



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd August 2020 at 7.30pm
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Turner, Pate, Rajah and Langridge

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Ms Willis

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present.

20/130 Welcome by the Chairman: Cllr Barrington-Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20/131 To enquire if anyone intends to record the meeting: No-one present intended to record the meeting.

20/132 To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Scarbrough and Rowe – both previous engagements. Mrs Barrett - holiday

20/133 Disclosure of Interests: There were none.

20/134 Declarations of Lobbying: There were none.

20/135 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6th July 2020: RESOLVED that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20/136 Borough and County Councillors' Reports:

County Cllr McInroy advised councillors of two current consultations – National Highways and Transport Network Public Satisfaction Survey and the Lower Thames crossing public consultation which would run until the 12th August. Borough Cllr Ms Lucy Willis said that the Lower Church Farm application had been called in but unfortunately it was granted by TWBC by a majority vote. She had received an email from a resident of Bradley's Mill who had experienced extensive flooding. There is no news on the reopening of St John's Sports Centre. She had made enquiries regarding a recycling shop at the North Farm Recycling Centre but unfortunately it appears there may not be sufficient space however other options were being investigated.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said she had received an email from the Conservative party regarding the reopening of Fusion Leisure Centres.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that both the Speldhurst and Rusthall Parish Council websites were not working. The clerk was investigating.

20/137 Public Open Session: Mr Garry Saunders and Mrs Ruth Ritson were both attending to hear updates on the drainage project on the LG Recreation Ground and other matters in general.

20/138 Clerk's Report: The Clerk advised that the parish's PCSO was being transferred after only six months which was disappointing. The Powell family were considering selling Shadwell Woods due to increased overheads. The refusal of their application to install a loading bay to remove the wood was preventing them managing costs.

He mentioned a request which had been received via the Village Hall from the Nursery asking if they could paint the fence (green or brown) around the patio. Councillors had no objections.

20/139 Finance Committee – Report by Cllr Mrs Lyle:

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Report on budget virements: there were none.
- a) Report on interim payments made since the last meeting: Unity Trust Bank: £107.73 to Mastercard; £357.00 to EDF for Pavilion electricity and £18 to BT mobile - direct debits.
- c) Report on decisions made under delegated authority: there were none.
- d) **RESOLVED** to replace the bollards outside the Langton Green Village Hall at a cost of £1,701.96 as recommended by the Amenities Committee.
- e) **RESOLVED** to pay for a reduction of the speed limit on the Ashurst Road (A264) from 50mph to 40mph between Langton Green to the beginning of the 30mph sign at Ashurst up to a maximum cost of £10K. It was hoped the costs would be nearer £5K.
- f) After discussion and considering different options, it was **RESOLVED** to trial using Microsoft 365 on councillors' own computers for a month before making a decision regarding purchasing laptops for committee Chairmen for the purpose of writing reports.
- g) **RESOLVED** to change the Cambridge BS mandate application. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke will no longer be a signatory and Cllr Mrs Lyle and the clerk, Chris May will replace her and ex-Cllr Parker. Nothing had been heard from HSBC and the clerk was considering recommending that the account be closed.

20/140 Accounts for Payment:

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Ref.	Amount £	Detail
ICO	DD	35.00	Annual Data Protection fee
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT1847	488.83	Canine refuse bags
M R Lawrence	MT1848	320.00	Mowing and strimming
Kidman's Ltd	MT1849	114.48	Machine repairs
The Play Inspection Company	MT1850	360.00	Play inspection
Knockout Print	MT1851	348.00	Covid-19 signage
Zurich Insurance	MT1853	763.20	Vehicle Insurance one year
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1854	1,147.36	Groombridge Green maintenance
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1855	1,614.79	Grounds Maintenance LGRG
C May	MT1856	19.35	Expenses
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT1857	14.70	Meeting rooms
Esfahani	MT1858	75.00	Refund of pavilion booking
Mr L Cooper	MT1864	31.90	Expenses
Langton Pavilion Café	MT1852	1,196.60	Tables Chairs and Covid equipment
Sygnnet Interactive Ltd	MT1865	180.00	Speldhurst org website

C May	MT1859	1,629.27	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1860	783.00	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1861	671.95	Salary
Catherine Barratt	MT1862	652.08	Salary
NEST Pension Scheme	MT1863	167.98	Pension payments

10,613.49

20/141 Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle reported on behalf of the Pavilion Management Committee. She said that the café is running three days a week successfully and a discussion would be had regarding recommencing rental payments. An initial payment of £1K had been spent on making the premises safe and the equipment could be used by all hirers.
- b) Traffic management and parking: there was nothing to report.
- c) Drainage project update: Cllr Pate advised that the consultant writing the report from the first phase was on holiday and the report had not yet been received.
- d) Tai Chi classes: It was **RESOLVED** to allow the far end of the carpark to be used for classes during the school holidays with the suggestion the basketball court is used during school term time, on a trial basis.

20/142 TWBC Draft Local Plan: The clerk advised that SPC's meeting with TWBC planners would be held on 7th September at 10am via zoom and attended by Cllrs Rowe, Rajah, Milner and Turner. The Clerks would attend to listen only.

20/143 Community Right to Bid (CRB): Cllr Ellery suggested SPC register the Speldhurst Shop and Post Office with the CRB scheme. This would give villagers a priority of six months to purchase the shop, should it come up for sale. It was **RESOLVED** that an application would be made to apply for registration.

20/144 Parish Council Vehicle: The clerk reported that a Ford Transit Custom van had been rented for four months. The groundsman had reported the vehicle was too large for the purpose and the clerk would investigate a longer-term solution of a smaller van with a roof rack with Cllrs Pate and Langridge. He will set up a meeting in the next few weeks.

20/145 Langton Green Village Hall – Mrs Angela Moss was retiring as Trustee for LGVH and therefore there was a vacancy for a SPC representative on the hall management committee. The Clerk would contact the Trustees to enquire if any of them would like to represent SPC.

20/146 Chairman's Report: The chairman had nothing new to report.

20/147 Committee Reports: to include any Committee Meetings held since the last Full Council meeting, the Draft Minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members

- a) **Governance:** Cllr Milner had nothing to report.
- b) **Planning:** Cllr Ellery reported that a meeting of the Planning Committee had been held on the 13th July when 21 applications were considered, 3 of which were objected to by members. Disappointingly the application for Herons Oast Farm had been granted. A meeting would be held on Wednesday 5th August when a Vice-Chairman would be elected.
- c) **Highways:** Cllr Pate said a meeting had been held on 27th July when a number of issues were discussed including traffic calming in Groombridge and the Ashurst speed reduction. KCC Highways had designed traffic calming for Groombridge Hill but there were questions regarding its use in a conservation area and the cost, which had risen from an initial guesstimate of £15-20k to £50-60k. Having contacted Highways he was informed that a Cabinet endorsed decision had been made to only work on the government's Emergency and Active Travel Plan and that no other work would be considered until at least March 2021. He and the committee considered this unacceptable and will write to Cllr McInroy to ensure this was taken up with County. Cllr McInroy said he had

had a similar response on other matters and would address this on SPC's behalf. Cllr Pate said he was grateful for his support.

- d) **Amenities: RESOLVED** that the revised Terms of Reference for the Amenities Committee be adopted.
- e) **Air Traffic:** There was nothing to report.
- f) **Footpaths:** Cllr Milner thanked the Groundsman for his assistance in carrying out various tasks within the parish including installing a new gate onto Leggs Lane and cutting verges on Speldhurst Road. Both with the use of the new van. There were several patches in Langton Green which would need his assistance. The Clerk had written to TWBC Gary Stevenson to enquire about where SPC could dispose of cuttings at the tip but had not had a response.
- g) **Environment Working Group:** This would need to be reinvigorated.
- h) **KALC:** There was nothing to report.

20/148 Other matters arising from the minutes 6th July 2020: There were no matters arising and it was agreed this item would be removed from future agendas.

20/149 Diary Dates: SPC Planning Committee meeting Wednesday 5th August 7.30pm via Zoom

20/150 Items for Information:

Cllr Langridge reported that members of public were dumping rubbish on pathways and footpaths. It may be linked to the current necessity to book slots at the tip.

Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that she had noticed football training activity on the LGRG. Little Kickers had opened up the barriers and were using the recreation ground. She asked them to leave the grassed area and advised them to contact LGCSA and the parish office.

Cllr Ellery asked if the sale of George & Dragon had fallen through. Cllr Milner said the original contact had left the company.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chairman