



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

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held  
on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Mrs Lyle (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Ellery, Rowe and Langridge

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr C May – Clerk and Assistant Clerks Mrs K Harman and Mrs C Barrett

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Borough Cllr Allen was in attendance. Apologies had been received from County Cllr McInroy, Borough Cllr Stanyer and Borough Cllr Ms Willis.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There was one member of the public present.

**21/110 To enquire if anyone intends to record the meeting**

No-one present intended to record the meeting.

**21/111 To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Turner, Rajah, Scarbrough and Myles for Covid-related reasons, and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe due to family commitments.

**21/112 Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

**21/113 Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

### **21/114 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

### **21/115 Borough and County Councillors' Reports**

County Cllr McInroy had emailed a report outlining the following:

- Cllr McInroy was pleased to be re-elected as KCC Member for Tunbridge Wells West. His manifesto contained several pledges relating to public highways, and he was always pleased to assist in requests for road patching, re-surfacing, speed reductions and other projects where required.
- Another pledge included Cllr McInroy's offer to allocate his Member Grant to plant trees in residential areas on the verges of KCC highways. The offer was to work with residents and KCC to plant trees on a fund-matching basis, halving the cost of the tree planting, subject to grant availability.
- Having taken a number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) into care, KCC had agreed to inform the government they would be unable to do so for the foreseeable future. KCC's position was that there should be a mandatory solution whereby all local authorities would take UASC into care.

Borough Cllr Allen said he was pleased to join the meeting following his election. He had taken part in a recent Speedwatch session with the Langton Green Speedwatch group and hoped to organise a session in Bidborough. Cllr Allen gave congratulations to Borough Cllr Woodward on his appointment as Mayor.

### **21/116 Public Open Session**

Mr Garry Saunders said he was observing the meeting to obtain an update on parish matters and did not wish to speak.

### **21/117 Appointment of Committees**

- a) The only Committee to have met so far since the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council was the Planning Committee and it was confirmed that Cllr Barrington-Johnson was the new Chairman.
- b) To consider changing certain committees to Working Groups: after some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to change the Air Traffic, Amenities, Governance and Highways committees into working groups for a six-month period, followed by a review. This would enable Councillors to continue meeting by Zoom and reduce the ongoing risk presented by face-to-face meetings. The Finance and Planning committees would stay as committees and meet in person. Full Council would also meet in person. It was agreed that working group meetings would be advertised as open to the public and meeting minutes would be taken. The Clerk would inform Councillors who had been absent from the meeting of this decision and advise the Chairman on amending Terms of Reference.

### **21/118 Finance Committee**

Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had been no meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Report on budget virements: There were no budget virements to report.
- c) Report on interim payments made since the last meeting: Unity bank Account; £301.41 to pay Mastercard balance; £184.60 to Veolia for waste disposal and £30.00 to Castle Water for Pavilion water. The payment listed in May to Cloudy IT was reversed. Mastercard: £9.00 fees; £13.02\* Petrol; £19.99\* grass seed; £3.00\* screen washer (van); £48.50\* post mix; £810.00 x 2 laptops; £12.00\* rubbish sacks and £47.00\* wheelbarrow
- d) Report on decisions made under delegated authority are starred above.

- e) To consider a grant request from Neighbourhood Watch: **RESOLVED** to donate £100 in line with donations made by other parish councils. Cllr Pate noted the pro-active work carried out by Neighbourhood Watch despite a lack of funding and a shortage of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.
- f) To consider a grant request from St Martin’s Church for churchyard maintenance and a contribution towards the broadsheet publication costs: **RESOLVED** to award the grant for churchyard maintenance of £1,000. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire about printing costs, as the broadsheet had been published online for much of the past year.

### 21/119 Accounts for Payment

**RESOLVED** to pay the invoices as listed. The Chairman asked the Clerk to clarify if the payment of £2,100 for mowing and strimming at Langton Green Recreation Ground was an annual or monthly amount. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Lyle confirmed that this was a monthly amount, which would be capped at £6200 per annum. The Chairman requested that Councillors consider the value for money aspect of this arrangement and discuss at subsequent meetings.

Payee Name	Ref.	Amount £	Detail
BT PLC	DD	24.72	Mobile
Kidman's Ltd	MT2002	22.22	Tool maintenance
Cloudy IT	MT2003	1,846.62	IT Support
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	MT2004	123.80	Arnold-Baker latest edition
Viking Direct	MT2005	53.26	PPE
Viking Direct	MT2006	116.96	Pavilion - Toilet paper
M R Lawrence	MT2007	865.00	Mowing and strimming
C May	MT2008	54.96	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT2009	7.00	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT2010	25.00	Expenses - office clean
Catherine Barrett	MT2013	109.95	Expenses -litter pick
Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd	MT2011	2,100.00	Mowing LGRG
Archer Signs & Panels Ltd	MT2012	64.50	LGRG - Stop sign
BT PLC	DD	248.01	Office Broadband & Telephone
Unity Trust Mastercard	Top up	1,772.51	To transfer balance to zero
KCC (KCS)	DD	113.87	Office - photocopier
Employees salary	MT2014	4,151.41	Employees salary
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT2015	252.39	Pension contributions
EDF Energy	DD	322.00	Pavilion - electricity
Veolia	DD	204.40	Waste disposal
Castle Water	DD	30.00	Pavilion - water
Unity Trust Bank	DD	28.20	Bank charges
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>12,536.78</b>	

### 21/120 Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- a) To receive a report from the Management Committee of the pavilion: Cllr Mrs Lyle had shared the minutes of a recent management committee meeting. She would report fully on pavilion matters at the next Full Council.
- b) Traffic management and the installation of grid matting to alleviate parking:
- c) Improvements to the pathway from Lampington Row to the LGRG:
- d) Drainage project update:

Items b), c) and d): Despite chasing both Contractors Cllr Mrs Lyle had still not received quotes for any of the items. Cllr Rowe asked if signage should be put up warning the public about standing water in the swales. It was agreed that this was worth considering in the autumn.

### **21/121 TWBC Draft Local Plan**

To consider ratification of the response by SPC: The Clerk reported that the parish council's response had now been submitted to TBWC. The response was approved by a majority.

### **21/122 Newsletter**

To review the summer edition and receive an update on E-newsletters: the summer newsletter layout and content was reviewed and approved subject to amendments, which would be made by Mrs Barrett.

### **21/123 Chairman's Report**

Cllr Pate reported that he was pleased that there had been support of the decision to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **21/124 Committee Reports Committee Reports to include any Committee Meetings held since the last Full Council Meeting, the Draft Minutes having been previously forwarded to all Members.**

- a) **Governance Committee:** There was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning Committee:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that the committee had met on 18<sup>th</sup> May, when there had been much discussion on the council's response to TWBC draft local plan. Cllr Barrington Johnson gave special thanks to Cllr Myles for his work on the MHCLG Electronic Communications Infrastructure Consultation.
- c) **Highways Committee:** There had been no meeting of the Highways Committee since the last Full Council meeting. Cllr Pate reported that there had been no objections to the A264 speed reduction during the consultation period which had now ended. A Highways meeting was scheduled on zoom for 28<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that data from a recent early morning Speedwatch session in Langton Green showed considerable speeding, with vehicles driving as much as 20mph over the speed limit. The Chairman thanked Cllr Barrington-Johnson for his commitment and asked that special thanks to the Langton Green Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Stuart Smith were recorded. It was agreed that Cllr Barrington-Johnson would ask for copies of the Langton Green speeding data sheets. The Clerk reported that there were still no Speedwatch volunteers in Ashurst.
- d) **Amenities:** there was nothing to report.
- e) **Air Traffic:** There had been no meeting of the Air Traffic meeting since the last Full Council meeting. There was a GAAC meeting scheduled for later in the month which Cllr Barrington-Johnson would attend.
- f) **Footpaths:** Cllr Langridge had designed small marker signs to affix to gateposts, containing contact details for reporting footpath issues. The four footpath co-ordinators would each put up signs in their area of responsibility. Cllr Ellery asked Cllr Langridge to consider adding the what3words app as a reporting channel. Cllr Langridge would discuss with Mrs Barrett whether an additional reporting method was practicable.
- g) **Environment WG:** The EWG had met on 12<sup>th</sup> May. There was discussion about the Great British Spring Clean litter-picking initiative the council had encouraged residents to join. Although it was not an organised litter-pick requiring a risk assessment, it was agreed that Mrs Barrett would remind residents via social media to litter-pick safely and only pick rubbish that could be placed in their refuse bins. Councillors were also litter-picking and Cllr Mrs Soyke reported a lot of rubbish in the layby near Groombridge Farm Shop.

***There was a two-minute adjournment of the meeting at 8.35pm while attendees moved their cars.***

h) **KALC:** there was nothing to report.

**21/125 Covid Compliance**

The meeting had opened with an agreement to remove masks when speaking.

Cllr Ellery noted the risk assessment advised Councillors to take a lateral flow test before meeting and asked when this should be done. The Chairman said this was optional but suggested testing on the day up to an hour or so prior to meeting.

**21/126 Items for Information:**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the deadline for Love Where you Live nominations was 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson had received an email from South-East Water about a dry weather consultation and had forwarded to the Clerk.

Mrs Barrett gave Councillors copies of an E-newsletter template she had created to review.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

Chairman