



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 15th March 2013 at 10.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker with Mrs Norton

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean (JD) Steward KCC H&TD (left 11.05am)

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mrs Waters and Mr Wheeler (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 18th January 2013** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

Outstanding issues not on the Agenda:

 - Deer Signs on Groombridge Hill – The Steward suggested that a new request is submitted in six months time and that any incidents be logged with the crash data.
 - Lower Green Road flooding – Cllr Mrs Podbury arranged to meet the steward next week to show him the area in question
 - Speldhurst Parish Council signs in Burnt House Lane – Cllr Langridge has taken down one sign.
 - The clerk said that the request from Cllr Mrs Hull regarding cycling along the A264 had not been progressed however JD said that footpaths should only be used by pedestrians.
 - The clerk and Cllr Mrs Podbury had both looked at the signage for the Village Hall at Speldhurst and agreed that additional signs were needed. There was a problem regarding the height of the existing poles and whether they could be used. **JD was requested to give an opinion on whether the posts could be used.**
 - DCLG consultation paper – speed limits for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads – the clerk informed that a letter had been sent confirming the view of the Parish Council that there should be no increase in the speed limit. An email from DFT had been received confirming receipt.
 - TWBC consultation on transport strategy – the clerk confirmed that a response had been sent which basically agreed with the strategy but stated that the A264 west towards East Grinstead was not A road quality.

- White lines outside the LGVH – JD confirmed that an order was in place to have these re-painted and he has requested that white lines in the 30mph area be done at the same time.

Correspondence – the clerk advised that he had received the following correspondence that had not been previously circulated:

An email has been received from a resident about the state of the old sign post on the corner of Barden Road/Furzefield Avenue and whether it could be maintained. **JD will investigate the ownership of the sign.**

An email had been received from a resident regarding a number of issues in Speldhurst but mostly complaining about the lack of gritting before and after the snow.

6. **Public Open Session:** - There were no members of the public present
7. **Stone Cross** – Cllr Mrs Soyke had requested that the new footpath be looked at because she had concerns that cars were hitting the kerb to avoid large vehicles coming round the corner. The matter has been investigated and the committee recommended no action because the footpath was behind the white line and cars should not be encouraged or be able to mount the pavement. The matter was now considered complete.
8. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents in 2013 is up to date. There had been several accidents already and the assistant clerk attended one in Speldhurst on Friday 8th March where the Police and ambulance attended. Comments from the officer that minor injuries (shock and whiplash) may not be reported have thrown fresh doubt on the way accidents are recorded. **JD will find out who maintains the records at KCC H&TD.**
9. **Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst** – the clerk had spoken to KCC H&TD regarding the proposed ISS. They recommended three companies that could install a device. The clerk had been in contact with two companies and recommended Westcotec who are based in Norfolk and have the local County contracts for installation and maintenance. The cost of an ISS was £3,150 and an extra £1,155 for a solar power option (both plus VAT). **The committee recommended that this expenditure be put forward for approval at the next Full Council meeting. The clerk was requested to contact KCC H&TD for confirmation of the exact site for the ISS.**
10. **Overcrowded school buses** – no copies of any additional correspondence had been received. It was reported that buses were being more consistently on time. The matter was now complete.
11. **Safer Rural Travel** – Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that this report be considered by the Neighbourhood Planning working group.
12. **Fingerposts** – the fingerposts are on order and will be installed when received. **JD will clarify ownership**
13. **Maintenance**
 - a) Over-grown hedges – Barden Mill and Holly Tree Cottage. **JD to action**
 - b) Potholes and drains – any potholes to be reported to JD
14. **Outstanding issues by village:**
 - a) Speldhurst
 - Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The Clerk had met with Sue Laporte (Traffic Engineer KCC H&TD) on March 14th who had suggested that installing a barrier outside the two cottages and improved signage possibly giving priority to traffic in one direction. A full report will be sent to the clerk and this will be considered when all details are known.

- Speldhurst Hill – the expected re-surfacing did not take place as advised because of low temperatures. It will be completed in April.
 - Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – JD confirmed that orders were in place for re-lining. The request for new double yellow lines, suggested on Barden Road, opposite the junction with Furzefield Avenue, was investigated and it was agreed that the problem was worse in the evening when more cars were parked. The situation would be monitored.
 - Parking – the clerk had requested the PCSO to monitor the village when possible. It was noted that parking on the pavement by the lych gate had reduced due to the PCSO's actions. Cllr Mrs Horne suggested that parking opposite the church on Speldhurst Hill ahead of the junction with Langton Road was becoming a problem on occasions. The situation will be monitored.
 - Bullingstone Lane – the situation would be monitored.
 - Posts at Southfields – **JD will investigate ownership of the land and who maintains it.**
- b) Langton Green
- Re-surfacing of certain roads – **JD will re-inspect the roads off Newlands with a Highways Traffic Engineer.**
 - The clerk said that there was erosion of the grass area at The Green where there was no kerbing. This is a common problem in many districts and has been compounded by the wet weather. The situation will be monitored.
- c) Ashurst
- Flooding near Stone Ness – JD confirmed that the water leak had been fixed. He has identified that remedial work is necessary to improve the gullies and water flow. He is waiting for two work gangs to carry out the work.
 - Chafford Park kerbs – the damage to these kerbs looks to have been done by farm machinery. There is no immediate plan to replace them.
 - Drains at Clayton Lane – JD will investigate but it is not high priority.
- d) Groombridge
- There is still some damage at The Green that is need of repair. **JD will have the necessary repairs made.**

15. New Issues:

- There were none.

16. Speed Watch – Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Langridge are attending a mini-conference on Saturday 20th April at Kent Police College, Maidstone. There will be a call for more Councillors to be trained at speed watch at the next Full Council meeting.

17. Update on Highways Committee's budget – There has been no change. KCC H&TD had not requested the contribution to the upgrade at Stone Cross of £3,500 as yet.

18. Items for Information – the Terms of Reference needed to be updated and would be on the next Agenda

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.50am

Chairman