



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 Thursday 22nd September 2016 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Lyle, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca, and Mrs Watson and Mrs Norton

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mr C May – 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:** Cllr Mrs Horne, Turner (prior engagement) and Mr Wheeler (holiday)
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 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 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 from a resident that the existing speed limit from Barden Mill to Speldhurst Village be reduced from 40 to 30mph: The Committee discussed the issue and there was general agreement that speed limit was inappropriate for the road approaching Speldhurst. The Clerk was asked to respond advising her about the 20mph and gateway schemes. He was also asked to look in to the cost of stickers for residents to display on their bins stating the speed limit.
  - Parking outside Speldhurst Primary School: The Clerk was asked to apply to TWBC for appropriate lining and to bring the matter to the attention of the headmistress.
  - Complaint re lorries driving on pavement in Barden Rd: Cllr Milner will investigate to see if the development is still in progress.
8. **Terms of Reference:** The Committee's terms of reference were reviewed and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend an unchanged version to Full Council

9. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The budget was reviewed by the committee. It was noted that the total cost of all projects underway could exceed the budget. When final costs were known priority would be given to the most needed projects or Full Council could be asked to allocate more funds, if available.
10. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – no report had been received from the police. Only 5 accidents had been reported of which 4 were in Ashurst.
11. **Parish Plan** – It was agreed to prioritise the actions with a completion date of 2016. The Clerk and Chairman will invite the Leader of KCC, Director of KCC Highways and the Chief Constable to the Parish; they will advertise in the local magazines for a volunteer(s) to evaluate the viability of a cycle lane along the A264. There was a need to increase the number of Speedwatch volunteers for training.
12. **Campaign to support 20mph outside schools** – The Clerk reported on a meeting with Monson Engineering who had agreed to submit a quotation for installing the speed reductions, including management costs and TROs. This will enable Full Council to evaluate this against the project costs submitted by Amey. It was hoped that the submission would be in time for the October meeting.
13. **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs):** It was agreed that the mobile SID was effective but it was reported that both ISSs in Ashurst and Groombridge are no longer working. The Clerk said that if KCC found that they were irreparable they would be taken down.
14. **Road closures** – Speldhurst Hill: It was agreed that the road closure had had a great effect on the community and there was frustration at the length of time the works had taken, especially when for most of the period only two men had been working at a time. It was agreed to learn from the lessons and be more rigorous in demanding that everything possible be done to reduce the time that such works take in future.
15. **To consider reports on the following issues by Village**
  - a) **Groombridge**
    - There has been nothing further to report on the request from traffic calming measures. This would be partly covered by actions in the Parish Plan.
    - A quote to install granite sets on the Green has been accepted and approved by the Finance Committee and the work will be carried out shortly. The contractors have asked that the road be closed on the day the work is carried out – they have been asked for notice of when they intend to install the sets. Leaflets will be printed to place on cars and delivered to local residents.
  - b) **Ashurst** – The road surface near Stone Cross has been repaired (it was the scene of a road traffic accident on Bank Holiday Monday).
  - c) **Speldhurst** Verge opposite Mead House, Speldhurst Road. The Clerk has written to the owners as requested but has heard nothing since.
  - d) **Langton Green**
    - Cars obstructing pavements and footways – the leaflets were ready for use.
    - Speed limit between Speldhurst and Langton Green – an update on 60mph: The Police have said they will support the reduction from 60 to 40mph. The Clerk has written to KCC Highways asking for a cost of the TRO.
    - School crossing points – a drawing and quotation had been received from Tate Fencing to install a wooden structure to prevent children from running down the footpath by Langton Green Vicarage on to the road. The Committee liked the design but more investigation was required to cost some additional tarmac. Meanwhile the Clerk will refer the idea to the Headmaster of Langton Green Primary School for his views.
    - Bus shelter – a quotation of £1,918.58 had been received from Queensbury Shelters, who installed the shelter, to make repairs. Nearly all the components need to be replaced but

they will move the shelter back 200mm to prevent such a problem recurring. The Clerk would investigate whether it was cost effective to pay for the repair from Council funds or use insurance and this would be put to Full Council for consideration.

- 16. Bus Shelters** – KCC have circulated an email welcoming grant applications from rural parishes to match-fund bus shelters. Mrs Watson said she would propose an application for Ashurst.
- 17. Speed watch** – the last session was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August and there was a need for more regular sessions to be carried out if it was to be effective. The Parish Plan called for an increase in the number of trained personnel and Cllr Allen suggested a leaflet be printed to encourage volunteers. The Clerk had applied for a grant towards new speedwatch kit but had been informed that new schemes and established schemes with no access to equipment would take priority. The proposal to fund new equipment would be put before Full Council in November.
- 18. Entry Statements to villages (gateways)** – Cllrs Milner and Mercieca and the Clerk had toured the Parish and identified sites for gateways. A meeting was held with John Reynolds of KCC Highways who will assess the requests as it involves land ownership, determine appropriate styles of gateway and submit costs for consideration. Cllr Mercieca asked why we did not always obtain three quotes and the Clerk referred to the Financial Standing Orders which detailed the Council's obligations. He said he would be willing to obtain other quotes.
- 19. Items for information**
  - Cllr Mercieca referred to an event on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> involving a funeral reception for a long serving member of the LGCSA. It coincided with school pick-up times and possible hall events. The Clerk said that LGCSA had taken precautionary measures but he would advise them of the correct procedure for future events.
  - Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the school's walking bus risk assessment had finally been received from KCC, but was for the wrong route so had been send back: however at least matters were now in progress. A revised risk assessment was now expected which would allow the walking bus "lite" from the village hall to the school to start soon.
  - Mrs Norton noted a fire on Groombridge Hill on 24<sup>th</sup> August which closed the road. It was caused by a fire and concern about some gas canisters being stored nearby (which did not ignite). Chaos on roads such as Groombridge Road had ensued.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm

Chairman