



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 Wednesday 24th October 2018 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chairman), Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Pate and Barrington-Johnson, Milner (both ex-officio) with Mrs Horne

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:** Richard Wheeler (previous engagement)
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 **26th July 2018** which have previously been distributed to all members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There was correspondence regarding local issues and these would be considered under minute item 14
8. **Change of public members on the Committee:** Claire Watson and Anne Norton have both decided to step down from the Committee. Simon Norton has volunteered to take over as the public member for Groombridge which the Committee endorsed. The Committee thanked Anne Norton for her long service and contribution.
9. **Report on JTB Meeting held on Monday 15th October 2018 in TWBC:** Cllr Mrs Podbury attended the meeting. She reported that the issue of Groombridge Hill was supposed to be an agenda but had been omitted and the next meeting is not until January. There was much discussion about the effectiveness of the JTB. She said that Park & Ride has been dropped and that there was funding available from parking charges to enable Parking Enforcement Officers to make occasional visits out of hours for specifically identified problem areas.

- 10. Review of Highways Committee's Budget:** The Clerk had circulated the financial sheets. He said that after all expenditure there was a surplus of £15,800 which was to be carried forward to the next financial year if there was no further expenditure this year. Any expenditure in excess of that amount would have to come from the contingency account.
- 11. Monitoring of recent accidents in the Parish:** The Clerk had circulated a sheet of reported accidents for 2018. These were only incidents reported to the clerk because the new PCSO has not sent any data due administrative issues. It was hoped they would be available for the next meeting.
- 12. Parish Plan:** The Clerk said that most of actions in the Parish Plan that had been completed come under Highways.
- 13. A report on the status of the 20 mph, Gateways and TRO projects:** The Clerk reported that the scheme in Speldhurst has been implemented. The advisory scheme and the TRO in Langton are in the Highways schedule, but installation looks to be January. The Committee was extremely disappointed and asked the Clerk to convey this at the meeting in November and to advise that any further delays will not be accepted.
The Clerk said that the Highways District Manager was making changes to the Langton gateway.
- 14. To consider correspondence on issues by Village**
- a) **Groombridge**
- Speed Limit on **Groombridge Hill** – the Committee was agreed that the reduction in the speed limit should be set as a priority.
The Kent Manager of Highways Schemes, Installation and Delivery, Nikola Floodgate had met with the Clerk and had advised that a traffic count would be carried out on the hill. She will send an explanation of why lower average speeds aids reduction, but higher speeds do not. Cllr Pate suggested professional advice to present the case, but it was agreed that to go through Highways initially.
 - **Bird in Hand Street** – Councillors noted the serious accident when a car skidded in snowy conditions and hit a house causing serious damage to a grade 2 listed home. This will be added to the agenda for Highways to review.
 - Parking at **The Green** – two letters had been received from a resident of Burrswood who wanted to see limited parking to enable delivery vehicles access to Burrswood. The Committee agreed that this was not acceptable and instructed the Clerk to respond saying that delivery drivers must heed instructions and avoid peak hours.
- b) **Ashurst**
- **A264 Ashurst Road** – the Committee agreed that the A264 from Langton to Ashurst is not an "A" road. It is too narrow with too many windy bends. KCC would be requested to review its status and if a downgrade was not possible then changes to the speed limits on the dangerous bends was needed. Cllr Pate again suggested an independent assessment may be necessary.
- c) **Speldhurst**
- The Clerk advised that he had received emails from concerned residents regarding speeding on Barden Road and Stockland Green Road. The Committee agreed that priority had to be given where accidents had occurred, but Highways will be asked to review the speed limits.
 - The 20mph speed limit in the village had been perceived positively.
- d) **Langton Green**
- **A264 Langton Road** – it was noted that the recent resurfacing on this road from The Hare to Farnham Lane had been carried out successfully and on schedule. The Clerk will advise Highways of a job well done.

- The Committee agreed that the 30mph speed limit should be extended from the water tower to beyond the junction of the B2110 and the Farm Shop and to incorporate the next junction to Peshurst. A number of accidents have happened at this junction where drivers have to turn right to stay on the A264.
- Mrs Horne to contact Farm Shop and ask for them to report accidents
- Correspondence has been received asking for the whole speed limit east of the present 30mph to be extended to incorporate the whole village. Highways will be asked to review the limit at the forthcoming meeting.
- **Broom Lane** – Highways will be asked to review this
- School crossing points – Highways will be asked to review the area of flooding

15. To prioritise projects for 2019 for the KCC Highways meeting in November: The Committee agreed that the following projects will take priority

- Groombridge Hill – reduction in speed from 50-40
- A264 to Ashurst – reduction in speed from 50-40
- A264 to include Farm Shop junction – reduction in speed from 50-30

16. Speedwatch – The Clerk reported that no one had come forward from the public to act as overall co-ordinator for the Parish. The Clerk suggested that Speedwatch should be split and let each village take its own responsibility. He would remain as overall co-ordinator. This was agreed and the local magazines would carry an article explaining this.

17. Items for information:

- Cllr Ellery said he will suggest another place on Barden Road for a deer sign
- Cllr Mrs Woodliffe expressed concern that charging a fee for using the recycling will encourage fly-tipping. The Clerk circulated KCC information about a consultation that was current.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman