



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 10th June 2019 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Pate, Round, Scarbrough and Mr Norton and Mrs Horne (7.50pm)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

Cllr Milner opened the meeting and proposed Cllr Pate as the new Chairman

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Pate was elected 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:** Cllr Turner and Richard Wheeler (previous 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 **23rd January 2019** 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:** Several emails have been received from residents and these will be considered under the appropriate headings.
9. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The Clerk had circulated the financial sheets. The budget for the financial year was £15,350. The Clerk explained that any proposed expenditure would have to go through either the Finance Committee or Full Council. Any expenditure in excess of this amount would need to come from the contingency account or reserves and require approval.
10. **Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The Clerk had circulated a sheet of reported accidents for 2019. These included a report from the PCSO and the records were up to date. He said that no

reports had been received from members of the public since the last meeting in January and that this was the lowest number of accidents in recent years. It was agreed to encourage the reporting of accidents via the new website and Facebook.

1. Action: publicise on website and Facebook. Owner: Clerk

11. A report on the status of the 20 mph, Gateways and TRO projects: The Clerk reported that all the schemes had now been implemented. He thought that the times the 20mph advisory signs in Langton were flashing was not long enough. At present they operated between 8.20 – 9.10am and 3.05pm – 3.50pm. he suggested that 8.20am – 9.20am and 2.50pm – 3.50pm would be more appropriate. It was agreed that he should contact the Primary School and ask their opinion. It was also agreed that this item could now be taken off future agendas.

2. Action: draft an article to publicise the projects for the newsletter, the website and Facebook. Owner: Cllr Pate

3. Action: contact LGPS re operating times. Owner: Clerk

12. Pothole Blitz: After much discussion it was agreed to put the following roads forward to KCC Highways: Lampington Row; Langholm Road and the road behind St Martin’s Church, Ashurst. There were a number of roads that have suffered from losing the top surface of tarmac (delamination) and KCC Highways would be asked to look at these surfaces as part of the blitz: most roads off Newlands in Langton Green and Wallers in Speldhurst.

4. Action: send list to KCC Highways. Owner: Clerk

13. To consider correspondence on issues by Village

a) **Groombridge**

- **Groombridge Hill** – the Chairman said that this would be looked at under item 14.
- **Bird in Hand Street** – the Clerk reported that since the announced closure of Burrswold traffic had substantially reduced.
- **The Green** – there was no further communication

b) **Ashurst**

- **A264 Ashurst Road** – this would also be covered by item 14. The successful speed reduction from 60 – 40mph on the Sussex side of the bridge was noted.

c) **Speldhurst**

- **Review of the 20mph speed limit in the village** – there had been some emails received from residents sharing their frustration at the lack of motorists adhering to the new speed limit. It was understood that Police checks were unlikely due to manning levels and there was much discussion on whether to commission traffic surveys or review previous data. It was proposed that the SID that can collect data be used to verify speeds at the location by Dragon Fly Farm.

The Clerk was requested to contact KCC for exact instructions on data capture and to investigate the cost of an additional SID that can collect data.

5. Action: to contact KCC for instructions on how download data and costs for a new SID. Owner: Clerk

d) **Langton Green**

- **20mph advisory scheme** – see minute number 11
- **Langton Road: traffic camera markings** – the Clerk has continued to chase KCC for the markings to be reinstated.
- **Langton Road speed limit to Farm Shop** – See minute item 14.
- **Langton Road east to TW** – to be monitored

14. To consider whether to engage a consultant – For the benefit of new members, Cllr Pate reviewed the meeting held in November 2018 with KCC Highways Schemes, Planning & Delivery team. Essentially, they recommended that consultants be used because the small team could not manage

the sheer number of parishes that required improvements. He identified Monson Engineering based in Crowborough and will discuss costs with them and report back. The initial consultation they will be asked to consider is from The Hare junction to Groombridge Hill. This was agreed by the committee.

6. Action: contact Monson Engineering. Owner: Cllr Pate

15. Speedwatch – The Clerk had been in contact with Community Speed Watch (CSW) and they said that all new members needed to log on to their website and register to the Speldhurst team. All new members were required to pass a short interactive video. Once registered they could be taught by existing members. Once teams are in place sessions can commence.

The Clerk will advise all committee members of the procedure and instructions will be in the July editions of the broadsheets and August Langton Life. The Council's website and Facebook pages will also be updated

7. Action: update committee members and broadsheets with instructions. Owner: Clerk

16. Items for information:

- Cllr Round asked whether a roundabout at the Crocker's Hatch junction can be considered. Cllr Pate said that this would be part of the consultant's brief.
- Cllr Milner asked if a list of team leaders for speed watch could be circulated.
- Mr Norton referred to his correspondence with KCC Cllr McInroy who had, in his opinion, been advised of misleading accident data and asked if it could be corrected. Cllr Pate asked him to draft specifics for a response.
- The Clerk referred to recent correspondence regarding Lampington Row and Farnham lane. He advised the committee that the new Borough Councillor, Lucy Willis, is meeting the resident on Monday 17th June to discuss the issue. The enquiry about Farnham Lane was due to the concerns of school children and speed of traffic. The committee acknowledged the issue and questioned the impact of any development at Speeds Farm.

8. Action: respond to residents. Owner: Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Action Number	Action	Owner	Date created	Status
1/19	Place item on SPC website and FB re reporting of highways incidents incl collisions	Clerk	10/6	Done and taken off. News alert sent 17/6. Will be added again.
2/19	draft an article to publicise the projects for the newsletter, the website and Facebook	Cllr Pate	10/6	
3/19	Contact LGPS regarding operating hours of advisory signs	Clerk	10/6	Met headmaster 18/6. Times agreed. KCC advised September
4/19	send list of roads to KCC Highways. Owner:	Clerk	10/6	Email sent 12/6
5/19	to contact KCC for instructions on how download data and costs for a new SID.	Clerk	10/6	KCC contacted. Unhelpful
6/19	contact Monson Engineering	Cllr Pate	10/6	
7/19	update committee members and broadsheets with instructions on how to join Speedwatch	Clerk	10/6	Updated 16/7
8/19	Respond to residents	Clerk	10/6	Emailed 16/7

Chairman