



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Village Hall on Monday 27th March 2017 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Lyle, Kerby with Mrs Norton and Mr Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting:** No-one present intended to film, photograph or record the meeting.
2. **To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** Cllrs Turner (holiday), Allen (work commitment) Mercieca and Mrs Watson (prior engagements)
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated **23rd January 2017** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

Request for Zebra Crossing at The Hare Junction - The Clerk advised that he is yet to respond to the resident. KCC have advised that such a crossing would not be feasible at that junction.

Bus Stops in Ashurst – The Clerk advised that it is now too late to get a grant in the current financial year. He will ask KCC about grants for 2017/18.

Gulley clearing on Speldhurst Hill – the Clerk advised that he had put in a request to KCC for this to be done.
8. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The Clerk had circulated copies of expenditure for the end of the financial year. A figure of £22,300 will be carried forward in to next year which will add to the budget figure of £20,000 making a total of £42,300. Expenditure was expected to be £17,000 for 20mph; an additional £10,000 allocated for contingency for the 20mph project and the reduction from 60-40mph along the Langton-Speldhurst road; £4,500 for a SID and £11,000 for gateways.

9. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish: The Clerk had received an updated list from the Police. Cllr Kerby asked whether the accident where the vehicle had mounted the Green at Groombridge was recorded. The Clerk said it was not because the list was from the Police and they had not been present.

10. Parish Plan –

Traffic and Highways

- Electric car charging ports – The Amenities Committee had discussed this matter and the Committee agreed with their assumption that it is not currently feasible and could be revisited at a later date if the need arises.
- The Clerk advised that Cllr Barrington-Johnson had received a response to his letter and a member of Kent Police would visit the Parish to see first-hand the traffic problems.
- Cllr Kerby noted that the police had on two occasions recently been seen on Groombridge Hill.
- The reporting of data on accidents and dangerous parking was in progress but there was a lack of public notifying the Council despite consistent requests in the media.
- Advertisements had been placed in local media requesting a volunteer to investigate the feasibility of a cycle lane from The Hare, LG to The Spa Hotel but no one had come forward. It was agreed that this would be re-advertised.

11. Campaign to support 20mph outside schools – Progress was being made. The Clerk advised that £2,800 has been paid so far - £600 design for the advisory signs in Langton Green and £2,200 for 20mph zone design in Speldhurst (£700 over original budget as this now includes consultation). He had received an update from Kirstie Williams and he would speak to her and provide a further update for Full Council. Replies had been received from some residents in response to the Newsletter request for feedback. These were mainly positive with some residents querying enforcement.

12. Entry Statements to villages (gateways) – The four gateways will be installed at Groombridge, Ashurst and two between Speldhurst and Langton during this week.

13. To consider reports on the following issues by Village

a) Groombridge

- ISS – this has been dismantled. After a discussion it was agreed that an additional SID would help fill the gap left by the two ISSs. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to purchase an additional SID when the Clerk will provide full costs.
- Mrs Norton said that the speed limit on Groombridge Hill had been reduced from 60mph to 50mph at least five years ago and said that traffic still approaches the village too fast. She explained that the hill was used by many cyclists and school children were vulnerable after alighting from the bus at Top Hill Farm. She would like the Council to make the reduction to 40mph a goal, along with a similar reduction in Ashurst. It was **RESOLVED** to include it in the long term plan.

b) Ashurst

- ISS – see above under Groombridge.
- Bus stops – this was discussed under Matters Arising.

c) Speldhurst

- Parking – It was agreed that this is an ongoing problem for residents. A letter had been received from a resident of Cobhams which emphasised the problem. Cllr Mrs Horne suggested investigating the Community Right to Buy of the three garages used for storage on Northfields. The Clerk is to respond to the Cobhams resident.
- Lower Green Road – KCC Highways have repaired the wall of the bridge and cleaned the drains. The area will be monitored when there is heavy rain. An email from a resident

citing the problems of exiting their property because the road is used as a rat run. Cllr Milner will investigate and report.

- Stockland Green Road – an overgrown hedge had been reported. Cllr Milner will contact Cllr Mrs Podbury to try and find out who the owner is so we can request it is cut back.
- School at Broomhill Bank Road – An email has been received from a parent of a child at the school citing the dangerous driving near the school. The Clerk is to respond saying that we share their concerns however there is currently no funding available and suggesting they lobby other parents and ask the school for support.

d) Langton Green

- Speldhurst – Langton speed limit reduction is being progressed by Kirstie Williams.
- School crossing points - an advert for a crossing person appeared in Langton Life but still no one has come forward. Tate Fencing has installed the wooden barrier along the footpath by the Vicarage. The Clerk advised that some tarmac will be laid to finish the job.
- Parking outside the shops – Cllr Barrington-Johnson has contacted TWBC Cllr Stanyer and a meeting will be set up in April to progress the issue.
- Road/footpath at The Green – After investigation it has been found that the Parish Council owns all the land in front of the cottages and not just the grass and KCC maintain the tarmac area. The Clerk will write to the resident and quotes for signs will be obtained saying “Residents only – Except for Access”.
- Occasional parking outside LGRG – the lull in parking issues was caused by the weather preventing the football club using the LGRG. The Clerk has received another email confirming it is once again a problem, however another resident was oblivious to it.
- Broom Lane – following an email describing the recent accident and fire at the railway bridge it was agreed to investigate better signage at the top of Broom Lane. It also said there had been recent fly-tipping which had been reported and requested that an Environmental Officer view additional sheds that have been erected on the approach to Adams Well.

14. Speed watch

The Clerk was asked to send out a reminder to Councillors to sign up. He will then organise a training session.

15. Items for information

Mr Wheeler said that there were moves to enforce no parking on pavements outside of the current areas where it is against the law (London, Exeter and Peterborough)

It was agreed that Cllr Milner would draft a brief speech for the APM on Highways issues.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman