



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 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner, Mrs Lyle, Kerby, Allen, Mercieca, with Mr Wheeler and Mrs Horne (7.45)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman – RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Kerby as Chairman. Cllr Kerby said that he was willing to take the position on but on a temporary basis. It was agreed to review after May
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 Mrs Woodliffe (work commitments), Mrs Norton and Mrs Watson (both unwell)
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 **16<sup>th</sup> October 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:** The Clerk referred to the previous minutes and said that vegetation around the Ashurst gateway has been reported; the new pole for the SID in Ashurst has been installed and the hedge in Stockland Green Road has been cut back. He had received an email from Mr Apps complaining about the cars parked from The Hare along The Green. A response had been sent. Mr Langridge asked if something could be done to deter motorists driving on the pavement (to turn left on the Langton Road) as he had witnessed a few incidents where pedestrians had been in danger. The Clerk will contact Highways.
9. **Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The Clerk had circulated the financial sheets. He said The three new gateways totalling £5,336.16 have been paid for and ordered. Highways had recommended solar power for the LG advisory system and this had been agreed. This will reduce expenditure on the LG project and should ensure that money can be carried forward for

further projects. The Clerk was asked to enquire what the purpose of the small windmills on some solar poles was for and whether this could enhance the energy in LG signs.

**10. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The Clerk had circulated a sheet of reported accidents for 2017. There was a considerable number of serious accidents reported. There has been no information from the police since the changeover in PCSO.

**11. Parish Plan**

- The Clerk said that most of actions in the Parish Plan that had been completed come under Highways.
- It was noted that no progress had been made on cycle lanes, but it was thought that this was a matter for higher authorities and the way forward was for the Parish Council to lobby for improvements.

**12. Major Road Network (MRN):** There was a new consultation on proposals to create a MRN and the Clerk brought it to the attention of the Committee to consider whether it would like to have an input. It was noted that there could be benefits if heavy traffic was drawn away from minor roads, but this was the responsibility of higher authorities at Borough or County level.

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

- Speldhurst – progress has been slow, but it was hoped that final designs and costings would be available for the March Full Council meeting.
- Langton Green – This was being re-designed now with solar and again proposals should be ready for the March meeting.

**14. Entry Statements to villages (gateways) –** The next three gateways are on order. The gateway to replace the one demolished by a motorist in Groombridge has been ordered and its installation is imminent. The costs have been recovered from the third party's insurance.

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

a) **Groombridge**

- It was agreed that a review of the speed limit on Groombridge Hill will be in the next phase of projects once the current ones have been completed.
- Cllr Kerby asked whether official signs warning about deer could be installed. The Clerk will enquire.

b) **Ashurst**

- The Clerk advised that any bus shelter applications would have to wait until the next financial year.
- The Clerk had reported the damage to the village hall sign along with the crime number.
- He said that in the next phase of projects it was imperative that the A264 Ashurst road had appropriate signage for the dangerous bends and it would be an aim to reduce the speed limit around those bends.

c) **Speldhurst**

- Parking – The Clerk said that he had not received any recent complaints from residents regarding this issue.
- The Clerk said that Barden Road is again due to be closed for 5 days in March to enable a new electric service to be installed to Quince House. The diversion route has been queried and amended but the Clerk was asked to query the length of time that the road needs to be closed for this work.
- Flooding has again been reported at Lower Green Road junction with Speldhurst Hill, although it was considered less of a problem since the recent works. The drains have been reported.

- One-way system: this has been suggested by a resident of Northfields who is fed up with the constant flow of traffic using the road. This subject has been discussed before and it was decided last time that a one-way system would in fact encourage more traffic. The Committee also agreed that it cannot respond to individual requests. In future residents suggestions for improvements would be given a higher priority if there were a number of people supporting the case.

**d) Langton Green**

- Highways have agreed to redesign the maps for the TRO application and it is progressing.
- School crossing points: there was much discussion around a crossing person for LG but nothing further decided.
- Parking by the shops and The Grange continues to be a problem – Cllr Barrington- Johnson will meet with Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer on his return from holiday.
- Parking outside the Recreation Ground – it was agreed that this would be monitored.
- Broom Lane – flooding by Broom Farm – Highways had cemented a collapsed drain and this was causing major flooding which is to be corrected in March when the road is to be closed for reinstatement of the drain.

**16. Speed watch –**

- Speedwatch Sessions – the Speedwatch co-ordinator does not have to be a Parish Councillor. The current Newsletter for this winter is asking for a volunteer from the public to take over and co-ordinate sessions.
- Meanwhile should councillors want to run a session they should advise the Clerk who will make the necessary arrangements.
- Funding Police operations in the Parish – The Clerk was waiting for a response from the police.

**17. Items for information**

- Cllr Mercieca showed a picture of damage to the verges in Dornden Drive where contractors had driven over the verge. He suggested that residents should be written to with a standard letter asking for re-instatement. He would draft a letter for approval.
- Cllr Milner said he had received similar from a resident in St Mary's Lane
- There was concern raised at the disruption caused by the closure of Major York's Road

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm

Chairman