



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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner, Mrs Lyle, Kerby, Allen, Mercieca, Turner, Barrington-Johnson with Mrs Norton, Mrs Watson and Mrs Horne (7.45)

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

1. **Election of Chairman – RESOLVED** to elect Cllr David Turner 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 receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mr Wheeler (prior engagement)
4. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
6. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting dated **24<sup>th</sup> July 2017** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were none.
9. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The Clerk had circulated the financial sheets and said that the only payments made since the last meeting were for the Ashurst gateway and the replacement lettering for the finger posts at the Hare junction in LG. He said that the costings for the remaining projects were now coming in above the estimates of late last year. He expected all expenditure, including the 20 mph and the TRO to fall within budget. The budget for next year is currently being considered. The Clerk said that given the large expenditure on Highways over the previous year, there will be probably be a reduction in the funds spent on Highways in 2018/19 and any expenditure may have to come from the contingency account.
10. **Terms of Reference: RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference remain unchanged.

**11. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The Clerk had circulated the accident report sheet showing 25 accidents in the parish during 2017 so far. He said he had received an increase in notifications from members of the public since the last meeting. The Clerk will be putting an advert in the village magazines asking residents to continue to report accidents which will be recorded.

**12. Parish Plan**

- The Clerk said that the majority of actions in the Parish Plan that had been completed come under Highways.
- It was noted that the new 20mph zone will be difficult to police.

**13. Campaign to support 20 mph outside schools.**

- Speldhurst - The Clerk advised there were only 2 objections in the consultation which meant the application required the approval of the Director of Highways. This has now been done and the next phase is to get the detailed drawings and costings updated. The latest cost is £8K which is slightly higher than the previous estimate. He said that he met Lisa Gillham, the new Highways Manager for Tunbridge Wells last week who will draw up the designs. These will need to be approved and put before Full Council for final authorisation.
- Langton Green – The Clerk confirmed that the costs have also gone up to £16K and final drawings are being prepared.
- The TRO from 60 to 40 will be sent in on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**14. Entry Statements to villages (gateways)** – The original four gateways have now been installed, including the replacement gateway in Groombridge. Lisa Gillham will be responsible for the next three gateways to be installed. The vegetation surrounding the Ashurst in gateway is in need of addressing by Highways.

**15. To consider reports on the following issues by Village**

a) **Groombridge**

- New SID – The Clerk said that the new SID is now in place and the two SIDS are circulated frequently around the parish.

b) **Ashurst**

- The Clerk advised that he has chased KCC about the new pole for the SID in Ashurst.
- The Clerk confirmed that there is KCC funding available. Mrs Watson is to advise the Clerk of a suitable location including photographs.

c) **Speldhurst**

- Parking – The Clerk said that he had not received any recent complaints from residents regarding this ongoing issue.
- The Clerk said that Barden Road was closed during September for 2 weeks with the diversion routed along Northfield. Mr Whittaker had complained to Highways and received an apology.
- Cllr Milner reported yellow lines needing refreshing opposite the Post Office.
- Stockland Green Road – uncut hedge affecting visibility. The Little Bote House has been contacted. The Clerk has asked Highways to investigate.
- Pot holes on Burnt House Lane – these have been filled.

d) **Langton Green**

- School crossing points – This issue will be helped by the new speed reduction. A lollipop person is still being sought. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that Alex Cornelius is the new Travel Plan Organiser for Langton Green Primary School. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the walking bus is being run on a Tuesday and a Friday due to the current shortage of volunteers. The hope is to increase the number of days the scheme is in operation once more volunteers have

come forward. They hope to have a 'PR' event with Kent Messenger and a school assembly to raise its profile to parents and the children.

- Parking by the shops and The Grange continues to be a problem— Cllr Barrington- Johnson advised that this matter is being dealt with by Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer who is hoping to organise a meeting with the Enforcement Officer.
- Parking outside the Recreation Ground – The Clerk said that he had received two emails from residents complaining about parking on Saturday mornings when the football is running. There was a Girl Guide event on 30<sup>th</sup> September which had its registration in the LG carpark just before the football started which exasperated the situation. The Clerk suggested asking the PCSO/PC or Enforcement Officer if they could attend on a Saturday morning to issue tickets to anyone parking inconsiderately. He also suggested contacting the Football Club asking them if they can provide alternative car parking. Mrs Horne said that TWRFC had a similar problem. They asked the Police to attend and issue parking tickets to those parked on the pavement.
- Broom Lane – inadequate signage advising of a low bridge. A resident had complained to SPC regarding signage for the bridge and the speed limit. He then complained to Greg Clark who wrote to Matthew Balfour. KCC are currently working on improving the signage but have said there is no reason to warrant the speed limit being lowered.

#### **16. Speed watch –**

- Speedwatch Sessions - Cllrs Milner and Mercieca have carried out a session. More volunteers are still required to come forward – they can be trained 'on the job'. A list of locations is to be circulated by the Clerk. Cllrs Milner, Allen and Mercieca are to carry out a further session in November.
- Funding Police operations in the Parish – The Clerk advised that he had had a visit from the new PCSO who said that due to cutbacks they are no longer able to fund speed sessions. He asked Councillors if the Parish Council would consider funding the Police to hold a speeding session within the Parish where they would issue tickets. Councillors said that they would recommend approval if the cost was acceptable. The Clerk has asked for costings and will report back.

#### **17. Items for information**

- Cllr Kerby said that the bridge across the River Grom is a listed structure and he has been clearing it of brambles and debris. He has revealed more of the original structure of the bridge which is worth a visit.
- The Clerk said that Rusthall PC is looking into signage to prevent HGV's using Lower Green Road.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37pm

Chairman