



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 Monday 24th March 2014 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker, with Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mrs Norton (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **17th January 2014** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were four items: an email from a resident of Barden Road regarding the congestion despite recent work which the SPC had initiated; a copy of a letter from a resident of Tunbridge Wells to KCC Highways regarding the condition of the A264 and a note from the KCC Highways Steward J Dean who said he had observed a Holmewood House School bus travelling at 40mph through Speldhurst past the school at 2pm on a weekday; the clerk said that a seminar on speed cameras organised by Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership had been cancelled.
7. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced an updated version with most of the incidents recorded coming from the PCSO. Details were sketchy but it showed that not enough incidents were being reported directly to the SPC.
8. **Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The clerk reported that he had met TWBC Cllr Caroline Derrick and explained that SPC was supportive of 20mph outside of the two primary schools in the Parish. He had spoken to both Headmistresses and they had sent their support for the campaign by email which he had passed on. TWBC would now approach KCC on the issue.
9. **Maintenance:** Two bad areas of flooding, Stone Ness and Lower Green Road have been cleared and fixed by KCC which was considered a big improvement. The two other areas by Smallbrook and Broomhill Farm are yet to be resolved. Pot holes were still the biggest problem but the holes have

been reported and the “Find and Fix” programme was under way with extra funding coming from the Government.

10. Ward Walks: Councillors had met and reviewed the comments. The three main points raised were speed of traffic; parking and 20mph outside schools.

11. Outstanding issues by village:

a) **Speldhurst**

- Barden Road – **The clerk was asked to respond** to the email regarding the recent work and congestion. He explained that he had met Steven Noad about the problem of the resident trying to cross Speldhurst Hill and Barden Road to get to school but had not received any suggestions to improve the situation. He did however receive a drawing for the installation of four barriers to stop traffic mounting the pavement between Furzefield Avenue and Northfields. **The committee requested that the clerk ask for an estimate and to chase up any suggestions to improve crossing the road.**
- Speldhurst Hill and flooding at Smallbrook – **the clerk was requested to contact the Steward to find out the latest situation.**
- Parking – Cllr Mrs Podbury met the MP, Greg Clark, who had asked about the parking outside the post office. **The clerk will request more information about the review planned for 2014 and copy Greg Clark on progress.**
- Flooding at Broomhill Farm – apparently this has been going on for 30 years and it is now getting worse and taking longer to drain away. Mr Wheeler said that he considered it so bad he did not drive through it because it was too deep. **The clerk was asked to request an investigation.**

b) **Langton Green**

- A264 – TWBC correspondence – Cllr Jukes had asked KCC to review the A264 to have the speed limit reduced to 30mph along the road from Rusthall Road to Farnham Lane. KCC stated that the current speed limits were appropriate for the road environment and conform to DfT's guidelines and said that the road safety casualty records did not support the speed reduction. Copies of different correspondence gathered from a FOI request by Holmewood School that were sent to Cllr Stanyer were reviewed but they appear to lack detail. The land bordering the A264 was owned by KCC and the matter of detritus left on there would be taken up with and Mrs Buckley would be informed. **Clerk to action.**
- SE Water is proposing to close Speldhurst Road, Langton from the entrance to Lampington Row to just past Courtenwell during the summer break and have advised that they intend to divert traffic via Leggs Lane. The clerk has emailed suggesting that this is impractical and a wider diversion is necessary. He also emphasised that access to the Village Hall was needed at all times. SE Water will be holding meetings prior to the works when this would be re-emphasised.
- Broom Lane – the road has been closed for a considerable time while KCC was waiting for the water to drain away. Work will then be carried out and holes would be fixed so that the road could then be re-opened.
- Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had met with a resident of Speldhurst Road who lives opposite Lampington Row. A number of issues were raised and the lack of cones at the Fete was noted by Cllr Parker. Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that Speldhurst Fete had a number of cones that the LGRS could use. Parking at weekends was especially a problem because of the popularity of The Hare. The situation would be monitored.
- Lower Green Road – the results of the traffic survey held between 24th Feb and 3rd March had been received and the clerk summarised the findings – over 12,000 vehicles were recorded in both directions with an average speed of 30mph (northbound) and 33.3mph (southbound). 277 cars driving in to the village averaged between 35-40mph; 29 between 40-45mph and 5 over 50mph. The clerk suggested that the 30mph hour limit sign be moved north by about 250yds and that Rusthall PC install a sign warning drivers that they were entering the village. **The committee**

agreed with his suggestion and asked that he contact Rusthall PC to seek agreement and costs and report to the committee before progressing.

- Erosion of grass verges at The Green - SE Water had finished the work at The Green the clerk will contact KCC Highways to complete the improvements to the service road and the kerbing which the SPC would contribute 50%. **Clerk to action.**
- c) **Ashurst**
 - Ashurst Hill – speeding traffic – the clerk suggested to the committee that a traffic survey be conducted on the hill so that there was data that confirmed the speed that traffic was moving and this would be the basis for the next approach to KCC and the possibility of a speed camera. **It was RESOLVED to recommend that a survey be paid for by SPC to Full Council.**
 - Flooding near Stone Ness – the committee was pleased to be able to delete this problem from further agendas.
 - Deer signs – these were to be available this week and would be put up by the clerk after consultation.
- d) **Groombridge**
 - Groombridge Hill – speeding traffic – in the light of recent correspondence and on the same basis as Ashurst Hill **It was RESOLVED to recommend that a survey be paid for by SPC to Full Council.** This was to establish traffic speed and form the basis of a request for improvements to the area. **The clerk was asked to convey this approach to the resident who had written to the Council. He was also requested to suggest to the resident that if he could get the backing of the newly formed Conservation Group it may hold more weight.** Cllr Mrs Podbury also reported several pot holes in Bird in Hand Street in need of repair which may be in hand but asked the clerk to check.
 - The Green – The clerk had not been able to obtain any quotes for suitable slabs to prevent cars from driving over the corners of The Green and suggested that a member of the committee may consider investigating.
 - Deer signs – see Ashurst

12. Speed Watch – Cllr Langridge reported the training session had been a success and that 10 new sites had been agreed by PSE Rollinson. Speldhurst Hill would hopefully be approved later. **He was keen to get a session set up and would provide dates to the clerk so that three other members could join him.** The clerk suggested that a PCSO should accompany them after the ordeal faced by Cllr Pendleton. A signed letter was required by any resident who allowed a session to be held on their land.

13. Website - a website page had been established and at the moment was being used to convey the latest news. It was agreed that the page would include a piece about accident reporting and some of the latest records.

14. Review of Highways Committee's budget – The clerk said that the full budget of £20,000 would be reinstated for the new financial year.

15. Items for Information – Cllr Mrs Horne reported on a recent conversation with Porc (Penshurst off road cycling) offering support and help. She suggested that the SPC consider producing signs for inconsiderate parking on public roads and asked that this be on the agenda of the next meeting. The clerk said that this was Cllr Mrs Podbury's last meeting as Chairman and that she would be leaving the committee in May. The committee's thanks were recorded.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.43

Chairman