



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

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting**  
**held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm**  
**In the Parish Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground, Langton Green**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs Lyle (Chair), Norton and Rowe.

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mrs K Neve - Clerk.

**1. Election of Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Lyle as Chair of the Amenities Committee.

**2. Election of Vice-Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Rowe as Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee.

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

The Clerk would be recording the meeting for the purpose of accuracy of the minutes. The recording would be deleted once the minutes had been signed off at the next meeting.

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr Turner and Mrs K Harman for Covid related reasons.

**5. Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**6. Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

**5. Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. **Public Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

7. **Review of Action Points**

The Clerk ran through the action points grid providing updates – see grid on last page.

8. **Financial Review**

The finance sheets were noted. Cllr Norton said it would be helpful to have a list of all costs for the LGRG. Cllr Lyle asked the Clerk to establish whether there was currently a TV licence for the Pavilion.

9. **Winter Weather Policy**

The Clerk reported that, following the last meeting, it was decided not to withdraw the policy and it was kept on the website on the advice of the council's insurers. It was **RESOLVED** that the temporary policy agreed previously by Full Council should be put to the next Full Council meeting for formal adoption. The Clerk was asked to look at the council's public liability insurance policy to ensure it covers employer liability for staff and to ask the Village Hall how they address winter weather.

10. **Bins – to consider changing dog waste bins to general waste bins throughout the parish**

Further to Minute 9 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Tivoli had confirmed that there would be no increase in the service cost. Councillors requested further clarification as to whether this covers the change in size of the bins, if dog waste disposal is treated differently to general waste, if all 8 bins needed to be changed at the same time and the frequency of emptying. Further input from Ashurst and Speldhurst was also requested.

11. **Parish Council Land:-**

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

- **To consider replacing wooden posts in carpark with a more long-term alternative**

The Clerk reported that the wooden posts in the carpark were rotting and the Groundsman was continually replacing them or they were being knocked over by motorists and sought permission to look into cost options for replacement with different types of material. Councillors agreed and would consider the options and look to a renewal programme for replacement.

- **To consider replacing the fence around the junior playground with a long-term alternative**

The Clerk reported that the fencing was rotting and needed replacement and, as above, sought permission to look into cost options. A councillor had inspected the fencing earlier and found that most of the fencing was in aging but acceptable condition, with two posts requiring attention. Councillors would consider the options brought to them and were conscious that this would be a sizeable job so asked if the Groundsman could look at making any appropriate repairs for the time being.

- **To consider replacing the springs in the Spring Snail as recommended in the playground inspection report**

It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council to approve the replacement of the springs in the Spring Snail at a cost of £204.

- **Pitch marking of the recreation ground**

This item had been added in error and was not discussed.

b) **The Green at Langton Green**

**Maintenance of the pathways – to consider delaying resurfacing works for 2 years**

The Chair and Assistant Clerk had made an inspection and agreed that the pathways were in a fair condition and did not currently need resurfacing. The Groundsman would make repairs where pot holes were starting to form.

c) **The Boundary, Langton Green**

This item was deferred pending an update from Cllr Tarricone regarding maintenance works to the pond.

d) **The Green at Groombridge**

Cllr Norton confirmed that the bottom of The Green had been repaired following damage during the severe weather earlier in the year. Councillors expressed their appreciation for the Groundsman's hard work in achieving this.

The repairs to the rotten posts had now been completed.

e) **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst**

**To consider a thorough cutback of brambles at the end of the growing season.**

The Environment Working Group had requested a tidy-up of Pocket Park. The Groundsman would be asked if he could fulfil this request. If not within his resources, Martyn Lawrence would be asked to provide a quotation. The works would be carried out in liaison with the EWG.

13. **Items for Information**

- The Clerk reported that the LGVS had indicated that they would review their funding for benches depending on whether the Pavilion Café was continuing. Benches would therefore be ordered and paid for from the S106 money received.
- The Clerk reported that there had been a health and safety incident involving the drainage chambers at the Pavilion and around the LGRG. A quotation had been sought from Dyno Rod to repair and make safe the manhole covers. The amount was above that covered under delegated authority in Financial Regulations, therefore, the quotation would be presented to the next Full Council meeting for approval. Councillors asked that the Financial Regulations be reviewed with a view to increasing the amount required under delegated authority for exceptional/health and safety circumstances.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting finished at 8.34pm.

**Chairman**