



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 18th August 2014 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Langridge (Chairman), Mrs Horne and Barrington-Johnson with Mrs Waters, Mrs Norton and Mr Wheeler

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

1. **To accept apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Parker (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Langridge was approached by a member of the public regarding parking outside the post office in Speldhurst.
4. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **29th May 2014** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** Cllr Langridge suggested that a public member from Ashurst would be a good addition to the committee and he asked the Clerk to contact two residents who had recently attended a speed watch session to see if one would be interested in joining.
7. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The clerk produced an updated report. It was noted that a large lorry had misjudged the corners at Stone Cross causing the A264 to be closed. It was the second time that this has happened this year.
8. **Campaign to support 20mph outside schools:** The Clerk advised the committee that TWBC would probably be requesting funds from local Councils to contribute towards any costs. It was noted this would be for both primary schools in the Parish.
9. **Maintenance:** It was noted that there are a number of areas still to be repaired but the majority are in the KCC schedule. Drains are being cleared on request.
10. **Traffic Surveys:** The committee discussed the results of the recent traffic surveys carried out between Wednesday 2nd July and Tuesday 8th July 2014 on Groombridge Hill and Ashurst Hill.

Groombridge southbound: It was noted that the results were distorted by BT road works for the first three days however 26,214 vehicles were recorded for the week and the results showed 25% of vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph southbound and as high as 60-65mph.

Groombridge northbound: 25,803 vehicles recorded and 21% were in excess of 35mph with one recorded travelling as high as 65-70mph

Ashurst westbound: 21,246 vehicles recorded and 32% were in excess of 35mph with one recorded at 65-70mph.

Ashurst eastbound: 22,207 vehicles recorded and 23% were in excess of 35mph with the highest speed recorded at 65-70mph.

The statistics confirmed that further speed calming measures were required and **the Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of speed cameras. He will report back.**

11. Outstanding issues by village:

a) Speldhurst

- Barden Road: Cllrs Langridge and Barrington-Johnson had made a site visit on 24th June and concluded that barriers were not the right solution. They have suggested that further double yellow lines should extend to the entrance to North View and a trial run of stop-go traffic lights at peak times. The Clerk said he thought that this, if endorsed by KCC Highways, would take a long time to implement. **The Clerk was requested to contact KCC Highways.**
- Speldhurst Hill and flooding at Smallbrook – has been reported as cleared by KCC Highways (41400920) – gullies have been cleaned and pipes jetted. KCC will monitor this winter.
- Parking issues – the second tranche of the traffic consultation has yet to be proposed. **The Clerk was asked to enquire when this would be available.**
- Flooding at Broomhill Farm – the drainage team (no. 41400953) found several gullies covered by mud and debris and have cleared all gullies and jetted pipes. KCC will monitor this winter.
- Sign post corner of Furzefield Avenue – KCC Highways are in the process of obtaining a professional quote for refurbishment and will advise us. The Clerk said he thought that SPC may have to pay for this as the KCC budget is basically spent for the financial year.

b) Langton Green

- A264 – the proposed double lines near the local butchers have been turned down according to The Courier. No confirmation has been received as the draft minutes of the JTB meeting are unavailable.
- Update on SE water works and diversion in Speldhurst Road, Langton - work is progressing and will be finished on schedule
- Broom Lane – there was nothing further to report except to note that a large lorry had got stuck under the railway bridge (again).
- Lampington Road and Winstone Scott Avenue – KCC Cllr J Davies was liaising with T&C to install posts in Winstone Scott Avenue.
- Lower Green Road – the Clerk was proposing countdown markers on the approach to Rusthall and would contact KCC to see whether it was possible to have them installed. It would be a more cost effective and quicker way rather than moving the 30mph limit. **He will progress the enquiry.**
- Work at The Green – KCC have completed the works.
- Sign post at Silcocks Farm – the Clerk was obtaining a quote to replace the fingerpost with a wooden one painted white which could be offset by the cost of a basic metal one that KCC would install

c) Ashurst

- Ashurst Hill survey – see 10
- Flooding near Stone Ness – has been resolved and will come off the agenda
- Deer signs – the Clerk will have some SPC signs installed on Groombridge Road

d) Groombridge

- Groombridge Hill survey – see 10
- The Green – no further action at present

- Deer signs – Mrs Norton marked on a map where she thought the SPC signs should be situated and the Clerk will have them installed.
- It was noted that the high friction surface works at the top of Groombridge Hill has been finished

12. Bus Shelters: It was considered that a bus shelter at The Hare was not required but one near the bus stop where Farnham Lane meets the A264 might be needed. The situation will be monitored.

13. Speed Watch: The Clerk had received some dates from the PCSOs. Cllr Langridge will try and co-ordinate a session

14. Website: the committee said that the Highways page advising latest road closures or road works worked well.

15. Review of Highways Committee's budget: the budget of £20,000 had a virement of £3,100 from the Amenities budget towards the works on The Green (now complete). Total expenditure on this project stayed the same at £5,035 which would have to use s137. After paying for the traffic surveys a balance of £16,758 was available for future projects should it be necessary.

16. Items for Information: Cllr Langridge had seen a traffic warden in Langton Green recently.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman