



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

**Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held Monday 27th July 2020 at 7.30pm
Conducted via Zoom electronic communication**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Turner, Rajah and Langridge with Mr Norton

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present.

OFFICERS 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 reasons for absence:** Cllr Scarborough (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 **10th February 2020** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There was one member of the public present (Mr Saunders) who was concerned at the speed of traffic in the 20mph zone in Speldhurst. He said nothing at this time.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were two items: The first was to inform the committee of investigation by a Speldhurst resident who had made enquiries about parking spaces for the Community Shop on land adjacent to the shop on Barden road. Initial comments were that there was not a major problem with parking. The second was an email from Mr Saunders who expressed his concern about the speed of traffic in the 20mph zone, especially during the lockdown period. At this point, at the request of the Chairman, Mr Saunders spoke about his concerns. He was advised that enforcement was a Police matter and he would write to the Police Commissioner requesting some enforcement. The Chairman said that the committee was aware of traffic not complying with the speed limit and KCC Highways had, at the request of SPC, carried out a traffic count in Barden Road but unfortunately it was put in place after the lockdown therefore the data was unreliable. A new traffic count will be requested to be carried out when the schools are back to ensure the record is relevant.

- 8. Terms of Reference (TOR):** This was added to the agenda in error (it was agreed in February)
- 9. Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The financial position had been circulated. The budget for the financial year was £25,350 with no expense to-date.
- 10. To review the action points:** Refer to action grid
- 11. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The report has been updated with information received to-date. The lack of Police data is undermining the report.
- 12. To review the proposal by KCC for traffic calming in Groombridge:** A design had been submitted by KCC Highways to reduce the speed of traffic on the hill by using traffic calming that did not require street lighting. Some more simple calming had been rejected for various reasons. The design was estimated to cost around £15-20k but when the detail was investigated KCC advised that the cost was in the region of £55,000. The question of whether the bright red asphalt surface was acceptable in a conservation area was still to be answered. It was agreed by the committee that the revised estimate was disappointingly high and should be questioned, however the new development at Burrswood may bring in s106 money. This would delay matters until building plans were submitted. Mr Norton said that there were three issues i) the conservation issue and if alternative colours could be acceptable ii) reducing the speed from 50 to 40mph without the safety measures iii) consultation of residents and cost. Cllr Turner asked if the number of virtual traffic calming insets was necessary? Could three do the same job as five? The Chairman asked the clerk to set up a (zoom) meeting with the design team as soon as possible and questions would be sent prior to the meeting to reduce further delays. Mr Norton asked if he could join the meeting.
- 13. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP):** The Chairman will discuss the plan with the clerk. Cllr Rajah will speak to local residents regarding no. 7 on the plan (Stockland Green Road)
- 14. Langton Green Primary School:**
 - The advisory lights were working again after another period when the lights on the Speldhurst side were flashing all day.
 - The crossing was progressing now that a volunteer had been identified
 - The flooding has been investigated by KCC
 - KCC understood the parking issue at the school but offered no advice as this was an issue throughout the County.
- 15. To consider issues by Village:**
 - a) Groombridge**
 - Groombridge Hill: refer 12
 - Bird in Hand Street: refer 12
 - b) Ashurst**
 - A264 speed reduction: it was agreed by committee to proceed with the speed reduction on the A264 from 50mph to 40mph at a cost between £5k-£10k and to recommend this to Full Council.
 - Flooding: KCC had cleared the drains along this stretch of road
 - c) Speldhurst**
 - 20mph refer 7
 - Barden Road: new ATC to be requested refer HIP 6/20
 - d) Langton Green**
 - Farnham Lane: KCC had offered no solution, however the owner of the van had been spoken to and it has parked away from the junction easing the problem.

16. Speed Cameras and Speed Watch

- a) Update on progress on Speed Watch: Speedwatch had been active in Langton Green and Speldhurst but the lockdown stopped all sessions. This has been eased recently but all vulnerable people were not allowed to partake. There had been one session since then in Langton Green and the first 20 minutes were when the flashing school lights were active, and cars were slower. Afterwards 16 cars were recorded exceeding 35mph in 90 minutes. The clerk was asked to include copies of the session results for future meetings.
- b) SID rotation: the clerk informed the committee that the rotation of the SIDs has only just restarted following the Groundsman isolation from coronavirus and that he no longer had suitable transport. This has been resolved and rotation has once again started. There has been no further progress regarding the collection of data from the machine. KCC do not use this facility and could not offer advice. The clerk had contacted the company direct, but our machine was too old for Bluetooth data collection and he was not technically adept to download the data via USB. Cllrs Pate and Ellery to progress.

17. Items for information

Cllr Langridge said that the state of the weeds along the Langton Road (A264) and drains has never been as bad. It was agreed that the reporting mechanism for all highways issues will be advertised via the website and social media.

- 18.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
5/19	to contact KCC for instructions on how download data and costs for a new SID.	Clerk	10/6	KCC do not download data. Westcotec advised our model is out-of-date for Bluetooth. Cllrs Pate and Ellery to progress.
15/19	To ask Headmaster about a crossing person	Clerk	25/11	Matter progressing
16/19	Bus shelter costs for installation and insurance liability	Clerk	25/11	Carried forward
1/20	To contact Headmaster and i) identify co-ordinator for Travel Plan. ii) To discuss flooding	Clerk/Chairman	10/2/20	i) refer HIP ii) KCC have visited site
3/20	To contact Chris K regarding Groombridge in a conservation area	Clerk	10/2	Question has been raised
5/20	To add an agenda item to August Full Council meeting for the Community Shop to be considered CRB status	Clerk	27/7	
6/20	To contact Chris K to request a new ATC on Barden Road when schools return	Clerk	27/7	
7/20	Add an agenda item to Full Council requesting authorisation for spending to reduce speed limit on Ashurst Road	Clerk	27/7	
8/20	New ATC to be requested in Barden Road once schools are back	Clerk	27/7	
9/20	Instigate a Zoom meeting with KCC Highways re progressing Groombridge Hill	Clerk	27/7	