

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON  
27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30PM  
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Myles and Turner

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk and Mrs K Neve - Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Rowe remain Chairman of the Amenities committee.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Amenities Working Group.

3. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**

No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

4. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Lyle who was ill and Mrs Woodliffe who had work commitments.

5. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

6. **Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

7. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **30<sup>th</sup> June 2021** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. **Public Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

9. **Matters Arising and Actions from the Previous Minutes:**

The Assistant Clerk (AC) ran through the list of matters from the previous minutes as follows:

- Anti-idling banners – Speldhurst School would be approached in the coming weeks with a view to putting up banners for the start of the new half term.
- The policy for use of SPC land had been approved and was in use.
- Mrs Catherine Barrett (Assistant Clerk) had been asked to include an article on bins in Speldhurst in the village magazine.
- SPC Office flowerbed – Cllr Langridge advised that Cllr Barrington-Johnson was organising a sketch to be made of a suitable scheme, ready for planting in November.
- Playground Report – The AC had gone through the inspection report with the Groundsman, identifying the jobs he could carry out. She was hoping to organise quotations for a service

to be carried out of the Multi-Play (Senior) and the Cable Runway for consideration at the next Amenities WG meeting.

- Cllr Turner had received an enquiry from a member of public regarding the lack of grass cutting in the area adjacent to the playground. The Clerk said that she would be meeting Landscape Services soon to run through the work schedule and would raise the matter at that time.
- Picnic Benches near the pavilion – the possibility of a contribution from the Village Society would be agreed at their next meeting and once a decision had been communicated, a decision would then be taken by SPC regarding what to install. Cllr Turner said that there may be discounts available when purchasing out of season.
- Ownership of Land at the Green, LG – Cllr Rowe would meet with the outgoing clerk, Mr Chris May, to discuss and agree ownership and in particular the pathway from the Old Watson Hall down to Lampington Row. A letter would then need to be sent to the residents to outline their responsibilities regarding maintenance. It was noted that no further correspondence had been received regarding parking.
- Communication Priorities for 2021 – The AC had run through the WG's priorities with Mrs Catherine Barrett who had given feedback regarding the timing of their posting on social media and the AC had passed this information on to members.

#### 10. **Financial Review**

The finance sheets had been circulated. Cllr Rowe had raised a query before the meeting which the RFO had explained regarding LGRG maintenance being split between two codes in the finance sheets. Cllr Langridge queried the large CCTV budget which was remaining in the account and Cllr Turner said he would raise a query after the meeting with the RFO regarding whether there was a contingency for additional CCTV coverage outside the pavilion.

#### 11. **Parish Council Land**

##### a) **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

- **To consider further action to prevent the lighting of fires/BBQs**  
TWBC had advised the Assistant Clerk that they rely mainly on social media to deter members of the public from lighting fires or BBQs. It was noted that the scorched grass on the LGRG could have been an isolated incident and that most users are respectful of the area. It was **RESOLVED** that advice regarding fires being prohibited on SPC land would be included in a more general notice in the carpark/recreation ground.
- **To consider disposal of fly-tipped rubbish**  
The Groundsman had reported rubbish occasionally being left on the LGRG. Councillors agreed that in order to try and tackle the problem, more specific information regarding the location, frequency and type of rubbish was needed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk ask the Groundsman to send photos of any fly-tipped rubbish he finds so that a log can be kept detailing date, location and type of rubbish. If coverage allows, CCTV would be checked to see if the perpetrators could be identified. Social media channels would be used to highlight the problem and ask for residents to be vigilant and to report any fly tipping on Parish land and to make them aware the unplanned costs for disposing of fly tipping rubbish could ultimately lead to an increase in the precept.
- **To review the existing and any further requirement for signage**  
It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Langridge would draft and circulate signs for approval by the WG which include advice regarding the lighting of fires on SPC land being prohibited; parking in the carpark at motorists' risk; no fly-tipping and no overnight parking. The Assistant Clerk would ask the Groundsman to temporarily remove the anti-idling banners

as it was felt they had become 'wallpaper'. They would be reinstated once the weather gets colder and engines are more likely to be left running.

- **To consider the installation of a commemorative bench**

Cllr Langridge said a request had been received by the LG Village Society for a bench to be located on SPC land facing the Green. It was **RESOLVED** that regrettably councillors did not think it was appropriate for a further bench to be placed in this location however consideration may be given to an alternative position. Additionally, a policy would be formulated to give guidance regarding any future requests (which would not be retrospective). The Assistant Clerk would research previous correspondence on the matter.

b) **The Green at Groombridge**

**To consider action to prevent further erosion of the Green**

Cllr Myles had canvassed all residents within the vicinity of the Green regarding the installation of vertical wooden sleepers and whilst the number of responses received was disappointing, the majority were in favour. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that quotations would be obtained for the installation of vertical wooden sleepers in various positions along the edge of Groombridge Green in an effort to prevent erosion. The Assistant Clerk would organise for Cllr Myles to meet with three contractors on site in order to obtain quotations for the works.

c) **The Pocket Parks at Speldhurst**

**To consider repair of the damaged stone wall beside Peshurst Road**

The AC reported that three stonemasons had been asked to quote for the repairs. Two quotations had been received and a further one was expected. It was **RESOLVED** that a recommendation would be made to Full Council for the works, including all traffic management, to be carried out at a cost of up to £1,750. The lowest quotation would be accepted. If Southern Stone were the cheapest tender, Cllr Rowe would meet them on site to check that their perception of the works involved was the same as SPC's.

12. **Review of the Amenities Committee/Working Group Terms of Reference**

It was **RESOLVED** that a recommendation be made to Full Council that the Amenities Committee/Working Group Terms of Reference are adopted with the following amendments: Paragraph 7. c) "to work with the Langton Green Community Sports Association" be changed to read "to work with the Pavilion Committee and the Langton Green Community Sports Association".

A new paragraph be added before the final paragraph to read "The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee/Working Group (AC/WG) in addition to two other members of the AC/WG hold delegated powers to make a decision on every case received for use of SPC land in line with the guidance provided by the policy on the Use of Council Land".

13. **Trees**

**To consider future tree maintenance requirements**

It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council for the '4 Year Priority Work' to be carried out by the Living Forest at a cost of £1,050. The importance of keeping up to date with the health of the trees on SPC's land was recognised by councillors and the Assistant Clerk was therefore asked to obtain quotations from three different tree companies to provide a survey on the health of its trees. The survey would give an indication of suggested work to be done in priority stages (6 months/1 year/2 years etc) and once the preferred contractor had been

chosen, a recommendation would be made to Full Council. It was anticipated that this survey would be undertaken in 2022 which coincided with the remaining works identified in the last survey being completed.

14. **Items for Information:**

- An email had been received from a resident of Langton Green who is disabled and regularly walks her dog on the LGRG during the warmer months. She asked that consideration be given to an all-weather path being installed along the boundary of the LGRG to enable residents to enjoy the recreation ground all year round. It was **RESOLVED** that given the significance of the matter it should be tabled at the next Full Council meeting under 'Items for Information'.
- Cllr Turner said that 89 members of public had responded to the electric vehicle charging point survey and 90% of them agreed that facilities should be made available within the parish. The matter was being put to Full Council at the October meeting.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.11pm.

Chairman