



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 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Horne, Allen, Barrington-Johnson (left at 8.00pm), Milner and Turner with Mrs Watson and Mr Wheeler

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

There was one member of the public present

1. **Election of Chairman:** **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Milner as Chairman.
2. **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.
3. **To accept apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Woodward (prior engagement), Mrs Norton (holiday) and Mrs Waters (working late)
4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne declared that she had been lobbied about speeding traffic; Cllr Milner declared that he had been lobbied about double yellow lines in Barden Road and Cllr Allen declared that he had been lobbied about the road surface conditions in the streets off Newlands.
6. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **27<sup>th</sup> February 2015** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session:** there was one member of the public present; Stuart Smith of Langton Green in connection with the campaign for 20mph outside schools. He said that he supports a 20mph zone outside schools and is interested in the latest update and how the issue might be progressed. It was agreed not to bring the item forward.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that he had not followed up about extending the 30mph beyond Park Farm, Langton Green on the A264 but would make the enquiry as soon as possible. It was agreed not to do a letter drop regarding the issue of emergency vehicles and parked cars in narrow roads but to add this to the next piece for the village magazines. He advised that the signpost at Furzeffield Avenue that had recently been renovated was showing some signs of rust – this will be monitored. The new finger post at Silcocks Farm has been installed. He referred to the issue of

crossing the road near East Gate Lodge on Speldhurst Road and said that the installation of 20mph in the area should help reduce speed.

9. **Terms of Reference: RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Terms of Reference be adopted following review and the deletion of clause 12.
10. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk reported that members of the public are not reporting accidents to the extent that they did a few years ago. He had not received the latest recent report from the PCSO but he will add it to the Parish Council records and circulate it. It was agreed to add a request about this matter to the next piece for the village magazines.
11. **Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The Clerk reported that Kent County Council (KCC) Highways have advised Langton Green Primary School that they will not be able to install 20mph outside the school due to reduced budgets. He had not heard from Speldhurst Primary School yet. The Clerk advised that he is pursuing funding possibilities with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) and had obtained names of senior people at KCC to progress the issue. The Committee agreed that this should be a priority for the Parish Council and requested that the Clerk find out more information on the options of when the zone can operate and costings of street furniture.
12. **Traffic Surveys:** The Clerk reported that he is still waiting for a response from the Kent Camera Partnership to the request for a mobile unit for Ashurst Hill and Groombridge Hill.
13. **Outstanding issues by village:**
  - a) **Groombridge**
    - Cllr Milner and the Clerk will meet the Old Groombridge Conservation Group to discuss their suggestions for traffic calming measures.
    - The Clerk has responded to the resident of Bird in Hand Street.
  - b) **Ashurst**
    - The ISS has been repaired and is now working again. Note - this ISS was installed in December 2010 (same as the ISS in Groombridge) and was funded by KCC Highways. The Clerk informed the Committee that KCC were no longer replacing ISSs if they were irreparable due to budget constraints. This may become an issue in the future for the Parish Council.
  - c) **Speldhurst**
    - The Clerk reported that there is no member funding available for the proposed double yellow lines in Barden Road but that there is a possibility they may be on the agenda for the next Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting at TWBC. The issue of cars mounting the pavement was again discussed but there was no conclusion at this stage. It was decided to see what impact the double yellow lines could have.
    - It was decided not to follow the issue as Rusthall Parish Council (RPC) appears to no longer be pursuing the matter of signs to deter Lorries from using certain unclassified roads.
    - Parking issues – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee expenditure of £80.34 on two permanent signs requesting cars not to park on the double yellow lines or too close to the junction when visiting the Doctors' surgery. The Clerk reported that TWBC is going propose to the JTB meeting that a time limited parking bay outside the Post Office and it was agreed that it should be 30 minutes between 8am and 6pm. The Clerk to inform TWBC of the parking limit and duration.
    - The Clerk has responded to the resident of Stockland Green Road who emailed in with concerns about speeding traffic in this road but will send a follow-up email confirming the issues that the Committee is prioritising.
  - d) **Langton Green**
    - The Clerk reported that he will ask Kent County Council Highways about installing bollards at the crossroads by The Hare and the posts will be funded by SPC.

- Lower Green Road – The Clerk reported that RPC appears to be no longer pursuing the matter of trying to move the speed limit.
- Cllr Allen reported on the poor condition of the majority of streets off Newlands. The Clerk said that has been reported to KCC Highways and that Long Slip was resurfaced a year ago. KCC Highways are aware of the poor condition of the other Streets off Newlands and will resurface them when funding permits.

**14. Bus Shelters:** The Clerk reported that a grant had been received from TWBC and the two sites were both on the A264, near The Hare and near Farnham Lane. Consent is being sought from the landowner for the shelter to be sited on the edge of the Green and KCC are being consulted. He would report on progress at the next meeting.

**15. Speedwatch:**

- a) The Clerk advised that the speedwatch equipment is currently on loan to the Police and that the PCSOs are using it to carrying out speed checks. He will ask them to let him know when checks are going to be carried out so that members of the committee may assist. Further speedwatch training will be arranged for committee members and volunteers who have not been trained yet.
- b) It was agreed that the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) throughout the Parish was to be a Committee priority and it was **RESOLVED** to request that Full Council consider the principle of purchasing a SID up to an amount of £7,000. There were still some details to be confirmed such as locations, which would have to be agreed by KCC, and how long the SID should stay in each location. The Groundsman has agreed to move the SID from site to site and charge the batteries.

**16. Entry Statements to villages (gateways):** It was agreed that the installation of Village gateways become a priority for the Committee. Cllr Mrs Horne will contact East Sussex County Council to find out why they seem to be proactive in installing them.

**17. Review of Highways Committee's budget:** The Clerk circulated and reviewed the figures. He said that the bus stops were the only outstanding commitment which will leave a figure of £23,000. The installation of SIDs, the 20mph limits outside schools and gateways may use up much of the allocated budget. He said there was no guarantee that a budget of a similar figure will be re-instated next year.

**18. Items for Information:**

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that vegetation from the garden of Hurst House, Langton Road, Speldhurst is overhanging the pavement.

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that the potholes and collapse of the road edge in Stockland Green Road are very bad.

Cllr Milner reported that there are bad potholes in Barrow Lane.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm

Chairman