Groombridge dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December requesting an update about traffic calming measures, copied to KCC Cllr Davies. He volunteered to join speed watch. **The Clerk was requested to respond with details of the traffic survey and consequent actions.**
8. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced an updated report.

- 9. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** An email from TWBC had been received reminding participants that the deadline for logging evidence of ‘damage only’ to KCC was 15<sup>th</sup> December. This had been passed on to the schools to complete. The traffic survey at Speldhurst School was complete but there was a problem with the survey on Speldhurst Road, Langton – it had to be re-done. This data would be submitted to the schools when available.
- 10. Maintenance:** It was generally agreed that pot holes are being repaired but there are still a few to be maintained.
- 11. Traffic Surveys:** The surveys were commissioned but there had been a problem in Langton Green - as stated in 9
- 12. Outstanding issues by village:**
- a) **Speldhurst**
- Barden Road - the Clerk was waiting for a response from KCC
  - Flooding at Smallbrook and Broomhill Farm – Mr Dean reported that KCC had done some work at Smallbrook and had cleared gullies. They have now commissioned for a camera to be inserted to see if root damage is prevalent.
  - Broomhill Road – Cllr Langridge and the Clerk met with Cllrs Clark and Benoy from Rusthall Parish Council (RPC) who are looking to limit over-sized vehicles using local minor roads. RPC proposed that signs be erected on a number of junctions within the two parishes in an attempt to restrict satellite-navigation guided vehicles from using these unsuitable roads. Cllr Langridge suggested that a letter to the Freight Transport Association should be the first course of action for all local minor roads. The Committee recognised that something needed to be done but was reluctant to commit to excessive signage when there was no guarantee it would work. **Clerk to advise RPC.**
  - Parking issues – see Public Open Session. It was agreed to ask the doctor’s surgery to put up notices to ask drivers not to park their cars where the bus turns. It was also considered to place notices on the fences of houses adjacent to the doctor’s surgery, with their permission. **Cllr Langridge to action.**
  - Sign post corner of Furzefield Avenue – the expenditure had been approved and the order was logged. Mr Dean said it might take up to 3 months because he wanted a specialist team to renovate the sign.
- b) **Langton Green**
- Traffic at The Hare crossroads – In response to an email received from a resident, Cllr Langridge said that a survey will be carried out at the junction by Councillors and any proposals will be put to the Committee for consideration.
  - Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – Cllr Davies has confirmed that bollards will be installed on the green in Winstone Scott Avenue by Town and Country. This was part funded from his member fund.
  - Lower Green Road – the Clerk was waiting for a response from KCC
  - Sign post at Silcocks Farm – a new fingerpost has been ordered
  - Exit from Burnt House Lane – a larger sign has been installed by KCC along with a SPC sign warning motorists of the junction. The Clerk has responded to the two enquiries explaining the action taken.
- 13. Bus Shelters:** The Clerk said that a KCC grant of up to £2,000 was available from KCC but the deadline for application and installation would probably be too tight for this financial year. Councillors chose the type of shelter to install and the Clerk was asked to progress the issue.
- 14. Speed Watch:** Cllr Langridge said that two sessions had been carried out; one in Groombridge and the other in Langton. He will try and programme one session a month in 2015 with other sessions called

when necessary. The Clerk said he was waiting for a report from KCC regarding SIDs and he would make a full report at the next meeting.

**15. Website:** There was nothing to report

**16. Review of Highways Committee's budget:** The Clerk reported that there was £16,500 left in the budget of which it was estimated that £6,500 might be spent in this financial year and the balance carried forward in to the next period. It was budgeted to restore £10,000 next year which would bring the total to £20,000 for the financial year 2015/16. Committed expenditure this year was £1,650 for traffic surveys; £350 for the new fingerpost at Silcocks Farm and £600 for the renovation of the fingerpost at Furzefield Avenue which left a balance of £3,900. Current projects being discussed were SIDs, bus shelter, entry statements and parking restrictions and the Clerk stressed that with the demands on the Council's budget there was no guarantee that any over-spend would automatically be reinstated.

**17. Entry Statements to villages (gateways):** Cllr Langridge had carried out some preliminary work and recommended that any gateways were not made of timber, which required considerable maintenance. The Clerk said that Matfield had gateways and he would contact their Clerk to understand the benefits, costs and procedure for having them installed. This would be a SPC expense and Mr Bourner of KCC said that he would be able to assist in the installation of the gateways once sites and costings had been agreed.

**18. KCC Highways Seminar:** Cllr Langridge and the Clerk attended the seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> November. KCC advised that there were further cuts in the central government funding and overall another £250million had to be saved over the next 2-3 years. KCC was making a £40million investment converting 120,000 street lights to LED over the next 5 years. Drains were being cleared by a systematic programme and other drains would only be cleared if safety critical.

**19. KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste Survey:** It was agreed to delegate the completion of the survey to the Clerk and Cllr Langridge.

**20. Items for Information:** Cllr Mrs Horne advised that some signs were getting grubby. Mr Dean said that the signs on the main roads (A&B) had been cleaned but said that if signs on unclassified roads required attention then they should notify the Clerk who would pass on the request. At the recent Planning Meeting Cllr Langridge highlighted the signage at the Texaco Garage that was obscuring drivers' view of the Langton Road when turning right out of Salisbury Road. **The Clerk will contact the garage in writing to ask them to move the sign.** He said that CCTV would be on the next agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.38am

Chairman