



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 5th September 2013 at 10.00am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Horne, Langridge and Parker, Mrs Waters and Norton

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean, Steward KCC Highways & Transportation

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Mr Wheeler (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Horne was contacted about over grown vegetation outside Hurst House, Speldhurst.
4. **Minutes: RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting dated **5th July 2013** which have previously been distributed to all members, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - Street lighting –Cllr Davies announced at the Full Council meeting on Monday 2nd September that KCC is intending to turn off the street lighting along the A264 on a permanent basis. **It was agreed that the clerk should respond that this is not supported by the Parish Council but it will support them being turned off from midnight till 5.30am.**
 - Cllr Mrs Podbury and the clerk will attend a Highways seminar on Friday 4th October
6. **Public Open Session:** Jonathan Dean said that there was the possibility of another reorganisation within Highways. He also advised that all expenditure for the next six months would be on safety critical measures.
7. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish** – The list of accidents in 2013 has been updated and circulated. Recent accidents had all occurred in Langton Green and were mainly driver error. **Cllr Langridge will draft an article for inclusion in the local magazines and the clerk will update the website. It was agreed that an update be given at the Open Meeting.**
8. **Standard reply** – the clerk advised that the standard reply, which is to be sent as a response to enquiries on highways issues, was almost ready. The final draft will be sent to the committee for approval.

9. Maintenance

- a) Over-grown hedges – Cllr Parker highlighted a problem on the exit of Oxlea. **The clerk will pass on the details of all vegetation issues to KCC**
- b) Potholes and drains – Jonathan Dean will advise the schedule for drain clearing in the area. **He was asked to look in to flooding in Lower Green Road**

10. Outstanding issues by village:

The clerk had visited two local sites that have traffic calming measures in place – Halls Hole Road TW and Bells Yew Green in Sussex. Both have introduced a chicane system that prioritises traffic from one direction. Bells Yew Green also has a “gate” system and their chicane system operates without street lighting. **The clerk was asked to make further enquiries to see if it is appropriate for the villages in the parish.**

a) Speldhurst

- Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The final plan submitted by KCC including signage was approved by the committee. **The clerk was requested to contact KCC to inform them and find out when installation would take place. Cllr Mrs Podbury would draft an article for the magazine advising of the changes and the clerk would put it on the website.**
- Speldhurst Hill – there was a constant leak and Jonathan Dean advised that this was a SE Water problem and they had been notified.
- Re-lining – the clerk would ensure that the double yellow lines in Barden Road would be re-painted when the new scheme was implemented.
- Parking – the clerk had received a reply from TWBC regarding waiting restrictions outside the post office. A review was not planned until 2014 and they were unsure if Speldhurst would be included because of limited patrols by traffic wardens. **The clerk was asked to request that this be included and that more patrols are considered.**

b) Langton Green

- Re-surfacing of certain roads – Long Slip was completed by the KCC maintenance team and further roads will be upgraded next year.
- Erosion of grass verges at The Green - this work will not go ahead until SE Water had finished.
- The clerk said that the path outside the cottages on The Green from Stone Cottage to where it joined The Green was actually a KCC adopted highway. He suggested that because its use had been downgraded since the new islands had been installed, and it was now only used by residents and deliveries, that it should be “un-adopted”. **He was asked to investigate potential maintenance issues before a decision would be made and Councillors will make a site visit before the next meeting.**
- Now that the SE Water works had been completed it was decided to monitor the situation

c) Ashurst

- Ashurst Hill – speeding traffic – the clerk advised that he has been in contact with the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership (KMSCP) about installing a camera on the two hills in Ashurst and Groombridge. KMSCP have advised that safety cameras cannot be funded by outside bodies however they are considering sites that have no crash history but with a persistent speeding issue. **The clerk will continue to investigate possibilities for the parish.**
- Flooding near Stone Ness – The remedial work has been identified and the order passed to the drainage team at KCC Highways. It will be done in the autumn.

d) Groombridge

- Groombridge Hill – speeding traffic - see Ashurst hill
- **The clerk was asked to investigate the purchase of stone blocks for The Green**

11. **Speed Watch** – The Police had carried out a speedwatch on Sunday 1st September at 4pm outside the school at Speldhurst and caught one perpetrator who was speeding over 40mph and had no licence or tax. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she has been responsible for speedwatch for too long and felt that it

was up to someone else to take over responsibility for it. **The clerk will try again to contact PSE Rollinson to set up some training and to review permitted sites.**

- 12. Review of Highways Committee's budget** – The clerk showed the projected budget expenditure and it was agreed that the full budget of £20,000 should be reinstated next year.
- 13. Items for Information** – Cllr Langridge asked if any Ward Walks issues had been raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15am

Chairman